



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

CGH Newsletter—Winter 2013

Drs. Vidyasagar and Beligere visit Chennai India

Drs. Vidyasagar Dharmapuri and Nagamani Beligere were invited to Sri Ramachandra Medical Centre (SRMC) in Chennai India as visiting Professors and consultants to develop a center of excellence in Neonatology and Perinatology. SRMC was established in the year 1985 and later gained the status of "Deemed University." The SRMC is a tertiary care multi-specialty University teaching hospital. It is accredited by The Joint Commission International (JCI) and was the first medical institution to be accredited in India. SRMC had a long collaboration with Harvard Medical College. Today SRMC, under the leadership of Chancellor V.R. Venkatachalam, is the foremost institution in healthcare in India and South Asia.

Dr. Vidyasagar's main objective of the visit was to assess the neonatal and perinatal services at SRMC, and to provide consultations to enhance and expand the Neonatal and Perinatal activities in the city, stimulate research activities, and develop a Regional Center of excellence in Perinatal Medicine. After several discussions with individual departments and the faculty, he organized a multidisciplinary approach resulting in the creation of The Sri Ramachandra Center of Excellence in Perinatal Medicine (SCOPE).

The SCOPE was inaugurated on Nov. 6th 2012. Over one hundred families whose babies were cared for in the NICU were invited to the event, along with their babies, siblings and family members. Children and families were met by the nurses and doctors who had cared for their babies, and by the Vice Chancellor of SRMC Sri VV Venkatachalam.

During his two month stay at SRMC, Dr. Vidyasagar had several interactions with the faculty of the departments of Neonatology, Pediatrics and Obstetrics (Fetal and Perinatal Medicine). He helped organize educational and research programs, organized formal weekly perinatal meetings, and developed an outreach educational program for community hospitals and doctors. He discussed on-going activities with the faculty and post graduates. After reviewing data from several research projects, he helped them to prepare abstracts that were submitted to the forthcoming Pediatrics Academic Societies 2013 annual meeting in Washington DC. Five selected researchers were encouraged to submit their abstracts; this was a first experience for the SRMC neonatal and pediatric faculty.



Dr. Nagamani Beligere a former specialist in Developmental Pediatrics at UIC consulted in the clinic at SRMC. Dr. Beligere worked in the Kartikeya developmental clinic headed by Dr. Binu Ninan of the perinatal center. She helped the staff to improve on the skills of developmental follow-up of infants, diagnostic evaluation, and early intervention services. Workshops were held to teach the Bailey III assessment tool both to the psychologists and pediatricians. She also conducted a workshop on screening tools for the pediatrics department. She gave several lectures on developmental pediatrics and how to improve on clinical research.



UIC Signs MOU's in Ghana

In the fall of 2012, two Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) were effectuated between UIC and The Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology School of Medical Science and The Komfo Anyo Teaching Hospital (KATH), both in Kumasi, Ghana for the following purposes: (1) Exchange of faculty members, students, and academic materials; (2) Joint research activities; and (3) Joint educational programs. The collaboration with KNUST is particularly with its School of Medical Sciences. Initial collaborations will be developed between the departments of pathology of these institutions in Kumasi and the Department of Pathology at UIC, and there are plans for future development of collaborations in dentistry and nursing with KATH.



Anyone who is interested in exploring collaborations in these three areas is encouraged to contact Dr. Maarten C. Bosland (boslandm@uic.edu; 5-3724) in the Department of Pathology.

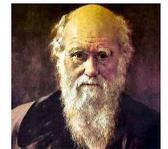
Ambassador of Ecuador to US visits CGH

In December, Nathalie Cely Suarez, the Ecuadorian Ambassador to the United States, visited the Center for Global Health with her team to encourage an affiliation with UIC for educational exchanges. She emphasized the need for health care collaboration at both the student and faculty levels.

There has been a recent loss of qualified health care professionals who fled Ecuador during a period of political unrest that the government is now trying to restore. There is also a great need for US-trained physicians (particularly in the surgical specialties) for medical relief in under-served regions of the country. Currently, over 60,000 Ecuadorian immigrants reside in the Chicago metropolitan area, and plans are being made to engage more local community outreach programs for health and education access.



Ecuador's capital city is Quito, which was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO for having the best preserved and least altered historic center in Latin America. The country's largest city is Guayaquil. According to the latest census, Ecuador's population is now over 15 million. Ecuador's population is ethnically diverse. The largest ethnic group is the Mestizos, the descendants of Spanish colonists and indigenous peoples, who constitute about 70% of the population. Amerindians account for 7% of the current population. Afro-Ecuadorians, including Mulattos and Zambos, are also a minority, largely based in Esmeraldas and Imbabura provinces, and make up around 7% of the population. The Galapagos Islands and its surrounding waters form Ecuador's most famous province, which is also a national park, and biological marine reserve. These islands are also the setting for Charles Darwin's classic evolutionary work, *On the Origin of Species*.



International Patient Services



Juan I. Litvan, MD, has recently joined the UIC staff in Emergency Medicine and Internal Medicine as a Clinical Assistant Professor and Director of Latin American Health Services. Dr. Litvan will provide leadership in the strategic development and implementation of the University of Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences System's international patient services program, with emphasis on Latin America. He will participate in the Center for Global Health initiatives focused on improving health outcomes and training health providers in Latin America. Juan's first clinical efforts will take place in his home country of Uruguay.

NIH mHealth Institute and mHealth Summit



In December, Drs. Marcia Edison and Janet Lin attended a 2-day NIH mHealth Training Institute held in conjunction with the mHealth Summit. The 50 participants at the Institute were from across academia, industry, and government; we discussed the mHealth research process and were introduced to the multidisciplinary aspects of mobile and wireless technology research. The objective of the program was to enable participants to have a better understanding of how to work with subject matter experts across varied technical fields to develop an mHealth application. The Institute used short lectures and small group work to create innovative mHealth solutions to the problem posed [in this case, the focus was establishing a method to help police officers lose weight]. A modular approach to project development was presented, and the small groups addressed the problem in six pieces: Defining the Problem; Engineering Devices; User-Centered Design; Privacy and Security; Research Methodology; Analytics. Drs. Edison and Lin hope to adapt the workshop format for use with student or resident groups interested in developing programs or grant applications.

This was the fourth annual mHealth summit held in Washington D. C. It is the largest forum that brings together academia, industry, the private sector, government and not for profit organizations to discuss and further the development of mobile and wireless technology to advance health care.

UIC Global Medicine (GMED) Program

The Global Medicine (GMED) program has been very active. The students were involved in several “speed networking” capstone events to introduce them to 12 UIC faculty who are active in research and scholarly work in global health. The diverse faculty included representation from the Departments of Psychiatry, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics, Family Medicine, Infectious Disease, Toxicology, Medical Education and Emergency Medicine. The purpose of these sessions was to help guide the students in finding a focus area for their capstone project as well as to find mentors. It was deemed highly successful by the students. We hosted our first annual white elephant gift exchange to help celebrate the end of the first semester of medical school. At this event we unveiled a new space for the GMED students. It provides a study area and safe haven for our students to dream about global adventures in the future. We also had our first global health book club hosted by Dr. Janet Lin discussing the book “*The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*” by Anne Fadiman. We had a lively and interactive discussion on cultural sensitivities. Dr. Stacie Geller also hosted a co-curricular session on careers in global health featuring her long-standing research in women’s health and discussed life lessons learned along the way. It was a great way to inspire and inform our students as they start their own journeys.



GMED Students enjoying the Winter Ball

CUGH Research Presentations



The Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH), which the Center of Global Health is an active member, will be hosting the 4th Annual CUGH Conference entitled Global Health: Innovation/Implementation/Impact on March 14-16, 2013 in Washington D.C. If you are interested in learning more or would like to register please visit their website at cugh.org and follow the links to the registration page.

We are thrilled that several faculty and one UIC medical student working with the CGH will be presenting at the upcoming Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) Meeting in Washington, D.C. March 14-16. Dr. Janet Lin and Dr. Marcia Edison will present an abstract titled: Disaster Drills for Medical Students-Facing Issues with Global Implications. Dr. Dobiesz and Dr. Edison will present an abstract titled: The Development and Implementation of a Global Medicine Program for Medical Students. Dr. Andrew Dykens will present an abstract titled: “Piloting a LMIC community, Peace Corps, university partnership model: A case study of cervical cancer preventive services implementation in Kedougou, Senegal through a Global Community Health Collaborative”. Ruben Cardoso, an M3 is presenting an abstract titled: Inhalant Abuse Across the Americas written in collaboration with Dr. Elizabeth Portnoy, an Emergency Medicine Resident.



Save the Date! Wednesday, April 10, 2013 Please join us in celebrating World Health Day at the Moss Auditorium with Nobel Laureate Jody Williams. More details to follow.

CGH Internal Advisory Committee

The function of the Internal Advisory Committee is to discuss the issues that support and enhance the function of the Center in carrying out its mission, and to make appropriate recommendations to the Center Director. Members include senior faculty from each of the Health Science Colleges, and representation from the Vice Chancellors Office. A summary of the most recent meeting:

- Dr. Erickson gave an overview of the Center’s activities during the last 12 months, including the excellent speakers at monthly Network meetings.
- The Committee reviewed the GMED program activities (see more details later in this newsletter)
- The Center’s 10 Memoranda of Understanding with international institutions were reviewed.
- Applications for external funding for research projects submitted in the past year were described.
- Regarding humanitarian activities at the Center. Tim Erickson identified the WHO Collaborating Centers on campus and plans for the CGS to prepare to apply for WHO Collaborating Status Center in the near future were discussed

At the end of the meeting each committee member gave their enthusiastic support to ongoing activities at the Center.

Dr. Miguel Abboud Presentation

Dr. Miguel R. Abboud gave a talk discussing Pediatric hematology-oncology results in resource poor Lebanon comparable to US Pediatric Centers. Dr. Abboud grew up in Brazil, trained at American University in Beirut, then Memorial Sloan-Kettering Hospital in NYC. He was chief of pediatric hematology-oncology at Medical University of South Carolina for many years and during that period he authored several papers on bone marrow transplantation in sickle cell disease and stroke in sickle cell disease. In resource-poor Lebanon, he has demonstrated results comparable to US pediatric centers, including intensive leukemia treatment, solid tumor surgery that spares limbs from amputation, and high-quality palliative care at the end of life.



Global Health Faculty Briefs



Janet Lin will have her manuscript titled "Breadth of emergency medical training in Pakistan" published in April.

Marcia Edison attended the "Rendez-Vous 2012: Together and Engaged" meeting in Thunder Bay, Canada. The focus of the meeting was on international health education and research

Andrew Dykens traveled to Senegal, West Africa with two residents and one student to advance cervical cancer preventive services implementation in the southeastern region of Kedougou.

Tim Erickson presented grand rounds down at UI Urbana for the Internal Medicine department. His presentation covered case scenarios in Global, Wilderness and Expedition medicine. The event was hosted by Dr. Holly Rosencaranz who is the new Program Director in Urbana and a member of our internal advisory board.

Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Montefiore Medical Center sponsored "The Essentials of Running a Global Health Center: Sharing Best Practices and Building Partnerships for the Future" in November at their campus in the Bronx, New York. Dr. Tim Erickson participated in a panel to discuss the Educational Mission of the GHC for students and residents, where he shared some of the practices of the our GMED program with the group. Universities represented included Emory University, University of Minnesota and Medical College of Wisconsin as well as Mount Sinai Hospital.

Director's Corner of the World

Our Center for Global Health continues to grow and expand as we engage faculty from Mental Health, Women and Children's Health, and Primary Care. Each issue will highlight the important global work of key faculty members from across the University campus. Last issue we focused on the humanitarian work of Dr. Janet Lin in Uganda, and in this issue, the valuable contributions of Dr. Vidyasagar in India. Our Center is creating synergy between dedicated individual faculty members - working together for a healthier world.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"

~Nelson Mandela

CGH Network Meeting Presenters

November 2012

Donald Zeigler, Division of Health Policy & Administration, SPH - "Current Global Challenges Addressing Tobacco & Alcohol Control"

December 2012

Damiano Rondelli, Director, Stem Cell Transplantation Program—"Stem Cell Transplantation at UIH and Beyond"

January 2013

Mark M. Rasenick, Director, Biomedical Neuroscience Training Program—"Biomedical Research in Cuba: Much Ado with (Almost) Nothing"

"Where in the World...?"



Nuriya Robinson will be presenting a poster entitled "Barriers to IUD uptake in a rural West African Setting" at the First Global Conference on Contraception, Reproductive and Sexual Health. The conference is being sponsored by The European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health and will take place in Copenhagen in May 2013.

In October, Alan Lau attended and presented at the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Congress in Amsterdam. In November he travelled to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia for meetings at National Guard Health affairs as well as Taichung, Taiwan to discuss collaboration and summer program for Pharmacy students at China Medical University.

Vinoos Dissanayake traveled to Ahmadabad, in the state of Gujarat, India to observe the fairly young Department of Emergency Medicine and to provide lectures on trauma, resuscitation and toxicology. She discussed the potential for UIC residents to visit the Civil Hospital of Ahmadabad during their elective rotation to learn the practice of emergency medicine in a resource-limited area.

CT Che was in Hong Kong in December to attend the International Advisory Board Meeting of the Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards.

Chris Stout spent time Saint-Martin while working on two papers.