Midwest Universities for Global Health Inaugural Meeting

In Spring 2014 at the annual Consortium of Universities for Global Health meeting, the UIC Center for Global Health and the Medical College of Wisconsin sponsored a breakfast for representatives from a number of Midwest universities to discuss ways to develop global health collaborations. There was a significant amount of interest in such an initiative.

On December 3, 2014 the UIC Center for Global Health hosted the Inaugural meeting of the Midwest Universities for Global Health. Twenty universities participated in this conference to discuss advances in global health education, research, clinical and community engagement.

The day started with opening remarks from Timothy Erickson, Director of UIC Center for Global Health and Stephen Hargarten, Associate Dean for Global Health at Medical College of Wisconsin. The agenda included:

- Benefits of a Midwest collaboration (facilitators Tim Erickson UIC and Cheryl Moyer, University of Michigan)
- Research Partnerships (facilitator Stevan Weine UIC)
- Global Health Education and Training (facilitators Valerie Dobiesz UIC and Kristyna Hulland University of Chicago)
- Best Practices for Managing Traveler Safety (facilitators Stephen Hargarten Medical College of Wisconsin and Debra Olson University of Minnesota)
- Next Steps for Tangible Outcomes (facilitators Rhea Begeman UIC and Tiffany Frazer, Medical College of Wisconsin)
- Viral Risks and Safety: Ebola implications for our students, faculty and programs by Bellur Prabhakar, UIC Professor and Head Microbiology and Immunology and Associate Dean for Technology and Innovation
- World AIDS Day Presentation by Jonathan Mermin, CDC Director, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention

The group of Midwest Universities will meet next during the 6th Annual Consortium of Universities for Global Health meeting in Boston on March 26-28, 2015.
**World AIDS Day 2014**

The Center for Global Health commemorated World AIDS Day by participating in several events during early December 2014.

World AIDS Day has been celebrated every December 1st since 1988 to increase awareness about HIV and the effects it has had on global public health.

As of 2013, AIDS has killed more than 36 million people worldwide (1981-2012), and an estimated 35.3 million people are living with HIV, making it one of the most important global public health issues in recorded history. Despite recent improved access to antiretroviral treatment in many regions of the world, the AIDS epidemic claims an estimated 2 million lives each year, of which about 270,000 are children. (Sources: WHO, HIV/AIDS, 2013 and ‘Report on the Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic 2008,’ UNAIDS)

Rotary International hosted a public panel discussion on December 1st, with public health experts, including Dr. Timothy Erickson of the Center for Global Health to discuss local and global landscape for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment.

The School of Public Health Global Health Program along with Project HEAL hosted a screening of “The Normal Heart”, a film about raising awareness of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the 1980’s.

Dr. Jonathon Mermin, the Director of the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP) gave the keynote address on campus, Wednesday, December 3rd entitled, “HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STDs, and TB Prevention Today: What are the BIG Unanswered Questions?”

The Global Health Program at the School of Public Health, Project HEAL, and the Chicago Developmental Center for AIDS Research (DCFAR) co-sponsored the event.

Free HIV testing for the community was offered by Community Outreach Intervention Projects (COIP) during the week. Several other activities on campus engaged students, faculty and community members in HIV/AIDS-related discussions and forums.

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**Consortium for Humanitarian Intervention**

The inaugural meeting of the Consortium for Humanitarian Intervention was held on November 14-15 at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. There were participants from many local, regional and international organizations including:

- Center for Global Initiatives – Chris Stout
- UIC Center for Global Health – Rhea Begeman
- Chicago School of Professional Psychology – Tiffany Masson, Breeda McGrath Alisha DeWalt and Nancy Bothne
- Trauma Training Program – Myron Eshowsky
- Flying Doctors of America – Allan Gathercoal
- Global Dental Relief – Mark Lisagor
- GEANCO – Nche Onyema
- Adler School of Professional Psychology – Cecil Thomas
- Common Bond Institute – Steve Otweean

This meeting provided opportunities for participants to examine the intersections of the work of their organizations, as well as to discuss potential models for collaboration.
**CGH Network Meeting Presenters**

**November 2014**
Daniel Hryhorczyk, Emeritus Professor and Director, Environmental Global Health—“Building a Global Environmental and Occupational Health Research Hub in Ukraine”

**December 2014**
Jonathon Mermin, Director of the National Center for HIV/AIDS, viral Hepatitis and STC and TB Prevention—HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STDs and TB Prevention Today: What are the BIG Unanswered Questions

**January 2014**
Dr. John Arthur (Jack) Hermann, Director, DVM/MPH Dual Degree Program, Center for One Health Illinois—“One Health: We’re all in this Together”

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**MS Ramaiah Bone Marrow Transplant Program**

The UIC Center for Global Health along with Dr. Damiano Rondelli, Professor of Hematology/Oncology in the Department of Medicine and Director of the UIC Bone Marrow Transplant Program will work with colleagues at M S Ramaiah Memorial Hospital in Bangalore, India to assist in the development of a Bone Marrow Transplant Program. We will collaborate on the development of educational programs and policies to train staff and set the groundwork to conduct future research development. This is a renewable 2 year contract to collaborate with our colleagues in India.

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**CGH Internal Advisory Committee—Nora Bonnin**

Ms. Nora Bonnin serves as the Senior Associate Director of UIC’s Office of International Affairs, and has been an important CGH partner since our Center’s inception. Ms. Bonnin provides oversight for the strategic partnerships and exchanges at UIC. As a member of our Global Health Network, she has been essential as we foster international exchanges and develop policies and procedures for student and faculty travel for global health activities. She is an accomplished expert offering support and innovative options in strategic planning, quality control for proposed global health activities, and provides a dynamic perspective to Global Health initiatives at UIC.

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Save the date!

Our World Health Day event will be held on **Wednesday, April 22nd** this year. Please mark your calendars for this very special presentation. More details to follow.
**Director’s Corner of the World**

As we head into the New Year, we often hear a wish for “peace on earth.” This quest can seem distant as we reflect on recent tragedies such as the Peshawar school massacre in Pakistan claiming the lives of 130 innocent school children and the 43 students who “went missing” in Guerrero Mexico. We are reminded of similar incidents in our own country: the 2012 Sandy Hook elementary school shootings in Newtown, Connecticut and the 1999 Columbine High School killings in Colorado.

Let’s hope 2015 will bring a new era of worldwide safe access and rights to an education for our most precious commodity.

Organizations such as Kids4Peace mentor children in community building, leadership development and nonviolent action. Kids Peace International helps in reassuring children after natural disasters and school shootings.

“**Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.**

~Dr. Seuss~

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**GMED Spotlight**

Quotes from our latest GMED class:

"The GMED team at UIC is something very special. Our program involves an amazing group of humble and dedicated scholars passionate about working for global health." – **Brandon Collofello (M1)**

"GMED is a great community that allows me to take my passion for global health and apply it to a career in medicine." – **Michael Dienstbach (M1)**

“The value of working closely with driven, motivated fellow medical students as well as committed faculty is becoming increasingly clearer. I feel that we share a bond through our global orientated mutual interests. The wonderful support of my GMED peers and faculty make them already feel like family, and truly confirms that I made the right decision in UIC for the next exciting chapter of my life.” – **Taka Yamaguchi (M1)**

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**Where in the World—Pharmacy**

Dr. Chun-Tao (CT) Che has been travelling quite a bit this past fall, here are some highlights:

**October 13-15**
Attend the symposium on Chinese Medicines and Botanicals: Understanding their Biological Actions, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong (as discussion panelist)

**October 16-18**
Attend the Annual Conference of the Chinese Society of Medicinal Plant Resources, Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Nanjing, China (received a Scientific Achievement Award from the China Society of Natural Resources and served as section chair)

**October 19-24**
Attend the IUPAC 28th International Symposium on the Chemistry of Natural Products, Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, Shanghai, China (as an invited speaker and section chair)

**November 17-19**
Attend the WHO Consultation on Quality Control of Herbal Medicines, Hong Kong (as in invited participant and elected repertoire)

**November 21-23**
Attend the 10th National Conference of Organic Chemistry of Natural Products, Jinan University, Guangzhou, China (as an invited guest and plenary lectures chair)