

GLOBAL HEALTH LINK

CENTER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH

Calvin Wilson, MD, Director
calvin.wilson@uchsc.edu

Inis Bardella, MD, Associate Director
inis.bardella@uchsc.edu

Blair Gifford, PhD, Associate Director
blair.gifford@cudenver.edu

Andrew Kestler, MD,
Associate Director
andrew.kestler@uchsc.edu

N Michelle Shiver, BSE,
Program Manager
michelle.shiver@uchsc.edu
303-724-9771

Send your questions about the
Center for Global Health to
cgh@cudenver.edu

WEB SITE

The Center for Global Health website
is currently under construction

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Global Health Lecture Series
(all lectures begin at 12 noon)

March 26, 2008
Project C.U.R.E.
Dr. Jim Jackson, Founder
<http://www.projectcure.org/>
Ed2N—P28-2104

April 4, 2008
Health Development and Global Health
Issues
Dr. Peter Bourne
Former Assistant Secretary General of
the United Nations
Ed1-P26-1300

April 18, 2008
Himalayan Cataract Project
Geoff Tabin, MD, Founder
<http://www.cureblindness.org/>
Ed2N-P28-2104

May 1, 2008
Tibetan Medicine
Dr. Jampa Yonten
Ed2S-L28-1102

Other Lectures of Interest

March 3, 2008; 12-1 p.m.
Dr. Cesar Moreira, TB Controller for
the province of Valle del Cauca, Co-
lombia and Co-Director of the "Valle-
Colorado Tuberculosis Group"
Ed2N-P28-2302

March 4, 2008; 12-1:30 p.m.
Trauma, AIDS and Witch Doctors:
Challenges of Psychology in Uganda
Univ North Pavilion, 4455 E 12th Ave,
Room 150
RSVP to



Message from our Director

I am very happy to present the new and improved Newsletter for the University of Colorado Center for Global Health, which comes after a long hiatus of internal organization and expansion. In the approximately 18 months since the last newsletter, the Center for Global Health has developed a clear mission and strategic plan, initiated the process of raising funds for its sustainability and growth, expanded its leadership structure to include three associate directors, initiated incredibly successful new activities such as the Global Health Track of the School of Medicine and a medical capacity-building project in the recovering country of Rwanda, mentored dozens of students and residents through international experiences and projects, and developed new global health course offerings within the combined University campuses. Our CGH website is now within the first 10 choices on a Google search for "Center for Global Health" (try it!), and we plan to significantly upgrade this website in the next few months.

All of this activity has resulted in a significant increase in the visibility of the Center, and an explosion of opportunities for global health development and participation in a wide variety of international health initiatives. Although our mission to "improve health and healthcare in communities around the world, through interdisciplinary collaboration with partners in research, education and health services" is broad, our resources are still very limited and we must focus on the most strategic use of those resources. It is an exciting and challenging time to be a health care provider in this global era, and we need your help and participation to improve the health of needy communities around the world. We plan to communicate this vision in a variety of ways, and trust that the resources to meet these needs will rise to match the vision.

Cal Wilson MD

CGH Advisory Board Member Honored in Nepal

Dr. Jim Hecht, one of the founding members of the Advisory Board of the Center for Global Health, was honored on November 7, 2007 by the Prime Minister of Nepal for his efforts in raising funds for Patan Hospital in Kathmandu, Nepal. Through his efforts as Chair of the Friends of Patan Hospital here in Denver, Dr. Hecht was able to raise the funds for a new Maternity Wing of the Hospital, which will be of great help in providing appropriate maternity care to many who are at great risk for complications.

Dr. Hecht was presented with a citation and bronze statuette by the Prime Minister of Nepal, as part of a celebration for the 25th anniversary of operation at Patan Hospital. This honor was witnessed by over 800 attendees at the celebration. Dr. Hecht made special mention of the contributions of his wife, Dr. Amy Hecht, to this effort. She is a former Dean of a Nursing School, and very active in helping to develop the skills of the nursing staff at Patan Hospital.

One of the goals for further development of the Maternity Wing is to establish a state-of-the-art Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, which will be the first in Nepal, and is greatly needed to improve the outcomes of the many distressed and premature infants born. Further efforts are now being directed to this effort.

The full account of this award can be seen at the website of Friends of Patan Hospital at <http://www.foph.org/rnews.html>.



Dr. Jim Hecht (third from left) receiving the citation and bronze statuette by the Prime Minister of Nepal. Dr. Amy Hecht with her husband (second from left).

What are we doing?



The Land of a Thousand Hills, and 240 Physicians

The word Rwanda, for most Americans, conjures up the 1994 genocide and the docudrama *Hotel Rwanda*. Missing from their perceptions are the warm engaging spirit of the people, the beauty of green rolling mountains, the taste of tree ripened papaya *and* the impact of the genocide on health care 13 years later. While Rwanda is politically stable and economically growing, there are only about 240 clinically practicing physicians for the over 8.6 million people living in Rwanda. The Center for Global Health is in the midst of a three year United States Agency for International Development (USAID) contract working with the National University of Rwanda (NUR) to change this situation through: 1) the sustainable development of current post-graduate (residency) education programs in anesthesia, internal medicine, obstetrics-gynecology, pediatrics and surgery; and 2) development and implementation of a sustainable post-graduate (residency) program in family medicine.

The key activities of the **USAID Rwanda Medical Training Initiative** (RMTI) center on providing critical curricular components, faculty development and support for the development and implementation of family medicine as a specialty. In 2007, 10 faculty from the US, including Drs. Andrew Kestler (Associate Director), Ted Ning (Advisory Board) and Larry Norton (Advisory Board), have provided bedside and classroom teaching of required post-graduate curriculum in molecular biology, immunology, pediatric endocrinology, otolaryngology, emergency medicine, infectious disease, urology, general surgery and adult endocrinology. Drs. Wilson (Director) and Bardella (Associate Director), of the Center, are working with the NUR Dean Nsanze, family medicine faculty Dr. Barongo and the Ministry of Health to develop the policy and process for the implementation of a family medicine post-graduate program in 2008. Faculty and program needs assessment conducted during July 2007 is guiding program development through 2009.

The year ahead is exciting. Quarterly visiting faculty teams lead by Drs. Wilson, Bardella and Kestler continue. The Family and Community Medicine (FAMCO) post-graduate program accepts its first class of doctors for this new specialty in Rwanda. Faculty development programs to support current Rwandan faculty and develop a pipeline of new faculty begin. Please join us in supporting the development of Rwanda health care while learning about the people of Rwanda and eating ripe finger bananas and frog legs. Ms. Michelle Shiver, CGH Program Manager, can get you connected.

Inis Jane Bardella, MD, FFAFP



View of Village in Rwanda

Robinson Durst Scholarship

On the evening of November 13, 2007 student recipients of the Robinson Durst Scholarship delivered their project presentations at the Durst Studio. An eager, varied audience of over 50 people attended, including the students' faculty mentors.

Brad Nelson (2nd year Medical Student) discussed his research in Zimbabwe into the prognosis of patients with AIDS and Kaposi's Sarcoma. Doug Melzer (2nd year Medical Student) presented the findings of his survey on the use and acceptance of improved cook stoves in the Peruvian Andes. Heidi and Tyler Green (both 4th year Medical Students) presented the results of their community interviews exploring the attitudes toward short-term medical volunteer groups in the Guatemalan Highlands.

The Center for Global Health coordinates the scholarship that was founded by Professor Emeritus William Robinson, MD, PhD and Denver sculptor/ceramicist Peter Durst. Since 1997, the scholarship has provided 30 health sciences graduate students from the University of Colorado an opportunity to enjoy a culturally diverse clinical or research experience. Philosophically, the scholarship committee and its founders strongly believe in the long-lasting, positive value of global health endeavors in broadening personal and academic perspectives.

Andrew Kestler, MD



Heidi and Tyler Green in the Guatemalan Highlands.

Congratulations! Congratulations!

Dr. Bernard Amadei was recently elected to the **National Academy of Engineering**. He is a Professor of Civil Engineering and the Director of the Engineering for Developing Communities Program at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Venezuela's Health Care Revolution CU Health/Travel Study Course (January 2008)

In early January, thirteen CU graduate students traveled to Venezuela on a three week study tour, as part of an annual Health Travel Study program that in previous years has included Thailand, China, and Vietnam. These students came primarily from the Public Health program of the HSC campus and the MBA Health program of the downtown campus. They visited three different cities in Venezuela, focusing on public hospitals and universities, together with private clinics and the new public "Barrio Adentro" (In our Neighborhood) clinics and diagnostic centers. They interviewed Ministry of Health officials, including the Vice-Minister for Public Health, PAHO's Country Representative, officials from UNICEF, and two local authors. They also conducted over 40 informal street interviews of Venezuelans of many walks of life to get a feeling for their attitudes and experiences with various health care systems, and especially to assess the perception of the new "Barrio Adentro" program. As a result, the students came away with a deeper appreciation of the promise and challenges facing each system.

The students found that since the earliest days of Venezuelan history, a large proportion of its population have had little or no access to modern medical care and effective preventive health services with the exception of immunizations. It is said that two-thirds or some 14 million Venezuelans live in such poverty that they have been systematically excluded from receiving most health services.

In 2003, following disastrous landslides and flood in the Capital, Caracas, 54 well-equipped Cuban physicians arrived to offer emergency primary health care services. These doctors were soon viewed as having the potential to address a major lack of physicians throughout the nation. Venezuela's new government under President Hugo Chavez, initiated a rapid expansion of existing services, bringing in some 30,000 Cuban physicians plus smaller numbers of nurses and administrators.

The new system, called "Barrio Adentro" (Inside the Neighborhood") has set up thousands of health clinics across Venezuela, supplemented by growing numbers of new ambulatory facilities and hospitals with high levels of diagnostic and surgical capacities. A total of 17 new Barrio Adentro hospitals are soon to be constructed, in contrast to one new hospital in the older system since the 1970's. Each facility is guided by neighborhood health committees comprising mainly poor neighborhood women who have considerable say in this emerging system.

As can be expected, various questions have arisen about service quality, cost-effectiveness and their impact on health status, including maternal and infant mortality. In addition, the sudden increase in expatriate health staff has resulted in considerable anger and concern among traditional Venezuelan health workers. While the Government has been seeking help from PAHO/WHO, there remains an urgent need and multiple opportunities for seeking answers to these questions through professional designed and implemented health research.

Prepared by: Barry Karlin, DrPH (U Michigan) and Cal Wilson, MD
111 Alaska Road
Boulder, CO 80302



UC Denver students and some of the Venezuelan medical students with whom they met and shared experiences. Dr. Barry Karlin is on the far left.