

UNIFA UPDATE JANUARY 2013



On October 1, 2012, the Medical School at UNIFA opened its second academic year. Two hundred and fifty-four candidates successfully passed the admissions exam and were accepted while 118 students (of a total of 126) moved into their second year of studies. A dozen new teachers joined the teaching staff, raising the faculty's total teaching staff to over 18.



Dr. Josiane Derice teaching histology



Student in histology lab



Dr. Ernesto Garcia teaching cardio physiology

Languages (French, English and Spanish) continue to be requirements alongside a full complement of science and medical coursework.



Newly renovated auditorium



Seats over 800



Students in between classes

UNISA offered all second year medical students a partial scholarship. A memo from the Office of the UNIFA President, Dr. Aristide, informed students that it was indeed the university's goals to seek out scholarship aid for its students, as it announced this response to needs impatiently expressed by students.

Thanks to generous fundraising efforts in the US sponsored by the Haiti Emergency Relief Fund and Partnership for Education, Health and Democracy in Haiti, significant work was affected to the campus: the auditorium was renovated; electric and plumbing infrastructure to the classroom building was repaired; new student desks were purchased; benches and outdoor seating installed under shaded trees.



Students in the nursing program

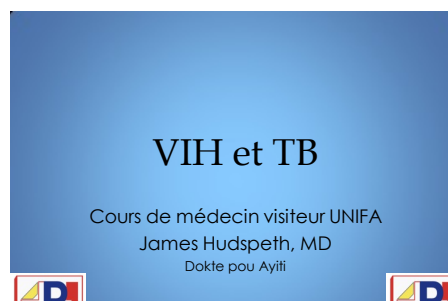
First day of classes

In early November 2012, the nursing program was launched. Haiti's nursing crisis is acute. Two hundred new graduates of the state's nursing school were killed in the January 2010 earthquake. There are 73 students enrolled in UNIFA's 4 year program. Five additional teachers were retained, while faculty from the medical school covers some core courses like chemistry and anatomy. A simulated nurse's practice room is being set up. Exploratory meetings were held in November with two US nursing schools on the potential for collaboration.



Dr. James Hudspeth

The first week of December 2012, UNIFA welcomed another visiting professor: Dr. James Hudspeth, instructor in medicine at Boston University School of Medicine.



Dr. Hudspeth, instructor in Medicine at Boston University School of Medicine, conducted a week long seminar to the second year students focused on HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. These two diseases are very common in Haiti, and are an important source of illness for doctors working in any aspect of medicine to know about. The students learned essential information about both diseases, including molecular biology, epidemiology, history, diagnosis, prevention, and therapy. This information will inform their subsequent 4 years of study and helps to frame a number of the other illnesses they will learn of in the years to come.



After classes, Dr. Hudspeth spent time with students, extending class discussions.



[Dr Hudspeth with colleagues from Physicians for Haiti](#)



[Professors' residences at UNIFA](#)

During the week, Dr. Hudspeth was housed on campus at one of the professor's residences refurbished last year and set aside for visiting instructors. His visit is part of UNIFA's partnership with the Boston-based health organization Physicians for Haiti. The group's data bank of interested physicians, nurses and instructors continues to grow.