

GLOBAL HEALTH LINK

CENTER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH

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WEB SITE

Note: We have a NEW URL!
<http://globalhealth.ucdenver.edu/>
Check Us Out!

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Global Health Symposium
"Perspectives on Global Health"
October 2008

—more information on the Sym-
posium on Page 3 of this news-
letter—

Global Health Link
Editor—N Michelle Shiver



University of Colorado at Denver
and Health Sciences Center

Chancellor Wilson Welcomes CGH to the School of Public Health

Congratulations to the *Center for Global Health* as it becomes part of our exciting new **Colorado School of Public Health**. This partnership is central to the vision for our university in the coming years as we push toward greater support for our local, regional and national community as well as build stronger ties around the world.

Additionally, the center and school's commitment to treating the population as a whole brings an exciting new element to our work at the **University of Colorado Denver** as we expand what it means to practice health care and encourage wellness today. The work of the center is vital to this mission and I thank you for your dedication.

M. Roy Wilson, MD, MS
Chancellor

CGH Director's Message

I'm writing this note from **Kigali, Rwanda**, where the air is cool and crisp, the mountain gorillas are big, and the people are hopeful about their future. The *Center for Global Health* is managing a three year, \$660,000 project to assist the National University of Rwanda in developing their new residency programs in Surgery, Pediatrics, Ob/Gyn, and Medicine, and in developing a new Family and Community Medicine program to increase the supply of capable physicians in the rural areas. This is our sixth trip here with a team of University of Colorado and Centura Health specialists, and we are beginning to play a significant role in the rebuilding of this "Land of 1,000 Hills". Because of a significant shortage of specialty physicians since the 1994 genocide, the National University here relies on visiting professors such as ours to provide much of the didactic and even bedside teaching. For example, a review of the material completed so far in 2008 by the 2nd and 3rd year Medicine residents showed that the project had provided about 45% of the total teaching.

We have just participated in several meetings between the Ministry of Health and the National University regarding the development of the new Family and Community Medicine residency program, and it is truly exciting. These residents will be part of a four year training program centered in several rural district hospitals, where they will develop skills in not only evidence-based adult and maternal-child medicine, but also emergency surgery, community-based disease prevention and health promotion, and health system management. They will become the managers of the rural district hospitals and associated health centers that provide primary and secondary health care to almost 80% of the country's population. The encouraging note is that both the Ministry of Health and the U.S. Agency for International Development are working to actively support several full-time physician-teachers from the U.S. to help develop this initiative, and much of this will be initially channeled through the University of Colorado *Center for Global Health*.

These developments have greatly strengthened our relationship with the National University of Rwanda and the Ministry of Health, and opened the door to a much greater involvement in student and resident opportunities, research, and health system development. We are already looking at the possibility of extending our involvement into neighboring Tanzania. Many parts of Africa are asking for help, within their own terms of course, but the opportunities are clear and challenging. Let us know if you want to be a part of this!

Calvin Wilson MD



Gretchen Heinrichs, MD, Ob-Gyn
Faculty at the University of Colorado
and Denver Health (center), assists
a resident at the National University
of Rwanda Medical Center in Kigali,
Rwanda.

What is happening?

CGH Supports School of Medicine's Global Health Track

Student enthusiasm has been a frequent driver of *Center for Global Health* activities. In Colorado, and elsewhere, medical student participation in global health continues to rise: According to a recent survey, 20% of graduating medical students reported a global health experience during their training.

In 2004, Students for Global Health approached me to direct a new course, Introduction to Global Health. This first success spurred me and several volunteer colleagues to launch a two-week intensive course, Tropical Medicine & Global Health. By 2006, it was becoming clear that student and faculty interest had reached a critical mass. Following the lead of the Rural Track, we designed a four-year longitudinal curriculum for medical students, incorporating coursework and global health field experiences. The Global Health Track, or GHT, was born. From its inception, the GHT was carefully coordinated with the newly required Mentored Scholarly Activity Program, so that students could meet this requirement by completing a global health project.

At the two-year mark, the GHT enrolls 30 first-year medical students (26% of the class) and 13 second-year students. Coursework includes laboratory exercises, didactic presentations and self-directed study. Field experiences during the summer between first and second year and again during elective time in the fourth year enable students to complete a global health project. We feel strongly that students should return to the same location for both field experiences, in order to build on existing language skills, cultural knowledge, and personal connections. Students also have the option of working with local global health organizations instead of traveling abroad. Currently, global health projects are planned or underway in 15 countries, often involving multi-disciplinary student-mentor teams. Project topic areas include: bed nets for the prevention of malaria in Uganda, ethical codes of conduct used by non-governmental organizations in international development work; interventions to reduce maternal mortality in Peru, and community perceptions of short-term medical mission volunteers in Guatemala.

CGH has provided much needed support for the development of the GHT. CGH members constitute close to 50 percent of the approximately 100 mentors and instructors who work with GHT students. CGH members serve on the GHT steering committee, and CGH has lobbied the University to support the program and its students. The multi-disciplinary nature of CGH is reflected in the GHT: Faculty and curricular content span engineering, journalism, anthropology, nursing, dentistry, and public health.

Through advocacy, CGH has garnered pledges of University support for the GHT. In turn, CGH has redoubled its commitment to global health education at the University and beyond. CGH is now working with other schools and programs to develop their own "global health tracks."

Andrew Kestler, MD, MBA, DTMH
Associate Director, Center for Global Health

Rotary Scholarship

University of Colorado School of Medicine Medical Students—Megan Greising, Stephanie Homan, and Elizabeth Pleshe traveled to Mombasa, Kenya for a month to participate in a clinical rotation with local doctors and medical staff at St. Joseph Mission Hospital, Oruba Nursing and Maternity Home, Mombasa Port Reitz District Hospital, and rural travel clinics. They completed requirements in obstetrics and women's health, and had rotations in infectious disease and pediatric medicine. During their stay, they assisted local orphans and inner-city youth and traveled to rural areas to work in mobile clinics. This work was done through the Interactive Volunteer Development Network.

Megan's interest in international health grew out of medical relief trips that she took to the Dominican Republic and Ecuador as a college student. She is devoting her career to increasing health access to all and is particularly drawn to working in HIV ravaged areas in SubSaharan Africa.

This was Stephanie's first field experience in a developing nation. She hopes to work through the Rotary Club in Mombasa to establish an ongoing relationship of support with local Rotary clubs in Denver.

Elizabeth is committed to work with patients in underserved areas. She has been providing aid to local underserved populations for the last few years, and performed outreach work in rural India in 2000. She has longed to return to international service field and is very excited about her Mombasa opportunity.



Elizabeth Pleshe working in Mombasa, Kenya on behalf of her Rotary Scholarship.

Welcome Lindsay!

The *Center for Global Health* would like to welcome intern, Lindsay Cunliffe to our team! Lindsay will graduate from the University of Denver in June 2008 with a bachelors degree in International Studies. Lindsay will spend her next year working with our team. Please drop by the offices for the *Center for Global Health* in the A01 Building on the AMC!

Mark Your Calendars for the Upcoming Global Health Symposium!!

“Perspectives on Global Health” Friday, October 17, 2008 Auraria Campus, Downtown Denver

The **Center for Global Health** at CU will host a full day conference on Friday, October 17th. The conference is titled “Perspectives on Global Health” and it will be held at the downtown Denver-based Auraria campus of the University of Colorado Denver.

Instead of starting with a particular theoretical or professional vantage point, the *Center for Global Health* breaks with academic tradition by starting with major global health issues and then constructing interdisciplinary teams to analyze and work on these issues. Our Perspectives on Global Health conference will build on this interdisciplinary approach to global health issues, by bringing our local global health community together for a day to meet and learn from one another.

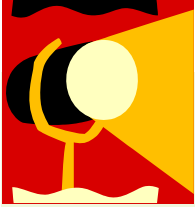
The conference will start with a keynote address by a celebrated Kauvar Lecturer. Last year’s Kauvar Lecturer was Dr. Paul Farmer of Partners in Health at Harvard University. We are very excited to announce that this year’s Kauvar Lecturer and our conference’s keynote speaker will be Dr. Richard Carmona, former U.S. Surgeon General and global health advocate. Following the keynote address, our conference will include numerous break out sessions to discuss a variety of current global health issues. The breakout sessions at the symposium will generally feature two speakers and have adequate time allotted for fruitful discussion. The 17 or so sessions will range across a full spectrum of topics from current strategies for malaria to social entrepreneurship and sustainable development to social justice and global health to engineering solutions to global health problems. The lunch break will include a special session on careers in global health, poster board displays of global health projects, and exhibits of local non-profit organizations and their involvement with global health activities. A closing plenary session will highlight the stories of our top Colorado-based global health NGOs and feature a new global health humanitarian award. Finally, this special global health day will end with a social hour for extended networking.

If your global health organization is interested in having a booth at the conference, please contact Rosemary Proff at Rosemary.Proff@UCHSC.edu or 425-256-0387. If your organization would like to be a sponsor of the conference please contact Melissa Tenpas at Melissa.Tenpas@UCHSC.edu or 719-649-8661. Note that sponsorship support will primarily be directed at a scholarship fund that we are setting up for CU graduate health students to work abroad on global health projects. For further information about the conference, contact Dr. Blair Gifford at Blair.Gifford@CUDenver.edu or 303-556-5866.

Blair Gifford, PHD
Associate Director
Center for Global Health



Spotlight on '08 SOM Graduate



Stephen Sanko, MD

Stephen not only graduated from medical school on Friday, May 23, 2008; he also left behind a legacy that future University of Colorado School of Medicine students will benefit from and so MUCH more.

Steve served in a leadership position with the Students for Global Health at the University of Colorado. While serving in this capacity he was instrumental in the founding of the Rotary Scholarship for medical students interested in global health work. Today, this scholarship program is flourishing and benefiting those who follow Steve!

MORE on Stephen.....

Steve is graduating with experience in biomedical research in both the United States and Latin America, and an interest in the field of academic emergency medicine. Prior to medical school, as a post-baccalaureate fellow at the University of Navarra (Spain), he worked on a laboratory project studying cellular regulatory factors promoting the growth of several types of malignant brain tumors.

As a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar in 2001- 2002, he worked in Santiago, Chile at a public health research center studying the effects of socioeconomic factors on the prevalence of respiratory tract infections in children under five years old.

After starting medical school at the University of Colorado-Denver in 2003, he became involved in several student groups, serving as Co-Director of a student-run homeless clinic and Fundraising Director for Students for Global Health, where he helped the group start a new International Health Scholarship in collaboration with several local Rotary clubs.

As a Robinson-Durst Scholar in 2005-2006, he returned to Chile for one year between his second and third years of medical school to work in an infectious disease laboratory studying person-to-person transmission in a new strain of hantavirus, an NIH "Category A" pathogen.

In 2007 and 2008, he was awarded the Louise Coulter Fellowship Award for Basic Research in Pulmonary Medicine.

He will be continuing his medical training with a preliminary year internship at Exempla St. Joseph Hospital in Denver, followed by residency in Emergency Medicine at USC-LA County Hospital.

His long-term plans include returning to Chile to teach and do research in Emergency Medicine, to promote the development of that field in Chile and neighboring countries, and to facilitate the exchange of young physicians between his alma mater and institutions in South America.



Stephen Sanko, MD at his University of Colorado School of Medicine Graduation Friday, May 23, 2008. CONGRATULATIONS!!

Nine Months in the Philippines

So what can one medical student accomplish in nine months on one island?

During the summer between her second and third year of medical school, Rebecca (Becky) Bauer conducted the first phase of her Global Health Track project as an intern with the nongovernmental organization (NGO) Jesus for All Nations and Network, International, Incorporated under the guidance of her mentor, Dr. Gretchen Berggren, a member of the CGH Advisory Board. This NGO has conducted weekly feedings in impoverished neighborhoods in Barangay Bugo, Cagayan de Oro, Philippines for over 20 years as one means of addressing the 27.6 percent rate of underweight preschoolers in the Philippines. Becky spent the summer of 2005 as an intern with the feeding program. At the conclusion of her summer work, Becky was invited to return and expand the NGO's program into one with a more profound and sustainable health impact for the children involved.

Not one to pass up a worthwhile opportunity to change the world, Becky took a leave of absence from medical school and returned to the Philippines in June 2007 to develop and implement the Positive Deviance/Hearth (PD/H) method for refeeding to address malnutrition. Every neighborhood has some poor mothers who have well nourished children. Through home visits and dialogue with these mothers, PD/H identifies uncommon, beneficial practices and recipes that are available in the specific community and are affordable even for the poorest members of the communities. These practices and foods are then incorporated into group participatory skill transfer Hearth sessions where volunteer mothers teach food preparation, nutrition and health behaviors to mothers of underweight children. Children are rehabilitated a few at a time in their own neighborhood with the mothers of the malnourished children contributing to the Hearth session menu and food preparation.



Becky making a difference in the Philippines

Over the course of nine months Becky worked through the ups and downs of a community health intervention. Her mentor, Dr. Berggren, made a trip to the Philippines to assist with the development of key Nutrition Center of the Philippines, City Department of Health and local Health Center relationships. Becky and her Philippine based team implemented two pilot projects which resulted in 50 percent of the children in one group and 57 percent in the other group having "catch-up" growth – growing as fast or faster than the international standard median. They identified key barriers to success of PD/H in each community. Becky learned the process of Institutional Review Board (IRB) application and review. A team from the NGO was trained and acquired the skills to continue the program when Becky returned to the States.

Becky is now in the midst of her third year of medical school, but her project is not completed. The NGO is continuing the PD/H program. Becky is working to complete the IRB process so her project can expand to positively affect more children and be published. With support and collaboration from the Ben Brown Award for International Study, mentors and the NGO, Becky's efforts have at the very least demonstrated an effective alternative means to address malnutrition in the Philippines. At the most, these efforts will set the standard for addressing malnutrition world-wide.

Inis Jane Bardella, MD, FAAFP, Associate Director, CGH
Rebecca Bauer, MS3
Gretchen Berggren, MD, MSc Hyg

