



CGHSR Activity Update January 1 to June 30, 2016

AHC Uganda Hub

Following many months of collaborative effort, the five-year master affiliation agreement between the U of M AHC and Makerere College of Health Sciences and College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources & Biosecurity was finalized and in the process of securing institutional signatures as of June 30. This agreement will facilitate student, faculty, and staff exchange, as well as collaborative research projects and other types of cooperation.

In April 2016, under the direction of Dr. Brooks Jackson, the Hub began negotiating an agreement with MUJHU to renovate additional space (49 square meters) on the top floor of MUJHU tower 3. The new space will include more faculty and field staff work space and a classroom. It is expected to be complete in August 2016.

The Uganda Hub Operations Manager (Martha Kandole) helped to coordinate visits for U of M faculty exploring new research and educational projects in Uganda, including identifying key Makerere faculty for meetings and arranging travel logistics. Visiting faculty members during this period were:

- Melanie Nicol (College of Pharmacy)
- Jeffrey McCullough (Medical School)
- Craig Hedberg (School of Public Health)
- Nicole Basta (School of Public Health)
- Anne Parker Frosch (Medicine)

Martha also worked with numerous students, medical residents, faculty and staff to complete international student rotation paperwork, obtain temporary medical and nursing licenses, find and pay for housing, provide work space in MUJHU tower, receive and distribute shipments of medical supplies, and arrange local transportation.

AHC Thailand Hub

In February 2016, CGHSR facilitated a U of M delegation to Thailand. Travelers included:

- Meredith McQuaid, Associate Vice President and Dean of International Programs;
- Debra Olson, Executive Director, CGHSR and Associate Dean for Global Health, SPH;
- Trevor Ames, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine;
- Patricia Walker, Associate Program Director, Global Health Pathway, and Associate Professor, Division of Infectious Disease & International Medicine, Medical School;
- Andrea Hickle, Associate Director, CGHSR.

The delegation was in Chiang Mai for meetings with Chiang Mai University (CMU), building on a history of extensive interdisciplinary collaborations and mutual investment. They met with representatives of all six CMU health sciences schools (mirroring AHC disciplines); CMU leadership (President and Vice-Presidents); and with colleagues engaged in collaborative education with the AHC (e.g. international MPH program with the SPH) and in funded interdisciplinary grants in collaboration with the U of M (One Health Workforce/SEAOHUN and the Participatory-Oriented Disease Detection (PODD)). Other activities included meetings with the NGO International Sustainable Development Studies Institute (ISDSI) in Chiang Mai and with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Bangkok.

Outcomes centered on:

1. Education: opportunities for CMU students (especially expansion of double-degree programs);
2. Research: interest in collaborative and interdisciplinary proposals to be funded through matching awards from CMU and the U of M;
3. Professional development for faculty, such as advanced degree opportunities at the U of M and bi-lateral exchanges;
4. Collaboration priority elsewhere in Southeast Asia, especially through ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and in Myanmar; and
5. Donation of office space for use by U of M faculty and staff.

The February delegation solidified the decision to launch a Thailand Hub physically based in Chiang Mai and provided valuable preparation for the CMU President's delegation to the U of M in April 2016. Highlights of the 9-member CMU delegation included signing of the U of M - CMU five-year master affiliation agreement and further exploration of interdisciplinary research collaboration interests and education/exchange activities across the AHC. The reciprocal delegations positioned the AHC to launch the Thailand Hub in late April. Guidance to the Hub is provided by the broad-based Thailand Hub Interest Group facilitated by CGHSR, with co-chairs based in Minnesota and Thailand to ensure shared leadership. [Hub web-presence](#) was launched by CGHSR in May.

China

In April, Eric Chu was hired as the Research Program Coordinator, housed within CGHSR and based at the Guangxi Center for Disease Prevention and Control in Nanning, Guangxi, China. He serves as the liaison between investigators, ancillary institutions, and regulatory bodies in Nanning. He works to explore collaboration between the AHC and Guangxi CDC, and will provide operational support for anticipated research studies that will be conducted in Guangxi. Eric relocated to Nanning in June and began planning an August visit of Guangxi CDC researchers to the U of M to meet with Vice President for Health Sciences Brooks Jackson and potential AHC collaborators. Eric met with Guangxi CDC Director Tang Zhenzhu and Deputy Director Fang Zhongliao, who both welcomed the new partnership and are looking forward to future research collaboration and personnel exchange.

Research

AHC Global Health Seed Grants: Research in Uganda

In March CGHSR and the Global Medical Education and Research Program (GMER) announced a request for proposals for new research projects based in Uganda where the AHC has launched a hub of innovation to advance research and educational opportunities. The goals of these seed grants are to:

- Seed new research studies by UMN faculty from the health sciences that have potential to attract future funding from external sources;
- Create a mechanism to involve students in faculty-led international research studies;
- Encourage interdisciplinary research across the health sciences;
- Support new partnerships between UMN faculty and institutions in Uganda.

Required elements for a proposal were 1) research activities that take place in Uganda, and 2) include UMN student(s) in global health research activities. Preference was given to proposals that included 1) co-investigators with diverse expertise from a variety of health science disciplines, 2) investigators who are new to research or partnerships in Uganda; 3) a co-investigator who is an alumnus of the Karolinska Institutet-Makerere University Joint PhD Program; 4) co-investigators from the Karolinska Institute; and 5) Makerere University student participation in research activities.

In May, the scientific review committee convened and after the proposals were reviewed and scored, two proposals were selected for funding:

- “Uptake of and barriers to Human Papillomavirus Vaccination among adolescent girls in rural Uganda,” PI: Nicole Basta, School of Public Health. Co-Investigator: Cecily Banura, Makerere University, School of Medicine.
- “Assessing antiretroviral distribution in CNS reservoirs using IR-MALDESI Mass Spectrometry imaging,” PI: Melanie Nicol, College of Pharmacy. Co-Investigator: Robert Lukande, Makerere University, School of Medicine.

Research projects will begin by September 2016 and receive support from the Uganda Hub for implementation and administration.

Researcher Series

The *International Researcher Series* held its second session on March 9, “Skills for health research in low and middle income countries: household and survey-based research.” The session was led and developed by Ben Capistrant in the School of Public Health. The series intends to improve communication and understanding across the health sciences on international research policies, practices, ethical approaches, and responsibilities of researchers. Future topics will include data management challenges and best practices, logistics for international laboratory work and testing, and qualitative data collection in international research. We anticipate the announcement of one to two additional topics in Fall 2016.

Student Programs & Opportunities

Global Local

CGHSR is partnering with the organization [SocMed](#) to offer the course “*Global Health in a Local Context: An experiential course on the social determinants, community engagement, and social action in Minnesota.*” This new course, to be offered in the Fall semester of 2016, will immerse students in the study of health equity, the social determinants of health, global health in a local setting, and community-based healthcare. Lead faculty is Michael Westerhaus, Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota Medical School. For the 30 slots available, 39 applications have been received (25 from U of M students and 14 from community members). Supplemental funding for this course has been granted by the African Studies Initiative (ASI) in the amount of \$3,500 to support community faculty and site visits.

India Programs

Mysore

Seven students participated in the *Global Health, Globalization, and Leadership Course* from Dec 26 to Jan 17, 2016 that was developed in partnership with lead faculty Shailey Prasad, Associate Professor in Family Medicine (Medical School), and the partner organization Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM) in Mysore, India. Planning is underway for the 2017 offering of the program. Finally, to facilitate U of M-wide student activity and other types of engagement with SVYM, a U of M-SVYM five-year master affiliation agreement was finalized and executed in January 2016.

Bangalore

Together with Ben Capistrant, Assistant Professor in the School of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology and Community Health, and Arvind Kasthuri from St. John’s National Academy of Health Sciences in Bangalore, India, CGHSR launched a Summer 2016 student placement opportunity in and around Bangalore, India. Two School of Public Health students will spend 4 weeks between July 11 and August 5 engaged in both an individualized research project with St. John’s faculty and hands-on practice activities with a cohort of St. John’s students in rural and urban settings. Serving as an important foundation for the students’ travel and for broader continuing education with St. John’s, a five-year master affiliation agreement between the U of M AHC and St. John’s was signed and executed in June 2016.

Ecuador Programs

Two opportunities were offered in Ecuador in partnership with CIMAS Foundation with broadened faculty involvement from School of Public Health, College of Pharmacy, and School of Dentistry but were canceled due to low enrollment.

Global Health Student Advisory Board (GHSAB)

GHSAB is a committee of student representatives from across the Academic Health Center. The student board works collaboratively to define global health priorities of students and advises the CGHSR on various topics. GHSAB hosted a screening of *Lost Boys of Sudan* on April 23rd, assisted with student recruitment for CGHSR opportunities, and began the exploration of the development of a scholarship “for students, by students” to fund global health experiences. The 2016-2017 GHSAB co-chairs have been identified (Amy Tran from the College of Pharmacy and Sarah Thompson from the School of Public Health).

Fogarty Update

In June, Shailey Prasad became the Principal Investigator for the program following Debra Olson’s retirement.

The Northern Pacific Global Health Consortium (U of M, U Washington, U Hawaii, and U Michigan) awarded fellowships to three University of Minnesota post-doctoral fellows (Mahsa Abassi, Sarah Lofgren, and Jonee Taylor), all of whom will be mentored by Dr. David Boulware, and to one University of Minnesota pre-doctoral scholar (Shamila Namusisi) who will be mentored by Drs. Katey Pelican and Dominic Travis. All fellows will complete their fellowship year at the University of Minnesota research sites in Uganda.

CGHSR Student Scholarships for Partner Programs

Global Health Institute Thailand

Two \$2,000 travel scholarships were granted for students to attend the *Global Health Institute Thailand (GHIT)* held at Chiang Mai University on February 15-26, 2016.

iCOMOS

Two \$200 Scholarships were awarded to students to attend the *2nd International Conference on One Medicine One Science (iCOMOS)* on April 24 to 27, 2016 in Minneapolis, MN.

Events

Global Health Case Competition

The third annual Global Health Case Competition was held on campus on January 30, 2016. There were 14 interdisciplinary teams, made up of 83 students representing the College of Biological Sciences, School of Dentistry, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, College of Liberal Arts, Carlson School of Management, Medical School, School of Nursing, College of Pharmacy, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, School of Public Health, College of Science and Engineering, and the College of Veterinary Medicine. The teams spent five days collaboratively analyzing the case “Aliquoting Aid: Refugee Relief for the Syrian Situation” before presenting their recommendations to a panel of judges. The winning UMN team went on to participate in the 2016 International Emory Global Health Case Competition in Atlanta in April. The team was the winner of the Participants’ Choice Award and was awarded the Honorable Mention (4th place) after advancing to the finals. CGHSR will hold its 4th annual Global Health Case Competition on Saturday, January 28, 2017.

AHC Orientation for Global Experiences

On April 16, CGHSR hosted a four hour pre-departure orientation that covered key issues in ethics, cultural humility, and personal health & safety. The session was designed for AHC students at all stages of planning for their experience abroad as well as faculty and coordinators who advise students traveling internationally. There were thirteen attendees. Most were students from the School of Public Health and Medical School but also included staff and faculty from Vet Med, Physical Therapy, and SPH. The session received positive feedback.

CGHSR Co-Sponsored Events

Forum on Ethical Issues in African Health Care - February 26

At this forum sponsored by the Center for Bioethics, three professionals from different regions of Africa presented their work, with an emphasis on how it is informed by ethics and how their work derives new questions about what ethics means, for whom, and why. CGHSR's support covered food and speaker travel.

Tropical and Travel Medicine Seminar (TTMS) Lecture Series - April 20, 2016

CGHSR hosted the seminar with a focus on interdisciplinary global health. CGHSR staff delivered an overview of interdisciplinary global health efforts at the University of Minnesota and moderated a panel of three presentations that provided innovative examples.

Other Updates

Leadership and Staffing Transitions

Debra Olson retired from her position as Executive Director in June. The search is currently underway for new leadership. Administrative Programs Specialist Andrea Pesola resigned to pursue an opportunity outside the University in March, and Sarah Ashkar was hired to assume this role in June.

International Travel Experience Management System (ITEMS)

The ITEMS project was an offshoot of a student management system currently in use by the School of Public Health and the Medical School's Global Medical Education and Research (GMER) Program. Outreach to other schools in the AHC for expanded use of ITEMS has been unfruitful due to schools' established systems, resource constraints, and an existing tracking system managed by the UMN GPSA. No new resources or staff hours will be allocated to this initiative.

Global Health Impact Map

CGHSR continues to work with AHC Schools/Colleges/Units to populate the [Map](#) with faculty-led research, education/training, clinical care, and community outreach activities related to global health.

Global Health Faculty Associate Listings

Global Health Faculty Associates are a transdisciplinary group of educators, researchers, and practitioners that have an integral role in advancing global health at the University of Minnesota. Together with Global Health Leadership Council members, CGHSR identified faculty that have a commitment to global health at the AHC, and invited them to be recognized on our website with the purpose of identifying their engagement in global health and fostering connections for future collaboration and mentorship. In April, the listings were posted [on the CGHSR website](#).

Partner Program: Ilula, Tanzania

The partner program, *Ilula Global Health Team Experience*, had a successful trip of 17 students plus faculty on January 6 to February 12, 2016. The program was delivered in partnership with Shoulder to Shoulder and Ilula Lutheran Hospital and faculty leads Ken Olson and Randy Hurley of the Medical School and Gary Moody.

Report Submitted by CGHSR Team: Andrea Hickle, Sarah Ashkar, Shannon Benson, Eric Chu, Karin Hamilton, Martha Kandole, Molly McCoy, Amy Scheller

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