

## Sharing Knowledge in America and Brazil

Brazil is one of many countries that continues to have a relatively large problem of malnutrition. Nutrition experts in such countries have practical experience in dealing with malnutrition, but have limited education in the theoretical aspects of nutrition research. Dr. Daniel Hoffman, professor of nutritional sciences, says that while Rutgers students have a strong theoretical background, they have limited applied experience.

Hoffman envisions a cross-cultural exchange program that allows nutritional science majors from Rutgers and medical staff from the Federal University of Sao Paulo's (UNIFESP) Center for Nutritional Education and Recovery (CREN) to share their strengths with each other. His plan will enable students and professionals from Rutgers and UNIFESP to learn more about child nutrition and address problems in their respective countries. The goal of the program is to build cooperation between countries and universities and for the CREN staff to transfer more theoretical knowledge of nutrition to fellow employees. CREN's mission is to improve treatment of malnutrition in impoverished children in their surrounding communities and study the effect of dietary treatments on weight recovery and lean tissue.

One undergraduate and one graduate student from Rutgers will travel to Brazil, while one student and staff member from CREN will travel to the U.S. The Rutgers students will take a course for one semester and then spend up to a month in Brazil applying the skills they have learned, such as measuring the height and weight of children to determine if they are over or underweight. The CREN staff will learn about data analysis and study design to further expand their research knowledge to teach colleagues and design research programs. The potential impact of this program is great, as students from the U.S. will gain practical experience that can be applied to their education and work at home, and professionals from Brazil will be able to broaden their work as they continue to treat malnourished children.

Please contact The Office of Development at 732-932-9000, ext. 576 or [development@sebs.rutgers.edu](mailto:development@sebs.rutgers.edu) for more information.

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