



UIC Center for
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT CHICAGO **Global Health**
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

CGH Newsletter—Fall 2016

UIC Global Health Programs in Ukraine



UIC Faculty with US Surgeon
General in Kyiv

When Ukraine gained independence from the USSR twenty-five years ago, it inherited a legacy of environmental health problems that included chemical pollution of the air, water, and soil as well as the radioactive aftermath of the 1986 Chernobyl accident. UIC faculty from the College of Medicine and School of Public Health have been assisting Ukraine in addressing these issues through training, collaborative research, and institutional capacity-building since the first days of independence.

UIC's efforts have been supported by competitive grants from the U.S. federal government and from private foundations. Major funders have included the NIH Fogarty Center to support research and training in environmental and occupational health; the U.S. National Cancer Institute to support data management for the Chernobyl thyroid cancer studies; USAID and USEPA to support a study of children's environmental health in Mariupol; NIEHS and

CDC to support the *Family and Children of Ukraine* birth cohort study; and ALO to support the development of Ukraine's first School of Public Health at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy.

Through these programs UIC has hosted over 25 Visiting Scientists from Ukraine for short and long-term training, conducted 12 international conferences in Ukraine, and engaged seven UIC graduate students in conducting their theses on Ukrainian health issues. Research highlights include the *Family and Children of Ukraine* study that followed 4000 pregnant women and their offspring in Kyiv, Dniprodzerzhinsk, and Mariupol from pregnancy through adolescence; the *Environmental Pollutants and Health Status of Children* research program in Mariupol that was selected as the binational U.S.-Ukraine research program under the Gore-Kuchma commission; and a series of studies on the health of coal miners in the Donetsk region.

Since the Center for Global Health was established at UIC in 2011, UIC researchers have completed the 18-years of age assessment of the *FCOU* study in Dniprodzerzhinsk, conducted a study of multiple drug resistant tuberculosis in Kyiv oblast, planned for the development of a Kyiv-based consortium on Energy, Health, and Environment; and investigated the feasibility of assisting Ukraine in the development of an adult bone marrow transplantation program. As we celebrate our Center's achievements at the Ukrainian Institute for Modern Art, we are proud to have contributed in promoting health and environment in Ukraine.



Chernobyl viewed from Pripyat

2016 Sweeney Sprite of Medicine Award—Binay Shah



Dr. Binay Shah is a Nepalese oncologist who currently lives in the suburbs of Seattle, WA. He and his wife Tara are the founder of the Binaytara Foundation (BTF) which is a non-profit organization based on values of Benevolence, Transparency, Friendship, and with the mission “to improve healthcare in resource poor communities and improve cancer care worldwide by collaborating with national and international organizations.”. Dr. Shah, current CEO of BTF, completed his fellowship in Hematology/Oncology at UIC in 2010 and at that time involved multiple UIC faculty members in his telemedicine initiatives to improve medical education in Nepal.

In 2011 he and Damiano Rondelli, MD of UIC Division of Hematology/Oncology went together to Nepal to give lectures on hematologic malignancies in different institutions. During that trip it became evident that in a country of almost 30 million people and with limited resources many patients with potentially curable blood disorders, such as leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma, or aplastic anemia, often die because cannot access a stem cell transplantation. Drs. Shah and Rondelli then met Dr. Bishesh Poudyal, a young hematologist at Civil Service Hospital in Kathmandu, who expressed strong interest in developing BMT. UIC signed an MOU with Civil Hospital and BTF supported the cost of training multiple staff members of the Nepalese institution in Chicago and in Sri Lanka. Since 2012 BTF has worked together with the UIC Center for Global Health (CGH) to support the development of a Global BMT program. Recently, BTF made a generous donation to UIC CGH to support expenses related to this project and to establish a financial mechanism to allow fellows in Hematology/Oncology to do research in Global Health related projects.



Among other projects, Dr. Shah also created and supported the first Home Hospice Program in Nepal to help patients in need of pain control or with incurable diseases to live the most challenging part of their life with dignity and surrounded by their families. To this purpose BTF trained health providers in Nepal and sponsors this service in full.

Because of his extraordinary work in Global Health and long lasting support of UIC, on September 17 Dr. Shah received the 2016 Sweeney Spirit of Medicine Award during the Annual Gala Event of UIC College of Medicine.

CGH Internal Advisory - Alyson Lofthouse



Alyson Lofthouse is the Senior Associate Director of the Global Health Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) School of Public Health. In that role she serves as the primary advisor to the Dean and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs regarding strategic direction and leadership in developing and administering a comprehensive global health program. Alyson uses her academic training and wide-ranging international experience, including working in Bolivia, Haiti, Mexico, Grenada, and Switzerland, to identify and successfully develop new partnerships and alliances for collaborative activities in global health research and practice at the School of Public Health. Sample activities include a bi-directional student exchange with the National Institute of Public Health of Mexico, annually hosting visiting scholars from Israel, instigating international university partnerships for joint research endeavors, and managing spring break and summer student cohort programs abroad. Additionally, Alyson teaches in the public health baccalaureate program at UIC and is adjunct faculty in the master of public health program at DePaul University.

Alyson was a fellow within Duke University’s Sanford School of Public Policy and holds a graduate certificate in Humanitarian Health Program Management from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in England. She is currently pursuing a doctorate degree in community health sciences at UIC. Her academic interests encompass the discourse on global health diplomacy and health programming and coordination for people impacted by humanitarian emergencies.

2017 Gold Humanism Honor Society Members

Sean Blitzstein, Chairman of the Gold Humanism Honor Society, announced the members of the 2017 Gold Humanism Honor Society. These students were selected from an extremely competitive pool of students and were chosen based on their demonstrated excellence in humanistic clinical care, leadership, compassion and dedication to service, and we are pleased to share that the Center for Global Health has 5 of our GMED students among those chosen.

The Gold Humanism Honor Society is sponsored by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation whose mission is fostering humanism in medicine.

The Gold Foundation is a public, not-for-profit organization established in 1988 by Drs. Arnold and Sandra Gold, colleagues at the Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons in New York City, and dedicated community leaders and philanthropists. Through funds raised by The Foundation for programs, significant advances have been made in the development, implementation, evaluation and replication of innovative medical educational programs and projects to influence the way physicians are trained. National programs include sponsorship of the White Coat Ceremony for incoming medical students, Student Clinician's Ceremony for rising third year medical students, fellowships, essay contests, lectures, Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Awards, national symposia, training videos, and an on-line Humanism Resource Center. More information on the Foundation and GHHS: <http://www.gold-foundation.org/ghhs/>

Gold Humanism Honor Society student members are selected at the beginning of their M4 year, when students have had sufficient opportunity to distinguish themselves through public service, leadership, and patient contact during their clerkships. Up to fifteen percent of the rising M4 class can be selected each year. The Gold Humanism Honor Society is featured in the Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE) of student members.

Congratulations to Amina Basha, Lena Elmuti, Tsige Gebrelasse, David Lee and JJ Parker!

GMED Spotlight—Paul Blessing

If you asked me back in March where I thought I would be in August, I might have said Chicago for a sub-internship or Cincinnati for an emergency medicine rotation. I definitely would not have said I would be serving on another continent. But after an inspiring conversation with Dr. Lin and a few skype calls, I am now spending a year in Cape Town, South Africa and loving every second of it!

The main focus of my year away is to study the clinical feasibility of a mobile phone application that helps providers manage difficult burns cases. This app is part of a new field of health care called Mhealth, or Mobile health, specifically dealing with how providers communicate with each other. The provider can take pictures of the patient's burns and send them to an on-call "burn care specialist" who can then reply with their recommendations for management. The app also allows them to document all of the important patient parameters, as well as the surface area of the burn with calculated fluid management. The app is currently in use in the field and we will be looking to see if it is changing clinical decision-making.

I have also been lucky enough to work emergency center shifts at Khayelishta district hospital, which is located in one of the poorest and most dangerous areas of South Africa. I have learned how to manage and diagnose patients with active tuberculosis, how to properly insert a chest tube and how to make the most with limited resources. It's exciting to think about how much I will have learned by the end of the year!

My other responsibilities up to this point have included helping with a Lancet systematic review looking at primary emergency care interventions and how they can help the world's poorest billion, a WHO project looking at emergency center interventions and outcomes in Uganda and Tanzania, as well as preparing for the African Conference for Emergency Medicine that will be held in Cairo, Egypt this November.

Not only do I get to participate in all this, but I get to do it in one of the most beautiful and vibrant cities in the world. Cape Town is an incredibly diverse and cultural city, with four different languages amongst the main demographics and a love for the arts, good wine and (lucky for me) a growing interest in craft beer!

This experience would not have been possible without GMED. They not only brought this opportunity to my attention, they prepared me to excel as a global health learner, provider and citizen. I could not be more grateful and proud of the GMED faculty and students, and encourage everyone to learn all you can about my fellow students and their projects.



Director's Corner of the World



"When it comes to global health, there is no 'them'... only 'us.'" ~Global Health Council

On September 1st, 2016, I assumed the Interim Directorship of the Center for Global Health. I am humbled and inspired by the extraordinary commitment, dedication, compassion and selflessness my colleagues have shown and continue to show in their work. I am awestruck by the amount and scope of work being conducted by the Center for Global Health around the world. Members of our Center for Global Health are currently involved in a number of far-reaching initiatives, including 1. Improving maternal/child health through the establishment of continuity of care from early pregnancy to early childhood care (e.g. India); 2. Improving outcomes of cardiac events (e.g. acute STEMI care; Chicago and Bengaluru, India); 3. Providing affordable bone marrow transplantation (e.g. Nepal, Ukraine and India); 4. Conducting early screening for cervical and other cancers (e.g. Africa), 5. Increasing environmental consciousness (e.g. Chernobyl); 6. Supporting disaster relief (e.g. Haiti), 7. Providing early diagnosis and treatment of eye diseases (e.g. India and Nepal); 8. Providing training and education in wilderness medicine and poison control (e.g. USA and many countries around the world); 9. Controlling and treating infectious diseases (e.g. HIV and Zika in Dominican Republic) and 10. Promoting mental health and wellness in migrants (e.g. Kosovo and Tajikistan).

Since the Center's inception on 1/1/11, we have been reaching out to global communities that are in need of the many types of expertise that the University of Illinois at Chicago can offer. One of the salient features of our efforts is our focus on local needs and projects that can then be scaled up to serve other global communities in need of similar services. Some examples of community-based efforts of our Center that could have global impact include immigrant community outreach, medical student education, collaborative research pilot grants, and exchange affiliations with sister institutions abroad.

We are very proud of our Center's successful efforts in creating synergy between dedicated individual faculty members with a range of expertise and trainees who are working together with local experts for a healthier world through service, education and research.

"We are all inventors, each sailing out on a voyage of discovery, guided each by a private chart of which there is no duplicate. The world is all gates, all opportunities"

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson ~

CGH Network Meeting Presenters

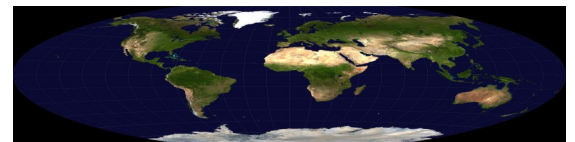
August 2016

Donald Zeigler (SPH)—"Alcohol: no ordinary commodity in terms of the global burden of disease"

September 2016

CT Che, (College of Pharmacy) "UIC's Contributions to Global Traditional Medicine Research"

"Where in the World...?"



Chase Westra (M2) spent the summer volunteering with the Yantalo Peru Foundation at their clinic in the northern region of San Martin, Peru. While there, he investigated potential research topics for his GMED capstone project, while also gaining a better understanding of the Peruvian healthcare system.

Mary Claire McGlynn (M2) spent 6 weeks in Uganda doing research in the Nyakibale Hospital Emergency Department.

Nnenna Okoye (M4) commenced her Senior GMED project entitled "Considerations in Healthcare Delivery in Extreme and Austere Environments." As part of the project, she completed a certification course in Advanced Wilderness Life Support (AWLS ®), accredited by the University of Utah School of Medicine, in Chamonix, France. The course was taught by Dr. Richard Ingebretsen (MD, PhD), the founder of AWLS and attracted physicians, medical students, and wilderness medicine experts from more than a dozen countries. Her project continues now with a study of difficult emergency delivery cases in the past 20th century. She is scheduled to present her project findings later this fall.

JJ Parker (M4) continues his ongoing work in Cedro Galán and Chiquilistagua, Nicaragua on barriers to contraceptive use among adolescents.