On September 18, 2014, more than 125 faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends joined the Center for Global Health for its 2nd Annual Benefit, “Working for the World” at the National Museum of Mexican Art. The event included a cocktail reception with museum touring, networking and a silent auction. A brief program led by Timothy Erickson, MD, Center Director, highlighted the Center research, education and service programs.

The Center for Global Health is advancing the field of global health by fostering cutting edge multi-disciplinary research, training the next generation of global health leaders, and advocating for new innovative solutions to save lives in low resource settings.

One initiative housed within the Center, the College of Medicine GMED (Global Medicine) track, now includes 37 medical students. At the benefit, 3rd year medical students Ana Mauro and Peter Wickwire presented their thoughts about how the field of medicine is global; globalization is changing the world and the changes are affecting human health. Both students felt that graduates of the GMED program will have a better understanding of the global health issues that face us in the 21st Century, and will be leaders, educators and researchers on future global health policy.

The funds raised at this benefit will go to support current and future GMED students in their Capstone projects.

The event was a great success. We are grateful to our sponsors and supporters who helped to make this a wonderful evening, and their contributions that enable us to continue to grow and fulfill our mission to improve the health of populations around the world.
Three multidisciplinary research projects are the first to receive funds from the new Global Health and Wellbeing Seed Grant Program, created to support projects that improve the lives of people around the world. The program, established by the Chancellor’s Global Excellence Task Force and the College of Medicine's Center for Global Health, provides start-up funding for pilot projects. Researchers can later seek extramural funding.

“This new grant program is part of a larger campus initiative to develop a global strategy that fits with UIC’s mission to leverage the expertise of faculty across the campus in addressing global issues,” said Chancellor Paula Allen-Meares. “Disciplines and initiatives such as engineering, the social sciences, humanities, urban planning and environmental sciences, social justice and others — all have important roles to play in improving the human condition, locally and worldwide.

“One of the missions of the Chancellor’s Global Health and Wellbeing Seed Grant program was to develop innovative ways to unite researchers from across campus engaged in research to improve health and quality of life globally,” said Timothy Erickson, director of the UIC Center for Global Health and professor of emergency medicine. “The three projects selected this first year really exemplify that.”

Stevan Weine, professor of psychiatry and director of global health research training in the Center for Global Health, and Theresa Cordova, professor and director of the Great Cities Institute, are co-directors of the grant program.

HEALTH CARE IN SENEGAL
Andrew Dykens, assistant professor of family medicine, College of Medicine, Karen Peters, assistant professor of community health sciences, School of Public Health, and Crystal Patil, associate professor of medical anthropology, College of Nursing, will evaluate a model of health care delivery in Senegal that brings together community members, Peace Corps volunteers and academic centers to increase the rate of cervical cancer screening and treatment.

SOCIOECONOMICS AND AIR POLLUTION
Serap Erdal, associate professor of environmental and occupational health sciences, School of Public Health, and Janet Smith, associate professor of urban planning and policy, College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, will look for connections between socioeconomic and demographic factors, air pollution, health disparities and cancer risks, both globally and in Cook County.

FEWER MATERNAL DEATHS IN TANZANIA
Crystal Patil, in the College of Nursing, and Stacie Geller, professor of obstetrics and gynecology, College of Medicine, want to reduce maternal mortality in sub-Saharan Africa, a region making slow progress with this problem. They will conduct a needs assessment in urban Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, then adapt for city-dwellers a continuum-of-care approach that has reduced maternal deaths from postpartum hemorrhage in rural areas of the developing world. Their goal is to identify factors that put urban women at risk of dying from postpartum bleeding.

Welcome To Our Newest Global Medicine (GMED) Students

The GMED program is now in its third year and growing by leaps and bounds. We had another successful recruitment season and are delighted and proud to announce the GMED class of 2018 and the undergraduate schools they hail from:

Brandon Collofello
Molly Conroy
Michael Dienstbach
Frank Ebai
Greg Klausa
Vanessa Martinez
Elizabeth Nagel
Katherine Reffler
Tosha, Songolo
Prinston Varghese
Takahiro Yamaguchi
Michelle Yoo

University of St. Francis
Northwestern University
Loyola University
Loyola University
University of Notre Dame
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
University of Notre Dame
Harvard University
University of Wisconsin - Madison
Northwestern University
Washington University in St. Louis
University of Illinois Urbana – Champaign

The current GMED class has language proficiency in the following languages: Malayalam, Spanish, Japanese, Arabic, Swahili, Korean, and Italian. We have begun our co-curricular sessions and are in the beginning stages of cultivating capstone projects. Please let us know if you are willing to mentor a motivated GMED student on a global health scholarly project.
We are pleased to announce that two of the Spring 2014 POC Awards Program winners are members of our Center—Dr. Dobiesz and Dr. Prabhakar. Over 30 pre-proposals from across the UIC Campus were submitted in this round of the CIF POC Awards Program, with ten finalists presenting to a panel of venture capitalists and business leaders.

Projects funded as part of the Spring 2014 POC Awards Program are:

Valerie Dobiesz, MD, MPH, FACEP
Center for Global Health & Department of Emergency Medicine
Project Title: Obstetrical Medical Device for Auto Transfusion in Post-Partum Hemorrhage (PPH)

Bellur Prabhakar, PhD
Department of Microbiology & Immunology, College of Medicine
Project Title: Evaluation of Soluble OX40L-JAG-1 to Treat Type-1 Diabetes

Brian Kay, PhD
Department of Biological Sciences, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Project Title: High-Throughput Antibody Generation by PExSR

Sriram Ravindran, MD
Department of Oral Biology, College of Dentistry
Project Title: Bioenhanced Implant Surfaces for Improved Osteointegration

Mark Grechanik, PhD
Department of Computer Science, College of Engineering
Project Title: Making Cloud Computing Elastic, Cost Effective and Efficient

Dieter Klatt, PhD Department of Bioengineering, College of Engineering/College of Medicine
Project Title: Validation of In-Vivo SLIM-MRE
Fall of 2014 has been an exciting and productive time for the Center for Global Health. Our new crop of GMED students arrived and our M3’s began their clinical clerkships, our annual “Working for the World” benefit provided a delightful evening for our guests and friends and raised funds for GMED travel. Our faculty have been publishing papers, writing grants, giving lectures and courses, and taking care of patients here and abroad.

Please take a few minutes to log onto our web site, where you can link to a video of Dr. Prabhakar’s recent talk about Ebola. This presentation by our expert faculty is a credit to UIC; I hope you enjoy it.

“Health is not valued till sickness comes”

~Dr. Thomas Fuller~

“Where in the World…?”

Dr. Vidyasagar delivered the Prof PK Choudhury "Lifetime Achievement Award Oration" in Delhi for his contributions to Neonatology. The Award was established in honor of the late Prof Choudhury, an eminent pediatrician in India. His talk was entitled “Half a Century of Evolution of Neonatology: A Witness’s Story.” He also gave lectures at several medical schools in Delhi.

Dr. Vidyasagar was the Chief guest at the Convocation of MS Ramaiah Medical College, Bangaluru, India, where he delivered the commencement address. Dr. Vidyasagar was invited to deliver the Seventh Institute Lecture Series, at Indian Institute of Technology and Institute of Medical sciences at Benaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India in September. His topic was “Current challenges and opportunities in Medicine and Biotechnology to improve maternal and newborn health.”

Maarten Bosland (Pathology) visited collaborators at the Technische Universität Dresden, Germany, in September to work on a project about endocrine disrupting chemicals and breast and prostate cancer in animal models.

Mark Dworkin traveled to Bordeaux, France for a sabbatical semester to work with the University of Bordeaux on an analysis of an HIV cohort concerning HIV syphilis co-infection.

Chris Stout just returned from a gear-head holiday of motorcycle riding on the infamous TT course on the Isle of Man, and driving his own car on the autobahn. Thankfully, no emergency medical services were needed on either.

Mark Rasenick was the guest speaker for neuroscience day at Trinity College Dublin and, at the end of the week, will help to inaugurate the new facility for the Cuban Neuroscience Center in Havana. Peter Valdes Sosa, who recently visited UIC and his twin brother, Mitchell (native Chicagoans) are the directors of the Center.

Stacie Geller was in New Zealand implementing Severe Acute Maternal Morbidity (SAMM) surveillance at the national level, and examining children's outcomes when the mother experiences SAMM during childbirth.

Stacie Geller was in India meeting with key stakeholders to disseminate the results of a cluster-randomized non-inferiority trial comparing two dosing strategies for misoprostol to prevent postpartum hemorrhage in rural communities of the Bijapur District in Karnataka State.