



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

# CGH Newsletter—Spring 2015

## World Health Day Symposium



World Health Day 2015 sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO), is dedicated to Food Safety. Unsafe or contaminated food is linked to the deaths of an estimated 2 million people annually. As our food supply becomes increasingly globalized new threats are constantly emerging. Food containing harmful bacteria, viruses, parasites or chemicals is responsible for more than 200 diseases, ranging from gastrointestinal ailments to cancers.

This spring, we recognize the theme of global food safety with our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual World Health Day Symposium on Wednesday, April 22nd at the University of Illinois College of Medicine.

We are privileged to have University of Illinois President Robert A. Easter, PhD presenting on *“Global Food Safety: The Roles of Agricultural, Health and Biological Sciences in the 21st Century”*

Before becoming President, Dr. Easter spent his entire 40-year career as a senior administrator and faculty member on the university’s Urbana-Champaign campus, where he earned his doctorate in animal science. He served as Dean of the nationally ranked College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. Prior to that, he served as head of the Department of Animal Sciences, where he has been a faculty member since 1976.

An expert in livestock feeding, President Easter has co-authored a book on livestock production and has written more than 90 peer-reviewed articles, 10 book chapters, and numerous papers for conferences and industry publications. He also has presented to audiences in the U.S. and 30 foreign countries on livestock feeding.

In 2006, Dr. Easter was appointed by President George W. Bush to the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD), and was appointed as chair of BIFAD in 2007. He also is a member of the American Society of Animal Science and the British Society of Animal Science, and he serves on the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Foundation and the Governor’s Committee on China.

This year’s World Health Day symposium introduction will be delivered by our new UIC Chancellor Michael D. Amiridis, Ph.D. Closing remarks will be made by Alex E. Winter-Nelson, PhD, Director of the ACES Office of International Programs.



# Consortium for Global Health Annual Meeting

The Center for Global Health was well represented at the Consortium of Universities for Global Health annual meeting this year in Boston on March 25-28.

Rita Begeman, Valerie Dobiesz, Andrew Dykens, Marcia Edison, and Tim Erickson all were in attendance. There were a number of exciting activities that these participants joined. These included a pre-meeting workshop titled: "Global/Local: What does it mean for Global Health Educators and how we do it?," a meeting of the Midwest Universities for Global Health, plenary sessions that featured such Global Health stars as Atul Gawande and Paul Farmer, as well as small group sessions that focused on disaster preparedness, funding for global health education, and issues pertaining to "OneHealth." Jane Lin, working during this time in Haiti, was represented by her poster: "Women's considerations in disaster Risk Reduction Trainings," which was presented by her co-author Jasmine James from the UIC School of Public Health.



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## 2nd Annual Global Health and Well Being Seed Grant Competition

The Center for Global Health and the UIC Global Excellence Task Force are pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for second annual competition of the Global Health and Wellbeing Seed Grant Program. This program is designed to foster new trans-disciplinary and mixed and multiple methods research in global health and well-being at UIC. In particular, these grants are intended to encourage new pilot research with a substantial likelihood of gaining external funding or that can be completed with a limited budget.

Each grant is for up to \$20,000, with the campus providing \$15,000 for each award, and departments, colleges or centers supplying the \$5,000. An annual budget of \$100,000 has been set aside to fund the grants for two years, after which the program and funding availability will be evaluated.

Dr. Stevan Weine, professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Director of Global Health Research Training in the Center for Global Health in the UIC College of Medicine and Teresa Cordova, professor and director of UIC's Great Cities Institute in the UIC College of Urban Planning & Public Affairs are co-Directors of the grant program.

Three awards were given in 2014 to: 1) Crystal Patil, associate professor of medical anthropology in the UIC College of Nursing, together with Dr. Stacie Geller, professor of obstetrics and gynecology in the UIC College of Medicine; 2) Serap Erdal, associate professor of environmental and occupational health sciences in the UIC School of Public Health together with Janet Smith, associate professor of urban planning and policy in the UIC College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, and; 3) Dr. Andrew Dykens, assistant professor in the department of family medicine in the UIC College of Medicine, together with Karen Peters, assistant professor of community health sciences in the UIC School of Public Health and Crystal Patil.

Letters of Intent are due May 1 and applications are due June 1. Full information and forms are on our website [globalhealth.uic.edu](http://globalhealth.uic.edu)

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**Save the Date!!!!**

**Our 3rd Annual Benefit "Working for the World" will be held on September 17, 2015 at the National Hellenic Museum. More details to follow**

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## CGH Faculty Present Undergrad Public Health Students

The CGH faculty was invited by Dr. Karen Peters to participate in the undergraduate public health course "Public Health and Global Citizenship". Dr. Peters is the course instructor and a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Division of Community Health Sciences in the UIC School of Public Health. Dr. Valerie Dobiesz discussed her work on postpartum hemorrhage in low resource settings and future global health solutions.

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# CGH Network Meeting Presenters



## February 2015

World Cancer Day: Dr. Damiano Rondelli—"Global Challenges to Face Cancer" and Dr. Robert Winn (pictured)—"The Evolving Face of Urban Healthcare and Wellness"

## March 2015

Dr. Linda Forst—"The Global Burden of the Mining Industry: The Real Price of Gold"



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## Family Medicine Department—Senegal Site Visit



The Family Medicine Department is proud to report a highly successful Senegal site visit in January of 2015. Andrew Dykens from the UIC Center for Global Health and Family Medicine, Crystal Patil (Anthropologist through the College of Nursing), Sarah Johnson (DFM Resident Physician), and Rithvik Balakrishnan (Medical Student and Senegal RPCV) traveled to initiate the next phase of this impactful project.

In 2015, the partnership is initiating a five-year research project to continue to strengthen the community health service. The project uses health service implementation and delivery science through a participatory approach. This will bring together the practicality of capacity-building, the necessity of community participation, and the need of building knowledge that will be applicable to further community health systems strengthening in Senegal and beyond. The intervention will use community participation in health services quality improvement and policy adaptation to implement policy that promotes access to cervical cancer prevention services in Senegal.

In this research, the team will assess the horizontal and vertical scaling of health policy, and evaluate the partnership between the local communities and health system in Kedougou, Senegal; Sédhiou, Senegal; Peace Corps Senegal; the Institute of Health and Development in Dakar, Senegal; and the University of Illinois at Chicago. Both quantitative and qualitative data will be gathered to assess 1) how community involvement will improve cervical cancer prevention service delivery approaches to help local populations utilize this new clinical service, 2) how health service implementation can be scaled horizontally into the Sedhiou region, 3) how health service quality improvement occurs at local levels and 4) how this global health partnership functions.

The project will assess the impact of the horizontally-scaled community-developed health services policy promoting access to cervical cancer on service community access and health outcomes as well as the service process. Ultimately, the team will recommend a Senegal national-level cervical cancer prevention services policy approach for implementation in decentralized regions where this policy does not currently exist by conducting an analysis of the existing Kedougou policy and its horizontal scale to the region of Sédhiou, Senegal.

Please read our Partnership report through the following link: <http://goo.gl/w5AT3w>

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## CGH Internal Advisory Committee—Tonda Hughes

**Tonda Hughes, RN, PhD, FAAN** is Professor and Associate Dean for Global Health in the College of Nursing and Adjunct Professor in the School of Public Health at UIC. She is also Co-Director of the UIC Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH) program.

Dr. Hughes has a distinguished career in substance abuse research focusing on women (total funding exceeding \$20 million USD) and is an internationally recognized expert in the area of alcohol use among sexual minority (i.e., lesbian and bisexual) women. Her pioneering studies on the predictors and consequences of alcohol use among sexual minority women have received funding since 1999 from the U.S. National Institutes of Health and have grown into the world's longest running longitudinal study of alcohol use and health among sexual minority women. She has served as Co-Investigator on numerous other funded studies with researchers from major U.S. and Australian institutions, including the University of Melbourne where she was a Visiting Professor from 2009-2014.



Dr. Hughes is also involved in several international capacity building projects including (1) Building an effective partnership for innovative nursing education and research to advance public health in India funded by the US-India Educational Foundation, Obama-Singh 21<sup>st</sup> Century Knowledge Initiative (PI); (2) Rwanda Human Resources for Health (UIC Project PI); and (3) Building research capacity in low- and middle-income countries concerning the major global health problem of migration-related non-communicable diseases. (National Institutes of Health and Fogarty International Center, D43:Faculty and Member of UIC Leadership Team).

# Director's Corner of the World



Each year, Earth Day is celebrated on April 22, marking the anniversary of what many consider the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. Earth Day capitalized on the emerging consciousness, channeling the energy of the anti-war protest movement, and putting environmental concerns on the public and political stage. Environmental issues of air pollution and clean water were central themes when Earth Day was first recognized. Currently issues of recycling, proper waste disposal, wildlife protection, and climate change have received international attention. We only have one Mother Earth to protect. Nations need to ease their borders and work

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*We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.*

**Native American Proverb**

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## GMED Spotlight—Peter Wickwire



I am a third year medical student in the GMED program. Over the past several years, I have had the pleasure of brainstorming and working with Dr. Tim Erickson to develop a “global capstone project” designed to better understand the current status of emergency medical care in Mongolia. Three years ago, we discovered that emergency medicine does not exist as a specialty in Mongolia. Since that time, we have been establishing an academic collaboration with the Health Sciences University of Mongolia (HSUM) in order to better understand how we can partner with them to develop emergency medicine in their region.

We will visit Ulaanbataar, the capital of Mongolia, for two weeks next year. At that time, we will achieve the following three objectives of our project proposal:

**General/Policy** - To observe the pre-hospital and hospital emergency medical services as they currently function, and to work with local healthcare providers and leaders to develop a formal needs assessment focussed on emergency medical access, communication, resources, and training. The purpose of this objective is to define current needs, in order to help direct future efforts to strengthen and develop emergency medicine in Ulaanbataar.

**Research** – To perform a chart review at several of the hospitals in Ulaanbataar in order to quantify and describe the types of medical emergencies occurring there, as well as treatments and outcomes. This will contribute to the formation of an emergency medicine literature database in Mongolia.

**Education** – To initiate an ongoing academic exchange between the University of IL Health System (UIH) and the medical training institutions in Ulaanbataar that is focused on emergency medical care. During the first site visit to Ulaanbataar, this will involve a 2-day, ACLS/Emergency medicine course delivered jointly by UIH and HSUM faculty to medical students and residents.

From the beginning, hazy, brainstorming stages to the formalized UIC institutional review board proposals to the long-anticipated site visit – yet to take place – this project has been for me that wonderful blend of intellectual curiosity, partnership, and humanitarian concern that I had always anticipated from a medical career. Thanks to all the GMED family and supporters who have made this exceptional experience possible.

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## Where in the World...



Dr. CT Che was in Hong Kong Feb 3-5 in to attend the Scientific Committee Meeting of the Hong Kong Chinese *Materia Medica* Standards.

Dr. Maarten Bosland went to Nigeria in February where he gave major talks at the University of Lagos, the University of Uyo, and the University of Calabar, Subsequently, he went to Ghana to teach general pathology for three weeks to medical students at the University for Development Studies in Tamale, Ghana,

Dr. Daniel Hryhorczuk has joined the Editorial Board of the Journal of the National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine.

Dr. Lewis Hsu attended the 2nd Global Congress on Sickle Cell Disease in Brazil. He presented his work with adolescent/young adult transition. He and his team also networked with sickle cell patient groups and providers from across South America, Caribbean, Africa, and Europe.

Dr. Mona Khanna is serving as the National Coordinator for Occupational Health & Safety for the World Health Organization's Ebola response efforts. She is stationed in Monrovia, Liberia.

JJ Parker has been conducting a survey in Cedro Galán and Chiquilistagua, Nicaragua on barriers to contraceptive use among adolescents.

Dr. Graziano Pinna has received a grant (in collaboration with Brazil) to introduce new technologies in the University of Sao Paulo that we developed in his lab at UIC.

Dr. Dharmapuri Vidyasagar conducted CME on “Identification of High Risk Mothers and Babies” at Rural District Hospital of Chikbalpur.

Dr. Nagamani Beligere spent 2 weeks at Arvind Eye Hospital, Madarai TN, India conducting developmental assessment of babies afflicted with ROP.

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