Santa Fe Global Health Conference

On May 29, 2013 the UIC Center for Global Health teamed up with the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative and Stanford University Emergency International to deliver a symposium on Global Health and Humanitarian Medicine. This well-attended event was held in Santa Fe, New Mexico in conjunction with the National Conference on Wilderness Medicine.

The opening keynote was titled An Overview of Global Health Futures: Drivers of Global Health Disparities. The presentation focused on the eight Millennium Development Goals that were officially established following the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000, following the adoption of the UN Millennium Declaration. All United Nations member states and over 20 international organizations agreed to achieve these goals by the year 2015. The goals are: Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; Achieving universal primary education; Promoting gender equality and empowering women; Reducing child mortality rates; Improving maternal health; Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases; Ensuring environmental sustainability; and Developing a global partnership for development.

Other sessions at the conference included:
- Challenging Cases in Global Health: Lessons Learned from the Field
- Implementation of Health Care Systems: Development of the World's Largest EMS System in India
- Clean Water in a Contaminated World
- The Good Samaritan: Medical Legal Issues with Humanitarian Care & Global Health
- Climate Change in Global Health
- Cutting Edge Global Health Resources: Literature that will Change Your World Vision and Practice.
- Avenues for Getting Involved in Global Health: Individuals Making a Difference

2013 World Health Day Photo Contest Winners

On Wednesday, April 10th The Center for Global Health sponsored our 4th Annual World Health Day Symposium. As part the activities, we held the “Foto’s from the Field” contest, where the global health community could showcase some of their global health projects. The top 3 entries were:

**First place went to Mary Pasquinelli.** Her photo portrays a 15-year-old Haitian boy, treated for typhoid at the Port-au-Prince hospital, as he takes in all the healing power that fresh water can give.

**Second place went to Alfredo Mena Lora** while he was in the Dominican Republic working on dengue fever research.

**Our third place winner was Amir Mehralian who travelled to Chichicastenango, about 4 hours from Guatemala. Amir was there in order to do the Cataract and Pterygium in the small clinic.**
Planning for a GeoHealth Hub in Eastern Europe

On May 29 and 30, teams of researchers from the US and Ukraine met to collaborate on plans to establish a Global Occupational and Environmental Health (GeoHealth) Hub in Kyiv. This effort, funded by a planning grant awarded to UIC and research institutes of the Ukrainian National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS) by the Fogarty International Center of the National Institutes of Health, paved the way to create a research hub within Eastern Europe.

The Center for Global Health was represented by Dan Hryhorczuk, PI of the project, and Marcia Edison, project evaluator. The UIC School of Public Health was represented by Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf, Professors Linda Forst and Lorraine Conroy, and Research Associate Professor Irina Dardynskaia. Ukrainian participants included representatives from the Institute for Occupational Health of NAMS, the NAMS Marzeyev Institute for Hygiene and Medical Ecology, and the NAMS Institute of Pediatrics, Obstetrics, and Gynecology.

During the two-day meeting, stakeholders from the various project partners discussed their ongoing research initiatives, needs in the regions, and plans for future collaborations. The theme “Eastern European Consortium for Energy Security and Health Protection” was proposed as a focus for the GeoHealth Hub.

Bioengineering Students Win Felder Family Award

The Center of Global Health has been collaborating with the Department of Bioengineering in various endeavors. This year Valerie Dobiesz served as faculty advisor for Bioengineering students Ruchita Gujarathi, Vineetha Kaitharath, Deepika Kaushik, Kruti Shah and Maher Yassinin in BioE 396, a senior design class. This team won the Felder Family Award for Environmental and Human Sustainability at the 24th Annual Engineering Expo held on April 23, 2013 for their project “Blood Loss During Labor: Obstetric Drape”. This low cost drape can be used to accurately quantify blood loss during childbirth in developing countries. Postpartum hemorrhage is the most common cause of maternal death and is responsible for nearly 69% of maternal deaths in developing countries. The use of this device could be life saving. We are very proud of these promising students.

Prevention Collaboration with the Russian Federation

Don Zeigler, PhD. Adjunct Associate Clinical Professor, Health Policy and Administration, School of Public Health, completed a two-week 6-city lecture tour of Western Russia in May. The Russian Public Health Society invited Don to speak at academic, medical, governmental and NGO meetings on tobacco, alcohol and noncommunicable disease prevention strategies. The trip was funded through the US State Department’s U.S. Speaker and Specialist Program.

The Russian society’s chair, Dr. Andrey Demin, and Don have been on the public health working group of the US-Russia Civil Society Partnership Program (CSPP) since a civil society summit in Moscow in 2009 that coincided with the US-Russia Presidential Summit between Obama and Medvedev. Other working groups were on press and new media, community development, the environment, human rights and rule of law, and youth and education.

The Civil Society Partnership Program met again in 2010, 2011, and 2012 in Washington and Moscow and supported Dr. Demin’s efforts to assist in the adoption of Russian national tobacco cessation guidelines. Don coordinated review and input of the Russian guidelines by US experts. The final guidelines, based on those of the US and Europe and adapted for use in Russia, were announced on May 1 in Washington and in Moscow on May 14. Don spoke at both events and then spent 2-weeks traveling from Moscow to Lipetsk, Yelets, St. Petersburg, Petrozavodsk and Kazan.

Timing was significant since the Russian Duma had recently adopted new tobacco control policy, including a ban on smoking in public places beginning on June 1, which should influence many smokers to seek help quitting. Because of the new law, release of the guidelines prepared by public health leaders in both countries, and World No Tobacco Day on May 31, Don had interviews on national radio, 3 local TV stations, one national paper and the prominent medical publication of the Ministry of Health.

The joint US-Russia Civil Society Partnership project showed solidarity and support for tobacco control in Russia which has one of the highest rates of smoking in the world. There is now interest in continued collaboration on developing clinical guidelines on alcohol and prevention policies. In addition, there is a possibility of joint work to develop a Russian center on global health since none currently exists.
Global Partnerships for Developing Mental Health Partnerships

Stevan Weine M.D.
Dr. Khurshed Kungaratov has an incredibly difficult challenge. He is the leader of psychiatry in Tajikistan and he wants to improve mental health care in Tajikistan, one of the world’s poorest countries.

In June 2013, I made a trip to Istanbul to meet with Kungaratov as well as Dr. Ferid Agani. Agani is Kosovo’s Minister of Health and the person who led the building of its community mental health system beginning in 1999, with collaboration from myself. We arranged to meet not for vacation or to attend a professional conference, but to sit together and envision and plan for building mental health services in Tajikistan.

The day we came together was the day after the beginning of the protests in Gezi Park and Taksim Square. Our meeting had nothing to do with the protests, but they made us think that those suffering from mental illness are not likely to take to the streets to ask for more and better care. Mental health reform requires psychiatric leadership and Agani and Kungaratov are at present the key psychiatric leaders in their countries.

Over three days we told familiar stories and tried to write a new one. First, Agani told the story of how mental health reform happened in Kosovo. Next, Kungaratov told the story of the current situation in Tajikistan and the initial steps that have been taken towards reform. Then I told I offered a sketch of a system that could respond to these problems in by drawing upon local resources and strengths in families and communities. Along the way, there were many, many questions and vigorous debate.

Once we had articulated a shared vision, we turned to Agani, in his role as Minister of Health, and said if that is what they were going to build, then how should they do it? Agani took a half hour to draw out a plan on paper. Then we spent the next day spelling out each of the steps and building a narrative clear and compelling enough to drive mental health reform.

This global (East-East) West partnership of Chicago, Prishtina, and Dushanbe will continue to support Dr. Kungaratov’s challenging work of building mental health services in Tajikistan.

Sierra Leone Collaboration Talks

In May, representatives of two universities in Sierra Leone visited UIC. Professor Abu Sesay, Vice Chancellor and Principal of Njala University and Professor Jonas Redwood-Sawyer, Vice Chancellor and Principal of the University of Sierra Leone came to establish collaborations with the UIC Colleges of Medicine and Nursing. Nora Bonnin from the UIC Office of International Affairs hosted them on their campus-wide activities, which featured a meeting with Provost Lon Kauffman and with the faculty and staff of the Center for Global Health.

Sierra Leone comprises about sixteen ethnic groups, each with its own language and customs. The two largest and most influential are the Temne and the Mende. Although English is the language of instruction in schools and the official language in government administration, the Krio language (derived from English and several indigenous African languages) is the primary language of communication among Sierra Leone’s different ethnic groups, and is spoken by 90% of the country’s population.

The country’s population is mostly young, with an estimated 42% under 15, and rural, with an estimated 62% of people living outside the cities. Estimates for infant mortality in Sierra Leone are among the highest in the world; for every 1,000 live births, approximately 77 children do not survive to their first birthday. The maternal death rates are also among the highest in the world, at 890 deaths per 100,000 live births. The country suffers from epidemic outbreaks of diseases including malaria, yellow fever, cholera, lassa fever, and meningitis.

UIC Bids a Fond Farewell to Mi Ja Kim

After nearly 40 years at UIC, Mi Ja Kim (PhD, RN, FAAN) will be retiring this August. She is Professor and Dean Emerita of the UIC College of Nursing, as well as Executive Director of the Global Health Leadership Office and Director of the Academy of International Leadership Development.

Dr. Kim’s research interests include evaluation of the quality of nursing doctoral education in 7 countries: Australia, Japan, Korea, South Africa, Thailand, UK, and USA. She also studies cardiovascular health disparities in Korean Americans.

Dr. Kim teaches Leadership in International Health, Minority Health, Independent Study, PhD Dissertation Research and Research Practicum. She also trains/mentors international postdoctoral fellows, visiting scholars and students.

Dr. Kim served as a member of the Study Section and the National Advisory Council, NINR, NIH; chair of the Scientific and Technological Review Board, National Center for Research Resources, NIH; and international advisor for the Main Panel C (Dentistry, Nursing-Midwifery, Pharmacy and Allied Health) of the Research Assessment Exercise of the Higher Education Funding Council of the UK. She currently is the Treasurer/Board of Trustees of the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools; Editorial Board of Journal of Advanced Nursing; Consultant to the China Medical Board for doctoral education in Republic of China; and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Global Korean Nursing Foundation in the United States and South Korea.

Dr. Kim loves to play golf and enjoys playing with 5 grandsons whenever time permits.
Global Health Faculty Briefs


Five Poster Papers were presented by Pediatric and Neonatal Faculty from Sri Ramachandra Medical University, Chennai and Belgaum Medical College India by researchers guided by Dr. Vidyasagar at the prestigious annual Pediatric Academic Society Meeting in Washington DC in May.

Dr. Vidyasagar was the recipient of the Ellis Island Medal Award by the National Ethnic Coalition Organization (NACO) at the annual meeting held on Memorial Day at Ellis Island NY.

Director’s Corner of the World

CGH Director Tim Erickson visited in April to formalize a UIC affiliation agreement with Civil Service Hospital, and to participate in an emergency medicine training program at Civil Service Hospital. Following this effort, Dr. Erickson and Dr. Michael VanRooyen (Harvard University) led a group of 30 physicians up to Mt. Everest Base Camp as part of a Wilderness Medicine CME program.

The Civil Service Hospital (CSH) of Nepal was established in 2009. The primary aim of CSH is to provide quality, state-of-the-art, and affordable healthcare services to all past and present civil service employees and their immediate family members. This 132 bed hospital is located in Kathmandu.

The Binay Foundation, founded by Dr. Binay Shah (Hematologist and UIC Alumnus), has collaborated with Dr. Damiano Rondelli, (Professor and Chief of Hematology in the UIC Department of Medicine) to establish the first Cancer Center and Bone Marrow Transplant Center in Nepal at CSH. A conference to commemorate the event will be held in Kathmandu to initiate this center in September 2013.

CGH Network Meeting Presenters

April 2013—4th Annual World Health Day Symposium
Dr. Jody Williams, Nobel Peace Prize Winner and American Political Activist—“Women Forging Peace, Equality, Justice, and Human Rights.
Dr. Chris Stout, Founding Director of the Center for Global Initiatives—“Why Global Health Matters”

May 2013
Dr. Mads Gilbert—“Eyes on Gaza”
Dr. Thomas Wubben—Research Study for the Treatment of Presbyopia in an Indigenous Filipino Population

June 2013
Dr. Vijay Yeldandi, UIC Department of Internal Medicine, Section of Infections Disease—“Global Health Adventures in Two Continents”
Dr. John McNulty and Dr. Kathleen Harrison, Loyola University—Global Work in East Africa

“Where in the World...?”

Dr. Mona Khanna was invited to learn about Poland Medical Tourism by the Polish Ministry of Economy in May. She spent 10 days in Krakow, Ustron and Warsaw during the month of May.

Dr. Alan Lau presented at “Pharmacotherapy Review Program” in at Surabaya, Indonesia and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in March.

In June, Dr. Lau also travelled throughout Southeast Asia delivering presentations at various Clinical Pharmacy Conferences in Shanghai and and several other cities in China, as well as Hong Kong University Shenzhen Hospital in Shenzhen China. He then spent some time in Taiwan at China Medical University in Taichung and served on a judging panel for a research presentation competition at National Taiwan University in Taipei, Taiwan.

Dr. Kathleen Harrison and Dr. John McNulty have just returned to Nairobi from South Sudan to continue their work with Loyola University student projects and hope to collaborate with UIC.

Dr. Chris Stout presented a two-day workshop for Mental Health Professionals in Toronto, Canada.

Dr. Maarten Bosland visited Kumasi, Ghana, from February 23 to April 2 to further develop collaborations with the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and the Komfo Anyoke Teaching Hospital both in Kumasi under MOAs between UIC and these institutions.

Dr. Nikhil Patel spent 2 weeks in the Philippines providing anesthesia for cleft lip and palate repairs with Uplift International.

Dr. Gretchen Fox and Dr. Darrel Saldanha spent 2 weeks in Ethiopia providing anesthesia care and teaching anesthesia to apprentices in training.

Dr. Gurwinder Gill spent 4 weeks in India providing Anesthesia care.