



# The Medical School for International Health

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in collaboration with Columbia University Medical Center

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **U.S. and Canada Students Complete Medical School in Israel; Tackle Global Health Along the Way**

**May 20, 2008 — (Beer-Sheva, Israel)** – The United States and Canada will welcome back 23 graduating medical students, who return with M.D. degrees specialized to work with underserved populations and international medicine. The Medical School for International Health (MSIH), a collaborative effort of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and Columbia University Medical Center, is an innovative venture to prepare future doctors to tackle the international health crisis. The MSIH will hold the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2008 on Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> in Beer-Sheva, Israel. The ceremony will broadcast on the web at <http://www.MsihMD.org> or <http://bguvideo.bgu.ac.il/video.htm> at 11 a.m. (Eastern Time).

MSIH is the only medical school in the world specifically created to train future doctors to provide healthcare for populations throughout the globe. In addition to basic American-based medical curriculum, students at MSIH also learn cross-cultural communication, nutrition in developing worlds, disaster relief, populations-based medicine, and bio-terrorism and health.

Within the Ben-Gurion University's hospitals in Israel, students work with refugees and migrants from Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East. The students — who attended top undergraduate universities such as Cornell University, Johns Hopkins University, Northwestern University, and University of California-San Diego — spend three years in Israel and complete medical clerkships in Ethiopia, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, and Vietnam. In addition, graduates also spend time in New York City's Columbia University Medical Center hospitals.

Since the program's inception in 1998, the MSIH has educated more than 200 men and women from all corners of the world, including the United States, China, Kosovo, Rwanda, Kenya, Russia, Vietnam and Sri Lanka. More than 75 percent of MSIH graduates are engaged in residency or fellowship training at leading medical centers in the United States. Nearly 50 percent of the program's earliest graduates have practiced global health work during residency training and professional medical work.