

# LARISSA E. WESTCOMB, MD, MHS

LARISSA E. FLUEGEL/SARMIENTO

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## CURRICULUM VITAE

### EDUCATION

#### **2006-2008, 2014 Master of Health Science in Biomedical Sciences**

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY (GVSU) - Allendale MI *Higher level/advanced courses in microbiology, anatomy, physiology & quantitative research methods. Clinical practicum: teaching-assisting microbiology laboratory students.*

#### **1997-2003 Doctor in Medicine Dominican Republic, unable to practice in the US.**

USA ECFMG-ACCREDITED SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT INSTITUTO TECNOLÓGICO DE SANTO DOMINGO

(INTEC) *Traditional undergraduate medical education w/preclinical curriculum, middle clinical apprenticeship, clinical rotations & three research projects.*

### EXPERIENCE

#### UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION USA

#### **2024-present Assistant Professor, MSU CENTER FOR BIOETHICS & SOCIAL JUSTICE (BSJ) WEST (GR)**

*Teaching in person: first- & second-year medical students. In small & medium size groups, debriefing simulated cases OR preparing for clinical rotations (pre-rotational small groups).*

Broad topics: Health systems & patient vulnerabilities, structural competency, bioethics, advanced care planning, palliative care.

*Teaching remotely: third- & fourth-year medical students “Difficult conversations” & “Special topics in medicine”*

#### **2016-2024 Assistant Professor, & Learning Society Fellow, MSU CHM & BSJ WEST. Same as above, plus.**

*Teaching in person: first- & second-year medical students. In small group discussion, meeting weekly, twice a week to debrief clinic experience and integrate learning discussing hypothetical clinical cases, modified problem-based learning (PBL) format.*

*One-on-one coaching, portfolio planning & advising first (M1)- & second (M2) year med-students. Mostly in person. At least three times/semester -more if needed-, four semesters/academic year.*

*Curriculum development & revision.*

#### **2014-2016 Instructor/preceptor MSU CHM-WEST Small group discussions clinical cases in a PBL format & physical exam demo.**

#### UNDERGRADUATE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES USA

#### **2008-2014 Instructor GVSU, BMS 309 Laboratory in Human Anatomy (w/cadavers), Allendale**

*Teaching human anatomy with human specimens & assessing student learning through timed practical exams.*

#### **2008-2014 Instructor GVSU, BMS 213 Laboratory in Microbiology, Allendale**

*Demonstrating microbiological techniques including but not limited to principles of asepsis & antisepsis, isolation of organisms from a mix, inoculation in media & incubation, preparation of dry & wet mounts, light microscopy, staining techniques (Gram's, Acid-fast, capsule, & endospore) for visualization & identification, determination of number of colony-forming units in a sample, identification of an unknown specimen.*

#### **2012-2014 Adjunct Instructor CORNERSTONE UNIVERSITY (CU), BIO 352 Microbiology, GR**

*Same as above, plus, lecture & lab course design, development & inventory. Survey study of structure, function, epidemiology & clinical syndromes of bacteria, virus, & fungi w/emphasis in bacteriology including weekly demonstrations of lab techniques.*

**2014 Adjunct Laboratory Instructor BI 117** General Human Anatomy & Physiology, GR COMMUNITY COLLEGE (GRCC) *Deliver content & assess student learning through timed practical examinations.*

#### UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION DR

**1998-2003 Teaching Assistant** INTEC, SANTO DOMINGO, DR *Review weekly lecture & lab material, answer student's questions, help students work with content & study strategies.*

**1999-2003 SAM213 & SAM217** Medical Physiology I&II, **SAM214 & SAM 218** Anatomic Pathology I&II

**1998 SAM-206** Histology.

#### OTHER

**2022 & 2023 Summer Camp Health Officer and Resident staff**, HIGHER GROUND AT LAKE LOUISE –

*Boyne Falls. Health officer ensured accuracy of campers' medical information including emergency contacts, insurance information, medical personal & family histories, history of allergies, dietary restrictions (further communicating those to kitchen staff), & immunization record; understanding of mandated reporting protocols & reporting as appropriate; dispensing prescription & OTC medications, taking care of aches & pains, minor scrapes or injuries & referring externally as necessary. As resident staff, helped clean and maintain grounds, cabins, and kitchen as well as food service and dishwasher duties*

**2005-2006 & 2015-2016 Freelance simultaneous interpreter.** VOICES FOR HEALTH, INC. GR, MI

*Facilitated effective communication between Spanish-speaking patients & their English-speaking providers by converting one spoken onto the other language so that each party would hear the message in their own language.*

**2005-2006 Library Assistant** GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY. *Checking in & shelving books.*

**2003-2004 Administrative Assistant** HOLY CROSS HEAD START SCHOOL-Main Campus, Buffalo, NY.

*Bilingual customer service, clerical duties, design bilingual monthly newsletter.*

#### CERTIFICATIONS

**2022-2023 Basic Life Support**, AMERICAN RED CROSS TRAINING SERVICES, GR.

**2016 HIV & STD Program Certification**, MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION OF HIV & STD PROGRAMS. GR, *Basics, HIV Prevention, HIV Test Counseling & Partner Services.*

#### RESEARCH

**2011-2013 Master Thesis Research** GVSU, Allendale *Manuscript: Maternal Feeding Practices & Children's Weight in Mexican American Families of Grand Rapids. A cross-sectional prevalence study.*

**2003 Internal Medicine Internship Research Study** INTEC Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (DR)

*Manuscript: Risk Factors for Atherosclerosis in Patients w/ Type-2 Diabetes at Salvador B. Gautier Hospital. A cross-sectional prevalence study.*

**1998 Matos N, Sarmiento** [aka Westcomb/Fluegel] **L & Dermatoglyphic Patterns According to Gender in 100 Intec University Students.** Intec: Faculty of Health Sciences. Dominican Republic, March-July 1998.

#### PRESENTATIONS

**2022 Curriculum revision** MSU CHM Shared Discovery 1.0 w/Jennifer McCurdy PhD. *Adding SCCD content to weekly mPBL slide sets including learning objectives, study resources, case prompts/questions, & faculty notes.*

**2021 Faculty briefing** MSU CHM Shared Discovery 1.0 Academy Early Clinical Experience (ECE) Week 4 PCG2 Social History and Social Determinants of Health". *Shared Discovery Curriculum.* September 2021

**2020 Seminar** “A case of paranoid psychosis: an ethical challenge”. MSU Psychiatry Residency Seminar Series.

**2020 Faculty briefing MSU CHM Shared Discovery 1.0 Academy** w/colleague Amy Ward. ECE Week 7 Immunizations 2: Bioethics Discussion.

**2019 Seminar** “Competence & decision-making capacity”. MSU Psychiatry Residency Seminar Series.

**2018 Guest Lecture Epi-200** MSU Main campus *Public Health Ethics Lecture to Epi-200 students.*

## OUTREACH

**Bioethics in the News Article** Fluegel L, Valles S. “Don’t Scapegoat Immigrants for the COVID-19 Pandemic Surge.” *Bioethics in the News series.* August 2021. Archived.

**Guest speaker** Fluegel L. “The Book of Ruth: On Privilege and Empowerment” *CMDA-GR student chapter.* August 2020

**Guest lecturer** Fluegel L. “Spirituality and Medicine: Cases from an Ethical Perspective.” *Student-led Spirituality and Medicine elective.* April 2020.

**Bioethics in the News Article** Fluegel L. “A Reasonable and Virtuous Response to a Pandemic.” *Bioethics in the News series.* March 2020. Archived.

**Bioethics Podcast** Fleck L, Fluegel L, McDaniel L. “Why I Left the U.S. for My Surgical Procedure: Fleck and Fluegel - Episode 21.” *No Easy Answers in Bioethics.* March 2020.

**Educational campaign: vector-borne infectious diseases** Hernández G, Lama M, Sarmiento [aka Westcomb/Fluegel], L. “Dengue & malaria: what are they, why it is important to know and prevent”. INTEC Apprenticeship (rural community within San Cristóbal province). 2000-2001

*Delivered talks to rural community of Sabana Palenque about disease transmission, pathology, and prevention of dengue fever and malaria including elimination of mosquito reservoirs.*

**Guest lecturer** Hernández G, Lama M, Sarmiento L. *Seminar in Human Reproduction & Sexuality.* INTEC Santo Domingo, DR

*Co-developed & imparted lecture in Human Reproduction & Sexuality as part of the curriculum Human Being & Nature (General Education Series) to undergraduate students every semester.*

*Focus: Reproductive anatomy & physiology, contraceptive methods & family planning.*

## SERVICE

### *MSU College of Human Medicine*

**2014-2024 Student Competence Committee Member (SCC)** *Assess student performance & recommend grade.*  
*Special Grades Review Assess subset of grades from SCC, recommend final grade.*

**2021-2023 Council on Diversity Education Member** *Chaired by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs & the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education. Working groups met once a month to address issues of diversity, inclusion, student mistreatment & other brought forth by faculty, staff, or students.*

**2018-2023 Scholarship Review Committee Member,** Office of Student Affairs & Services

*Review student scholarship applications for a specific number of scholarships, rate each applicant using the criteria set forth by the individual donor, submit ratings. Meeting with assigned review sub-committee to rank the applicants and recommend approval to receive the scholarships.*

**2018-2020 Project Mentor** Caring for the Underserved Intersession. *Advise on development of advocacy or research project proposal.*

### *MSU Center for Bioethics & Social Justice*

**2021-2022 Faculty Search Committee member** *As a group, we developed an evaluation rubric based on position description, reviewed application of candidates meeting minimal criteria, rated & ranked them based on rubric, interviewed candidates & re-ranked them to determine top three candidates.*

**1998-2002 Research Advisor** BioIntec's (Medical Student Research) *Guided students through the development of a research proposal, execution of the research and writing of their manuscript.*

### ***Community***

**2024-present Volunteer Resurgence After School Program** BRIDGE STREET MINISTRIES - BURTON HEIGHTS CAMPUS *Serve snacks, play, learning labs; enforce rules, role model in the context of relationships.*

**2021 Health Officer** HIGHER GROUND AT LAKE LOUISE & WINNING AT HOME MINISTRIES-*Single Moms summer camp*, Boyne Falls

**2015-2017 Volunteer Clinical Assistant STI CLINIC** PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER (PRC), GR *Patient intake focused medical history & documentation of clinical encounters.*

**2000-2001 Health census.** INTEC Apprenticeship (rural community within San Cristóbal province). *Reported to regional Medical Director at rural community of Sabana Palenque.*

**1998-2002 Former member Intec-Ecológico** (Conservationist group)

### **HONORS**

**2014** Summa cum Laude, GVSU (US)

**2003** Magna cum Laude, INTEC (DR)

**1997** Valedictorian, Falconbridge Award, CEB/Falconbridge Dominicana (DR)

### **SKILLS**

#### **Rationality**

- Ability to apply written or oral instructions & follow protocols.
- Strong problem-solving, analytical, & critical thinking skills.
- Organized, able to prioritize & quickly task switch.
- Flexibility to work independently & w/a team.
- Proficient record keeping.
- High commitment to quality & continuous improvement.

#### **Tools & Technology**

- Ability to use general office equipment (computer, printer, fax, copy machine)
- Experience using Microsoft Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook)
- Aptitude for computers & data entry skills
- Eager to learn new things including but not limited to software systems and equipment.
- Strong Netiquette

#### **Language & communication**

- Verbal and written fluency in English and Spanish.
- Editing & proofreading.
- Effective communication & collaboration abilities.

#### **Personal**

- Highly organized, detail-oriented self-learner.
- Able to maintain a consistent schedule & accomplish tasks on time.