CGH Welcomes Our Newest GMED Students

We are pleased to announce the newest GMED class of 2017! We had an extremely competitive season with a record breaking number of excellent applicants. We are pleased to have the following students join our GMED program from the following schools:

- Amina Basha
- Paul Blessing
- Desiree Delgado
- Lena Elmuti
- Tsige Gebreslasse
- Kimberly Helseth
- Patrick Lanter
- Bing Li
- Athena Mikros
- Nnenna Okoye
- John James Parker
- Duaa Sharfi
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Saint Louis University
- University of Florida
- Eastern Illinois University
- Wheaton College
- Northwestern University
- Emory University
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- Colorado College
- Tufts University
- Bucknell University
- University of Illinois at Chicago

These students as a group reported proficiency in the following languages; Arabic, Tagalog, Spanish, Portuguese, Ahmaric, Tigrina, Mandarin, German and French.

We are just thrilled to have this group of motivated, bright and globally minded students join us to continue the excellent tradition begun by the class of 2016.
Dr. Dharmapuri Vidyasagar and Dr. Nagamani Beligere spent three months as Visiting Professors at Sri Ramachandra Medical College (SRMU) in Chennai, India. While in Chennai, Dr. Vidyasagar established a Cord Blood Bank in collaboration with Jeevan (a local NGO committed to saving cord blood for future stem cell use), and was the guest speaker at Chennai branch NNF Workshop on Neonatal ventilation, where he discussed the History of Neonatal Ventilation and the progress made in India and developing countries. In Hyderabad, both conducted workshops on “Reduction of Maternal and Neonatal Mortality a Global and National Perspective” at Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH).

Dr. Beligere conducted educational programs for Attendings, Residents and Fellows in Pediatrics at Sri Ramachandra Medical College, where she is a Visiting Professor for 2013. At Madurai Arvind Eye Hospital, she conducted developmental assessment of premature babies who developed ROP.

The University of Illinois at Chicago and the Binaytara Foundation have partnered to develop Nepal's first blood and marrow transplant unit and to organize the country's first international conference on blood cancers.

Stem cell transplantation, a standard procedure for the treatment of many blood cancers in developed countries, is not yet offered in Nepal. The country also lacks medical specialty training in hematology or oncology.

In an effort to promote evidence-based medicine in South Asia, a conference was held in Kathmandu, Nepal, September 13 and 14. Clinicians and researchers shared knowledge on the diagnosis and management of blood cancers, including leukemia, lymphoma, and multiple myeloma.

Cancer survivor and Bollywood actress Manisha Koirala was the guest of honor. UIC CGH faculty including Damiano Rondelli, Valerie Dobiesz and Tim Erickson gave presentations and led expert panel discussions. The conference was a huge success and more than 250 attendees from Nepal, India, Thailand, Sri Lanka and China attended.

The University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System and the UIC Center for Global Health will host four clinicians from Kathmandu Civil Service Hospital this Fall, 2013. While visiting Chicago, the Nepalese physicians will observe all aspects of blood and marrow transplantation, including clinical care, blood banking, stem cell collection and administrative operations.

"Many cancer patients in Nepal are in need of stem cell transplants, but they currently do not have this option," said Dr. Damiano Rondelli, chief of hematology-oncology and director of blood and marrow transplant at UI Hospital. "Our efforts and presence in Nepal are aimed at developing a partnership to address the need for training medical specialists that will translate into better care for a larger number of people in a wonderful and still developing country."

The Binaytara Foundation and UIC will assist physicians from Kathmandu Civil Service Hospital with opening the first blood and marrow transplant unit in Nepal that will serve thousands of patients from Nepal and neighboring India. The unit is expected to begin performing autologous stem cell transplants in the next year, followed by allogeneic transplants from compatible donors.

UIC physicians will support the Nepalese physicians through training, guidelines, telemedicine support and occasional visits to the hospital in Kathmandu, said Rondelli.

The foundation and UIC also partnered to provide a year-long blood cancer telemedicine course to 100 clinicians in developing countries.

The Binaytara Foundation was founded by Dr. Binay Shah, a former hematology/oncology fellow at UIC who now practices in Idaho.

For more information on the 2013 International Conference on Advances in Hematologic Malignancies, visit http://bam2013.binayfoundation.org/
WONDOOR Collaboration in Guyana

Dr. Tracy Irwin, MD, MPH, Associate Professor in the Department of OB/GYN and Director of Global Women’s Health at the Center for Global Health recently returned from Georgetown Public Hospital, Guyana. In collaboration with WONDOOR Dr. Irwin provided clinical and didactic teaching to Guyanese OB/GYN residents.

WONDOOR, based in the University Hospitals/Case Western Medical Center Department of OB/Gyn and Reproductive Biology in collaboration with Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, the Ministry of Health-Guyana and the University of Guyana, created the first residency program in Obstetrics and Gynecology in the country of Guyana. The goal of this program is to improve the health care of women in Guyana through the training of qualified Ob/Gyn specialists that will remain in the country and improve the physician workforce in the public health sector in Guyana. Currently 90% of medical graduates in Guyana leave to pursue jobs and training in other countries. The residency program matriculated its first six residents in May 2012 and has recently accepted the second class.

Guyana is on the east coast of South America, however identifies itself as a Caribbean country and is home to East Indian and African descendants as well as indigenous Amerindians. The country is the size of Idaho with a population of 750,000, most of which live along the coast.

After initial visits by Therese Kirsch, MD and under the direction of Dr. Irwin the Department of Obstetrics at University of Illinois recognized the opportunity to impact women’s health in a sustainable way. The department has committed to deliver clinical and research faculty support to Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation through WONDOOR while providing a formal, supervised global women’s health experience for our OB/GYN residents.

Dr. Mark Rasenick Addresses Depression

Mark Rasenick, Distinguished University Professor of Physiology & Biophysics and Psychiatry, spoke at a ceremony to open the academic year for L.U.deS University in Lugano, Switzerland. The entire body of students and faculty of the Health Sciences were assembled for Dr. Rasenick’s lecture. The title was “A Multifaceted Approach to Depression Diagnosis and Treatment”. The Semmelweis banner is displayed because Semmelweis University in Budapest is a “sister school,” whose dean was taking part in the ceremony. This is the Italian region (Ticino) of Switzerland and, according to Dr. Rasenick, people refer to Lugano as possessing Italian warmth but Swiss efficiency.

Don’t forget!
Thursday, October 10th at 7:00 pm
Maya del Sol 144 S. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park IL
Center for Global Health 1st Annual Benefit “Working for the World”

Dr. Janet Lin Receives AET Award

Dr. Janet Lin has been chosen to receive the UIC Award for Excellence in Teaching (AET) for the 2013-2014 academic year. This highly competitive award considers nominees from all departments and divisions of the UIC campus. Janet was chosen from among several faculty members from the College of Medicine to represent our college, and was chosen to receive one of the five prestigious UIC awards this year. Janet will be honored officially at a Faculty Awards Celebration on Thursday, October 24, 2013
Director’s Corner of the World

According to Alvin Toffler, “You’ve got to think about big things while you’re doing small things, so that all the small things go in the right direction.”

At the Center for Global Health, we want to accomplish big things: to improve maternal/fetal health, to increase environmental consciousness, to support disaster relief, and to promote mental health and wellness worldwide. Since the Center’s inception two years ago, we’ve been striving to achieve these larger goals by focusing on some of the smaller yet significant things. We are establishing initiatives in immigrant community outreach, student education, research pilot grants, and sustained affiliations with sister institutions abroad. In keeping with the theme of this year’s fundraiser, our faculty and staff at the Center are committed to “working for the world.”

We invite you to join our annual CGH benefit on October 10th. For details please visit: https://workingfortheworld.everbrite.com/. We would love to see you there to raise a glass together for all global efforts, whether big or small.

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest”

~Benjamin Franklin~

CGH Network Meeting Presenters

August 2013
Max Brito, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Medical Infections Disease—”Can We “Cut” the HIV Epidemic in the Caribbean”?

September 2013
Tim Erickson, Director of UIC Center for Global Health and Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs—”Challenging/Ethical Cases in Global Health”

October 2013
Tiana Kieso, Project Manager, Patient Centered Care Collaboration study Urban Health and Diversity Programs, UIC School of Public Health
“The Start of the Maternal and Child Health Programs in Baghdad, Iraq”

GMED Spotlight—Ana Mauro

Being part of the GMED program has been an extraordinary experience so far. My favorite part of the program includes the incredible mentoring relationships with GMED faculty and staff, as well as with other GMED students. We really are like a family, supporting each other through difficulties, and celebrating our accomplishments. The GMED faculty and staff are an incredible source of inspiration as they not only actively make a difference in international communities everywhere, but also take time to offer continuous guidance to students. The GMED program reminds me of the reasons why I decided to pursue a career in medicine, and the impact I hope to one day make in the world.

The field of medicine is a global one; we no longer live in a world where health problems are dealt with in an isolated microcosm. The interrelated nature of health and disease involves working together with providers and communities abroad, sharing lessons learned, and building an international foundation of knowledge to improve the health of patients and communities. The GMED program offers co-curricular activities that highlight the complexity of these relationships, as well as ways to address health challenges ahead. These activities, coupled with the dedication and expertise of leading GMED faculty, really provide a unique avenue of learning for GMED students. The GMED program is a crucial component of our curriculum, which has the ultimate goal of helping us become culturally-congruent, compassionate physicians.

“Where in the World…?”

Chris Stout has spent the last 2 months traveling and presenting in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Brasilia, Brazil.

Kathleen Harrison and John McNulty recently visited South Sudan and Kenya. The are working on developing a program responding to the great need to rebuild universities in South Sudan.