



CGHSR Activity Update January 1 to June 30, 2017

AHC Uganda Hub

AHC Global Health Seed Grants: Research in Uganda

In March, CGHSR announced a request for proposals for new research projects based in Uganda. The goal of these [seed grants](#) is 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; and to support new partnerships between UMN faculty and institutions in Uganda, including but not limited to Makerere University. In May, three proposals were selected for funding:

- “Assessment of immune response during hepatitis B and HIV coinfection”, PI: Jose Debes, UMN Medical School. Co-investigators: Andre Boonstra, Erasmus MC and Ponsiano Ocama, Makerere University, Kampala
- “Leptospirosis-associated neonatal sepsis in Uganda”, Claudia Munoz-Zanzi, UMN School of Public Health. Co-investigators: Joel Bazira, Mbarara University of Science and Technology and Mark Schleiss, UMN Center for Infectious Diseases and Microbiology Translational Research (CIDMTR)
- “Improving Eye Health in Patients with Cryptococcal Meningitis and Systemic Cytomegalovirus Infections at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital: a Formative Study”, PI: Sandra R. Montezuma, UMN Medical School. Co-Investigators: Simon Arunga, Mbarara University of Science & Technology; David Boulware, UMN Medical School; Conrad K. Muzoora, Mbarara University of Science & Technology

Uganda Research Training (URTC) Collaborative

The four inaugural [URTC teams](#) continue to advance their projects. Teams are comprised of students from Makerere University or Mbarara University of Science and Technology, and the University of Minnesota health sciences. They are working on the following studies:

- Team 1: *A study to determine the prevalence of Mycobacterium Bovis in slaughtered cattle in the city abattoirs of Kampala, Uganda*
- Team 2: *Lung function and quality of life in survivors of drug-resistant tuberculosis*
- Team 3: *Evaluating the first year of the routine CRAG screening program in the reduction of HIV-associated cryptococcal meningitis in Uganda*
- Team 4: *Effect of adherence and malnutrition on pharmacokinetics and virologic outcomes of atazanavir in HIV-infected adolescents*

Teams, with guidance from their mentors, developed their research questions and identified preliminary data collection methods. In April, May, and June, teams worked with mentors and program director Dr. Josh Rhein to finalize study protocols, submit for regulatory approvals, and prepare for data collection. CGHSR staff developed a series of workshops and meetings to advance the research skills of the teams. These were delivered online via

Skype to enable participation by both Minnesota and Uganda based team members. Instruction was provided by CGHSR staff, UMN and Makerere faculty, and other experts (e.g., UMN IRB staff).

- Workshop 1 – study refinement and focus
- Workshop 2 – Protocol Development
- Budget and Logistics Meeting (with each Team)
- Workshop 3 – IRB Submission Q&A: SOMREC, UNCST, and other Ugandan human subjects oversight
- Workshop 4 – IRB submission presentation and Q&A – UMN process
- Workshop 5 – Study Procurement Procedures

MN-Uganda Partnership Group (MUP)

The [MUP](#) group met on April 20, 2017 and discussed the following topics:

- URTC Update from Josh Rhein - emphasis on the current progress and evaluating the URTC pilot before recruiting another set of teams.
- Possibility of establishing a legal entity in Uganda for U of M activities.
- Possibility of developing simulation resources in Uganda with the UMN Simulation Center.

Other Uganda Updates

- CGHSR is working with the UMN Division of Global Pediatrics and the Makerere University Department of Pediatrics to establish a new laboratory for pediatric research and training. This new initiative is being led and funded by Sarah Cusick and Troy Lund (UMN Pediatrics) and Ezekiel Mupere (Makerere Paediatrics). The Hub is providing facilitating support to ensure the project progresses.
- All booking for the UMN house is now managed by Martha Kandole and all fees for use are to be paid through the UMN Department of Medicine.
- Melanie Nicol (Pharmacy) is beginning a new study July 1, 2017 that is facilitated by the partnership with MUJHU, in collaboration with Flavia Matovu Kiweewa. This collaboration was triggered by an AHC Seed Grant.
- A series of videos were created to articulate the work of the Uganda Hub, including [Global Health Mentorship: The Minnesota Uganda Partnership](#) and [AHC Seed Grants in Uganda: A catalyst for global research partnership](#).

AHC Thailand Hub

AHC Global Health Seed Grants: Research in Thailand

In April, CGHSR and the Global Medical Education and Research Program (GMER) announced a request for proposals for new research projects based in Thailand. 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; encourage interdisciplinary research across the health sciences; support new partnerships between UMN faculty and institutions in Thailand; and to create a mechanism to involve students in faculty-led international research studies. In June, two proposals were selected for funding:

- “Identifying opportunities to improve the effectiveness of rabies control programs in Thailand using geographical analysis and multi-sectoral policy engagement tools.” PI: Kaylee M. Errecaborde, UMN Department of Veterinary Population Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine. Co-investigators: Anuwat Wiratsudakul, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Mahidol University, Bangkok; Ong-orn Prasarnphanich, USAID EPT2: One Health Workforce Project; Andres Perez, Department of Veterinary Population Medicine, UMN.

- “Seroprevalence of flaviviruses and risk factors for infection among long-term expatriates in Thailand.” PI: Katie Anderson, UMN Department of Medicine, Medical School. Co-investigators: Watcharapong Piyaphanee, Travel Medicine Research Unit, Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University, Bangkok; Parichat Salee, Department of Internal Medicine, Infectious Disease, Chiang Mai University.

China

AHC Global Health Seed Grants: Research in Guangxi, China

The four [seed grants](#) fund collaborative studies between AHC and Guangxi CDC. Research projects are in the areas of hepatitis B, longevity, and smoking prevention. IRB approval has been received for all four studies from Guangxi IRB (U of M IRB approval not needed), and data collection is underway. The Research Program Coordinator based in Nanning is supporting project implementation and monitoring progress.

Bilateral Visits

Two visiting scholars from Guangxi CDC arrived in May and June, and will stay until August. Chao Wang is working with Guisheng Song (Medical School), while Shujia Liang is working with Louis Mansky (Institute for Molecular Virology, Medical School, School of Dentistry). Paul Bohjanen (Medical School) and his PhD student Liang Guo visited Guangxi CDC in May and gave a talk on their research while Guisheng Song visited in June to work on his collaboration project.

Additional Research Activities

International Researcher Series

This seminar series highlights best practices in planning and implementing global health research studies. The session “Best Practices in Proposal Development” was held on March 8, 2017. Presenters were Molly McCoy, CGHSR; Sarah Cusick, Assistant Professor, Medical School and School of Public Health; and Fang Yu, Associate Professor, School of Nursing.

Student Programs & Opportunities

Global Health Case Competition

The [Global Health Case Competition](#) was held from January 23 through January 28 on the UMTC campus. Thirteen teams comprised of four to six students drawing from eleven UMN Schools/Colleges spent the week immersed in the global topic of sex trafficking, proposing local solutions for the city of Atlanta. The winning team of six students then went on to compete at the International Global Health Case Competition at Emory University, placing third.

Global Health in a Local Context Course

Student feedback on the Fall 2016 offering of the [Global Health in a Local Context: An Experiential Course on the Social Determinants, Community Engagement, and Social Action in Minnesota course](#) was analyzed, identifying an overall positive response and opportunities for improvement around some course content, breadth versus depth, and community faculty structure. This feedback is shaping the Fall 2017 offering of the course. Applications opened in April, resulting in full enrollment for the course of 30 students and a waitlist of 11 people.

India Course

Version: Final

The [India: Global Health, Globalization, and Leadership Course](#) was offered for the second time from Dec 26, 2016 to Jan 15, 2017 and fully reported on in the Dec 2016 report. The application is now open for the Dec 2017 to Jan 2018 offering.

Global Health Student Advisory Board (GHSAB)

The 2016-17 [GHSAB](#) board conducted monthly “Global Health Happy Hour” events - informal social gatherings with a global health topic to discuss with students from across disciplines. They held two fundraisers, raising \$1,400 for a student scholars fund to support students developing their global health education and experience (i.e. attending a global health focused conference, participating in a global health experience abroad, etc.).

Fogarty Global Health Fellowships

Four [fellowships](#) were awarded to support graduate students and postdocs in advancing their global health research skills and careers. Fellowship awardees for 2017-2018 are Bridget Griffith (Uganda), Edward Mpoza (Uganda), Matt Pullen (Uganda), and George Omondi Paul (Kenya).

CGHSR Travel Awards for Partner Program: Global Health Institute Thailand

Two \$2,000 travel awards were granted for the [Global Health Institute Thailand \(GHIT\)](#) held at Chiang Mai University in February 2017:

- Felicia Hansell, Medical student
- Heidi Vesterinen, Veterinary Public Health and Executive MPH in Public Health Practice Student

Other CGHSR Updates

Executive Director Shailey Prasad

CGHSR’s new Executive Director Shailey Prasad officially began his leadership role on April 1, following the announcement of his appointment in January. Shailey has been granted office-space nearby CGHSR’s suite, in room C376 Mayo, and will move into that space by end of Summer.

CGHSR Leadership Council

Two new co-chairs have been selected and have assumed their role for visioning and steering the reconstituted Global Health Leadership Council: Katey Pelican, Associate Professor, College of Veterinary Medicine, and Deputy Director/PI, US AID One Health Workforce Project; and Carolyn Porta, Associate Professor and Director of Global Health, School of Nursing. The Leadership Council will resume its key role as a vehicle, forum, and catalyst for information and ideas exchange, informing CGHSR’s priorities, and driving the global health agenda at the U of M.

The Symposium on the Ethics of Help: Creating Global Ambassadors for Patient Safety

CGHSR co-sponsored this Symposium hosted by the Health Careers Center, Learning Abroad Center and the Working Group on Global Activities by Students at Pre-Health Levels (GASP) and worked to ensure participation by key AHC faculty and staff. Held June 8 to 9 on the U of M campus, this workshop attracted an audience from academia, NGOs, and other organizations from across North America. CGHSR is engaged with the HCC on identifying strategies that can be implemented at the University of Minnesota to assure ethical best practices in all our global health-related activities.