4th Annual Benefit—Working for the World

On September 29, 2016, the Center for Global Health held its 4th annual “Working for the World” benefit at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art (UIMA) in Chicago. The successful event was attended by over 130 supporters and raised funds to support the GMED program. This year the Center chose the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art as its venue to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Ukraine’s independence.

Participants were greeted by Chancellor Michael Amiridis, who enthusiastically presented his support for the Center for Global Health and the GMED students, and by the Honorable Larysa Gerasko, the Consul General of Ukraine, who expressed her appreciation for UIC’s longstanding work on health and social issues in Ukraine.

The event was catered by Shokolad Ukrainian restaurant. The bandura ensemble “Char Zillya” provided the music. Ms. Orysia Cardoso, the President of UIMA, welcomed the participants and talked about the current art exhibit that focused on the 25th anniversary of Ukrainian independence. The Marramiero Company donated the wine for the event.

One highlight of the evening was the presentation by GMED students Lena Elmuti and J.J. Parker on their GMED experiences. After the event, GMED students, faculty and staff gathered at Tryzub Ukrainian Restaurant for a celebratory after party.

Thank you to all of our supporters and sponsors for making it another successful night!
The Third African Conference on Emergency Medicine was held in Cairo, Egypt last November. Emergency Medicine is a young and emerging field in Africa, and a specialty that is greatly needed. Patients in Africa suffer from a significant burden of disease from acute infectious and tropical diseases; trauma, particularly from rising road traffic injuries; and a growing burden of non-communicable disease. Having trained providers and facilities capable of treating acute and life-threatening medical conditions is paramount to having a well-functioning health care system. UIC Center for Global Health Faculty Dr. Stacey Chamberlain and Dr. Janet Lin were invited speakers at the conference. Dr. Lin spoke on "Implementing HIV screening in Emergency Department as surveillance tool in Africa," and Dr. Chamberlain spoke on "Using Clinical Decision Instruments in Low Resource Settings."

Heart Rescue India Annual Meeting

Our Heart Rescue India team met with their collaborators in India October 24-26th. Heart Rescue is a project where we identify barriers to care and gaps in service for CVD and work with local leaders to draft policy and regulations to improve existing systems and guide the development of community-based programs. We are working to develop a standardized data registry to enable Bangalore health care workers, emergency responders and others to input information about sudden cardiac arrests. The group will return in early March, check our next newsletter for their progress.

CUGH Midwest Regional Meeting

On November 4, 2016, Northwestern University’s Center for Global Health & Office for International Relations hosted the annual Midwestern Universities for Global Health meeting in the Prentice Women's Hospital. Eighty-eight people attended; they represented 17 Midwestern institutions active in the area of global health. The two major topics were non-communicable disease and global health ethics & education. The UIC Center for Global Health was represented on the program by Stevan Weine, MD (UIC Psychiatry) who presented a plenary session entitled “Migration and Mental Health” about his work with migrants in Kosovo and Tajikistan and the effects of migration on their mental health, and by Maarten Bosland, DVSc, PhD (UIC Pathology) who led a panel presentation about his “Proposal for a Regional Center of Research Excellence in Non-Communicable Disease in West Africa” focused on Nigeria and Ghana. Andrew Dykens MD (UIC Family Medicine) participated in a break-out panel about “Research Funding Mechanisms & Strategies for Trainees & Faculty” with colleagues from Northwestern University. Gelila Goba, MD, MPH (UIC Obstetrics & Gynecology) participated in a panel about the “SAVE MOM – Developing postpartum Hemorrhage auto transfusion system” that she is developing in collaboration with UIC engineering colleagues to combat postpartum hemorrhage.
For two weeks in October, I travelled to Kisumu, Kenya with another resident, Galen Harnden. Kisumu is the capital city of Kisumu County in western Kenya and the third largest city in Kenya. For the past year, emergency medicine physicians, led by Dr. Janet Lin from the Center for Global Health and the Department of Emergency Medicine at UIC, have been working with healthcare leaders in the county interested in emergency medicine. Initially, faculty from the College of Medicine at Maseno University requested help with curriculum development for their emergency medicine rotation, the first of its kind in Kenya. Although emergency medicine is not a well-recognized specialty in much of continental Africa, the faculty were interested in exposing medical students to this field of medicine, which is developing in response to the rapidly increasing incidence of non-communicable diseases in Kenya.

Last summer, students from UIC College of Medicine conducted a research project leading focus groups comprised of the first Kenyan medical students who participated in the rotation. As a result, a number of potential areas of improvement were identified in the curriculum. One of these areas was the clinical exposure available for students learning in an environment without formally trained emergency medicine practitioners or emergency departments. As such, during sit-down meetings with faculty, we were able to outline simulation modules to help improve clinical teaching of emergency medicine in a setting that lacks an emergency medical system. The goal of these simulations is to expose medical students to procedures, such as central venous catheterization, lumbar puncture, and intubation, as well as introduce them to fundamental concepts in emergency medicine.

In addition to working with faculty from Maseno University College of Medicine, we had the pleasure of meeting with the Minister of Health for Kisumu County, Dr. Elizabeth Ogaja. Dr. Ogaja, recognizing the increasing morbidity and mortality in the county from non-communicable diseases, is interested in developing an emergency medical system. Galen and I were able to meet with her and other members of the ministry in order to conceptualize a plan for building emergency medicine capacity in Kisumu County. This included formally identifying invested partners, creating a vision for emergency medicine in Kisumu County, and laying out the initial framework for moving forward. One of our initial tasks was creating a Technical Working Group to perform a needs assessment in the county, of which we are now members, tasked with organizing, planning, and helping to perform this assessment.

As a result of our extremely productive two weeks in Kisumu, I am now intimately involved in an exciting time in emergency medicine development in western Kenya. While ambitious in scale, these interconnected projects have the potential to affect the lives of thousands of Kenyans who currently do not have access to emergency medical services. In addition to this, I have learned about health systems development and medical education, two areas that will be a part of my career as a physician. I look forward to continuing my partnership with the healthcare leaders that I met in Kisumu and developing a working relationship that brings emergency medicine training to western Kenya.

GMED Spotlight—Tegan Gomez

GMED M2 student Tegan Gomez was a recipient of the Hispanocare Student Scholarship given by Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center. Hispanocare coordinates community health fairs where preventative services are offered. This scholarship was established to help Hispanic-American college students complete their education. Tegan services the community at these health fairs, and is also a member of the Latino Medical Student Association.
As we celebrate another New Year, some of the common refrains we hear include “Peace, Prosperity, Good Health and Happiness.” While laudable, the quest for achieving these human aspirations seem harder and tend to fall short. The consequences of recent mass migrations and acts of terrorism, from Turkey to France, Syria to Germany and at home, make peace appear distant. As evident, mass migration results not only in political upheaval but also in human suffering of unimaginable scale, and puts tremendous pressure on social services including humanitarian aid and health services.

Therefore, more than ever, our mission at UIC and our Center for Global Health to educate the next generation of global health leaders seem more pertinent. Every day, we strive very hard to fulfill that mission, by educating and empowering a diverse group of students with a focus on humility, cultural sensitivity and inclusiveness.

“An idealist is a person who helps other people to be prosperous.”

~ Henry Ford ~

CGH Network Meeting Presenters

October 2016
Gabriel Culbert — “Drugs, Sex and Survival in an Overcrowded Indonesian Prison: Experiences of HIV-infected Prisoners:
John T. Wulu, — "Importance of Protecting our Planet’s Biodiversity Through Global Health Programs"

December 2016
Daniel Hryhorczuk—, “The Ecologic Paradox: Health and Environment in the 21st Century”

Save the date!! Our 8th Annual World Health Day Presentation will be on Wednesday, April 5th at noon. Check our website for more information at globalhealth.uic.edu/events.