ENGAGING IN PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELLNESS
MISSION
To collaborate with communities locally and globally to democratize education, increase service-learning opportunities, and advance novel, transdisciplinary, and sustainable solutions to improve health and well-being, while reducing global health disparities and inequities.

BACKGROUND
The University of Chicago Center for Global Health (CGH) provides a unifying framework for students, staff, and faculty across the University with an interest in global health. CGH reinforces the University of Chicago’s strengths in fields such as the humanities, life sciences, social sciences, medicine, public policy, and others. This interdisciplinary focus encourages innovative approaches to the numerous health challenges faced by residents of the South Side of Chicago and by people across the world alike.
FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Center for Global Health has had another remarkable year. Through collaboration across disciplines, the Center for Global Health continues to catalyze innovation and impact on the health of vulnerable populations. This year, we have hosted scholars from around the globe for training and research opportunities that will help build local capacities and deepen our international partnerships. We also funded an unprecedented number of students and trainees at the University of Chicago to work on multidisciplinary research with our distinguished collaborators around the world. Our own faculty continue to cultivate rich educational and training opportunities that enable us to recruit top scholars and make extraordinary contributions to research.

This year we welcomed Professor James Robinson as Director of the Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts. Professor Robinson and Pearson Institute faculty apply the latest scientific methodologies to understand and address the complex mix of economic, political, religious, cultural, and psychological factors that fuels conflict and inflicts damage on countries, communities, and individuals.

As we look forward to an exciting new phase of growth, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our partners across campus, in Chicago, and around the world for making the Center for Global Health at the University of Chicago a distinguished, innovative, and impactful leader in the field.

Olufunmilayo (Funmi) I. Olopade, MD, FACP, OON
Director, Center for Global Health
2016–2017 BY THE NUMBERS

26 CGH RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM PRESENTATIONS

53 INTERNATIONAL VISITING MEDICAL STUDENTS

36 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN GLOBAL HEALTH COURSES

32 INTERNATIONAL VISITING RESIDENT OBSERVERS

16 SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

59 ASSOCIATED FACULTY

9 INTERDISCIPLINARY CAMPUS EVENTS
“As the world and its economies become increasingly globalized, it’s necessary to think about health in a global context in order to reduce the gap in socioeconomically mediated health disparities.”

Vivek Sarma, Class of 2018
The College: Economics and South Asian Languages and Civilizations
Summer Research Fellow

GLOBAL HEALTH FUNDING

The Center for Global Health at the University of Chicago collaborates with communities locally and globally to advance global health research and education and develop innovative and transdisciplinary solutions to save lives. Along with our partners, we continue to make crucial gains in global health.

There is still much work to be done. The global health community now finds itself facing significant uncertainties due to the potential loss of crucial government funding.

Potential reduction of funding from the National Institutes of Health and the Fogarty International Center, as well as other government agencies and programs in future years, would greatly jeopardize the gains we have already made. Such sweeping funding cuts would erode our ability to drive cutting-edge research, develop innovative technology and programming, and foster international collaborations. Furthermore, it would weaken our abilities to cultivate interdisciplinary education, train the next generation of global health experts, and save millions of lives both at home and abroad.

It is therefore imperative—more so now than ever before—that global health leaders and allies advocate for this important work. Funding for global health has consistently been a bipartisan effort that has produced concrete successes, both in the United States and abroad. As such, it is a cause for which we should all become advocates, knowing that everybody benefits when we make strategic investments in global health. Advancing access to high-quality global health programming, research, and education is our priority at the Center for Global Health, and we therefore urge our community to actively advocate for preserving much-needed government funding.

Let us not become immobilized by these uncertainties. We must increase our efforts to promote, improve, and strengthen advocacy for global health.

Christopher (Sola) Olopade, MD, MPH, FCCP
Director of International Programs,
Center for Global Health
SEEKING SOLUTIONS
EVENT SPOTLIGHT

Global Health Day
April 4, 2017

The Center for Global Health hosted a Global Health Day event in April that included a global health career panel and networking lunch, a research symposium featuring presentations from students, faculty, and researchers on a broad range of topics, and a keynote lecture by Theresa S. Betancourt, ScD, MA, of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Global Health Day was made possible by support from University of Chicago partners including the Center for Health Administration Studies (CHAS), the College Center for Scholarly Advancement, Career Advancement for Health Professionals, and the Graduate Program in Health Administration and Policy (GPHAP).

Keynote Lecturer: Theresa S. Betancourt, ScD, MA, was the featured keynote lecturer for the 2017 Global Health Day. Betancourt is an Associate Professor of Child Health and Human Rights in the Department of Global Health and Population at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the Director of the Research Program on Children and Global Adversity. Her research interests include studying adversity among children in low-resource settings, with an emphasis on mental health and child development.

Global Health Career Panel & Networking Lunch: The Global Health Day Career Panel featured five professionals from the health field, including Robynn Cheng, MPH, of Northwestern Memorial Hospital; Andrea Garces, MA, of Heartland Alliance International; Cindy Nguyen, MBA, of NowPow; Elvira Pellitteri, MSW, LCSW, of Esperanza Health Centers; and Jacquelyn Rosa of United Way of Metropolitan Chicago. The panel discussion was moderated by Katie Zellner, a fourth-year in the College who is studying biology and creative writing.

Global Health Research Symposium: The research symposium included poster sessions and oral presentations by researchers and students from the University of Chicago and around the world. Twenty research projects were featured on wide-ranging subjects, including arsenic contamination in groundwater in Bangladesh, postpartum hypertension in rural Haiti, cancer risks and mental health in Africa, toxoplasmosis in Panama, and more.

“I think there’s a great deal more work to be done, particularly in asking how children can thrive, and not just survive, in many countries around the world.”
Theresa S. Betancourt, ScD, MA
EVENTS

Integrating Health Effects with Economic Analysis of Environmental Governance

DATE: 4.19.16
PARTNER: Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC)

Dr. Shiqiu Zhang, a professor in the College of Environmental Sciences and Engineering and Director of the Institute of Environment and Economy (IoEE) at Peking University, presented her research on the health impacts of air pollution in China. She explored the impact of health issues on the development of environmental policy.

Global Health Case Competition

DATE: October–November 2016
PARTNERS: Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the University of Chicago; Chicago Department of Public Health; American Heart Association

Chicago Health Solutions, an undergraduate student group at the University of Chicago, hosted health case competitions in the fall and spring. The 2017 Global Health Case Competition focused on heart disease in the United States, allowing for interdisciplinary collaboration between undergraduate and graduate students from various schools and divisions. Expertise and guidance from global health leaders helped bring their solutions to pertinent health problems to fruition.

Film Screening of Kissa Kahani Digital Stories

DATE: 11.2.16
PARTNERS: South Asian Student Association; Transmedia Story Lab; Center for Interdisciplinary Inquiry and Innovation in Sexual and Reproductive Health (Ci3)

Kissa Kahani is a two-year international project of the Center for Interdisciplinary Inquiry and Innovation in Sexual and Reproductive Health (Ci3). Kissa Kahani uses multimedia approaches, storytelling, and innovative research techniques to promote gender equity and family planning in the urban areas of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India.

Africa: Democracy and Security

DATE: 3.7.17
PARTNERS: Center for International Human Rights; Northwestern University; Chicago Council on Global Affairs; Institute of Politics at the University of Chicago; the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

This forum gathered distinguished speakers from diverse backgrounds and disciplines, including health and politics, to discuss the complex challenges that many African countries are currently facing in their work towards democratizing governance and improving quality of life and stability for their populations.
**Film Screening of Nowhere to Run: Nigeria’s Climate and Environmental Crisis**

**DATE:** 5.1.17  
**PARTNER:** Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC); Sustainable Pritzker  
**SPEAKERS:** Christopher (Sola) Olopade, MD, MPH, and Amir Jina, MA, PhD

This film explores the creeping effects of climate change and unchecked environmental degradation that Nigeria faces. Filmmakers Amir Jina and CGH’s Dr. Christopher (Sola) Olopade discussed the major socioeconomic, political, and sustainable development challenges posed by Nigeria’s looming climate and environmental crisis.

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**LECTURES**

**HIV and Human Rights: The New Metrics of Human Rights Interventions and Outcome Research**

**DATE:** 10.19.16  
**SPEAKER:** Deborah L. Birx, MD  
**PARTNERS:** Pozen Family Center for Human Rights at the University of Chicago, the Global Engagement Office at the University of Chicago  
Ambassador-at-large Deborah L. Birx, MD, is the Coordinator of the United States Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS and the US Special Representative for Global Health Diplomacy. Ambassador Birx is a world-renowned medical expert and leader in the field of HIV/AIDS. Her presentation emphasized the necessity of a human-rights-based approach to health care for the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

**Global Mental Health: A Potted History and Its Future Directions**

**DATE:** 10.31.16  
**SPEAKER:** Vikram Patel, MBBS, PhD  
**PARTNER:** Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience  
Vikram Patel is Professor of International Mental Health at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and a Senior Clinical Research Fellow at the Wellcome Trust. He has been a pioneer in the field of global mental health as a co-founder and former director of the Centre for Global Mental Health at LSHTM, co-director of the Centre for Control of Chronic Conditions at the Public Health Foundation of India, and co-founder of Sangath, an Indian NGO dedicated to research in child development, adolescent health, and mental health. In April 2015, Dr. Patel was named by TIME magazine as one of the world’s most influential people.
“We must marshal all of our knowledge and resources to alleviate health-related human suffering, whether this suffering is caused by a catastrophic earthquake, a deadly epidemic, or a chronic disease. By leveraging the University of Chicago’s strengths in medicine, public policy, economics, computation, life sciences, social sciences, and other disciplines, we have the potential to save untold lives, reduce health disparities, and influence health practices in Chicago’s communities and in distant parts of the globe. The time to act is now.”

Olufunmilayo (Funmi) I. Olopade, MD, FACP, OON
Walter L. Palmer Distinguished Service Professor
Director, University of Chicago Center for Global Health
Introduction to Global Health (BIOS 29241 and CCTS4 3000)
The objectives of this course are to (1) understand the history and development of public health interventions leading to the current state of global health; (2) introduce key concepts and frameworks used in examining global health issues; (3) understand the distribution of health, illness, and disability around the world and the individual, social, and institutional factors that affect the global burden of disease; (4) understand the impact of globalization and global warming on the health of populations worldwide; (5) understand the functions of a health system and describe some of the differences between health and healthcare systems in different contexts; (6) explore issues and controversies in global health in an interdisciplinary manner; (7) understand the ethical challenges in eliminating global disparities in health and creating health equity and explore opportunities for eliminating poverty-related health problems; (8) understand who the players in the global health arena are and how they impact global health; (9) begin to track complex global health issues and regularly and critically assess coverage by the media and general population; and (10) practice creating an innovative and feasible research/project proposal to address a pressing global health issue and gain exposure to collaborative proposal writing and revision.

Topics in Global Health (BIOS 27812)
Instructed by Christopher (Sola) Olopade, MD, MPH, and Olufunmilayo Olopade, MD, FACP, OON, this course explores global health as an interdisciplinary and empirical field, requiring a holistic approach. The course emphasizes both the specific health problems faced by the world’s most vulnerable populations, as well as the large-scale social, political, and economic forces that cause them.

Study Abroad in Paris
The Global Health in Paris program offers a sequence of three courses focused on epidemiology, microbiology, and the broader social, political, and economic forces that shape global health issues. Courses in the Paris Program include Epidemiology & Population Health: Topics in Global Health I, Microbiology: Global Sciences II, and Topics in Global Health: Global Health Sciences III.
Number of Students from the 2016–17 Graduate Program in Health Administration & Policy (GPHAP) Global Cohort from University of Chicago Professional Schools:

- 4 The University of Chicago Booth School of Business
- 3 The University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy
- 3 School of Social Service Administration
- 1 Pritzker School of Medicine

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**Graduate Program in Health Administration & Policy (GPHAP) Global Health Track**
The Graduate Program in Health Administration and Policy (GPHAP) Global Health Track seeks to address issues in global health through the perspectives of medicine, business, law, economics, public policy, social work, and sociocultural studies. This year’s Global Health Track cohort includes eleven students pursuing degrees from the following graduate programs at the University of Chicago: the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy, the University of Chicago Law School, the Pritzker School of Medicine, and the School of Social Service Administration. The distinctive interdisciplinary nature of the GPHAP certificate program provides students with a strong base of interdisciplinary knowledge beyond their primary programs, allowing students to develop expertise in global health.

**Pritzker School of Medicine Summer Research Program for First-Year Pritzker Students**
This eleven-week medical research opportunity allows students to develop a well-defined project, work with faculty mentors throughout the summer, and present their research at the Summer Research Forum.

**Global Health Scholarship & Discovery Track**
Given the broad nature of global health, and recognizing that true competence in this field requires more than clinical skills, this four-year comprehensive curriculum is designed to expose students to a diverse range of topics and disciplines to suit their research and clinical interests.

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**Delegation from Chinese Medical University | 5.31.17**
University of Chicago leadership and faculty met with delegates from Chinese Medical University to renew a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to stimulate and support internationalization in higher education. UChicago representatives were from the Center for Global Health, the Pritzker School of Medicine, and the Office of the Provost. Delegates from Chinese Medical University included Professor Delian Wen (President of Chinese Medical University), Professor Minjie Wei (Dean of the School of Pharmacy at CMU), Professor Bo Qu (Director of the Center for Medical Education Research at CMU), and Professor Bochen Pan (Director of the International Exchange Center at CMU). CMU is located in Shenyang in China’s Northeast Liaoning province. Currently, CMU has 27 colleges, faculties, and sections, 130 departments, and 49 disciplines with over 25,000 registered students.
Abiola Falilat Ibraheem, MD, is a senior hematology/oncology fellow at the University of Chicago. She received her MBBS degree from Olabisi Onabanjo University, Nigeria, and completed her internal medicine residency training at Morehouse School of Medicine, where she did research on racial health care disparities. She is presently undergoing training as a general medical oncologist with a special interest in breast and genitourinary cancers. She is also working on promoting access to essential medicines in underserved populations, conducting research in low- to middle-income countries and implementing evidence-based strategies to improve both cancer care and prevention in these parts of the world.

Anindita Dutta, PhD, an environmental health and exposure science expert, is currently a postdoctoral scholar in the Department of Medicine at the University of Chicago. She has been working and publishing extensively for more than ten years on the impact of household air pollution from burning biomass fuel and kerosene on the health of women and children. She is currently involved in studying the potential health benefits of household air pollution intervention among the women and children of Nigeria.

Shengfeng Wang, PhD, majored in epidemiology and biostatistics and is currently a postdoctoral scholar in the Department of Medicine at the University of Chicago. He is also an assistant professor at Peking University, where for ten years he has been working on the exploration of traditional risk factors for non-communicable diseases in the Chinese population. He is currently focused on seeking the genetic risk factors for breast cancer with data sets from genome-wide study (GWAS), whole genome sequence (WES), and whole exome sequence (WGS).
TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT

Oluwatoyin Aduke Babalola, PhD

Oluwatoyin Babalola earned her PhD in 2015 in parasitology at the University of Ibadan and worked in the Institute for Advanced Medical Research and Training (IAMRAT) at the University of Ibadan as a research scientist in the Genetics and Bioethics research unit, where she coordinated sickle cell disease (SCD) research projects. She was granted the postdoctoral appointment under the NIH-funded D43 Interdisciplinary Training grant to study the diagnosis and characterization of sickle cell phenotypes in the Olopade Laboratory for a period of twelve months. The specific aims of her postdoctoral fellowship are (1) to determine the hemoglobin phenotypes of individuals living with SCD in Nigeria by assessment of hematological parameters and hemoglobin variants quantitation, (2) to genotypically characterize the existing forms of SCD by the determination of the beta globin haplotype in each individual and determine alpha and beta globin chain deletions in thalassemic patients, and (3) to determine the severity index for SCD by matching phenotype and genotype of individuals with clinical records/manifestation in order to identify higher-risk patients for intervention and management.

“I couldn’t have done this without the support and mentorship from the wonderful teams at CGH and the grants administration team at the University of Chicago. A lot still needs to be done in Nigeria in research administration and infrastructure building, but the committed healthcare practitioners and faculty being mentored here will make things happen. I still have so much more to learn, but I am passionate about what I do, and so I will continue to seek opportunities to improve my skills and competencies.”

Oluwatoyin Aduke Babalola, PhD
Research Scientist, Genetics and Bioethics Research Unit, Institute of Advanced Medical Research and Training, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Evan Eschilman, Class of 2018
2016 Summer Research Fellow

An exemplary global health scholar majoring in Public Policy and minoring in Biology, Evan traveled to Ibadan, Nigeria. Under the mentorship of Dr. Seeba Anam, he worked at the University College Hospital conducting psycho-oncology research. Evan presented his findings, “At First I Had to Bring My Own Chairs: Obstacles Facing Implementation and Expansion of Psycho-Oncology Care in Low-Resource Settings,” at the 2017 Global Health Day Research Symposium. After graduation, Eschilman plans to pursue a PhD in Sociology and examine how communities and individuals existing in low resource settings are able to persist despite obstacles. Beyond assisting as a voice for individuals’ stories of perseverance through personal research, Eschilman has dreams of becoming a professor who inspires the next generation of leaders in the global health field.

“Low resources does not mean low resourcefulness.”

Evan Eschilman
Class of 2018
The CGH Summer Research Fellowship allows promising undergraduate and graduate students to take part in a ten-week internship located in Chicago and one of our partnering sites abroad. Students benefit from first-hand experience working in a research setting with experienced local mentors, participating in well-defined and multidisciplinary projects.

Through the Summer Research Fellowship, students from different backgrounds and levels of experience gain valuable skills in collecting and analyzing data, relating to people of different backgrounds, collaborating with other researchers and peers, understanding and synthesizing research literature, formulating hypotheses, orally presenting results, thinking and working creatively and independently, and applying knowledge to real-world situations.

**NORTH AMERICA**

Bruno Hernandez, Class of 2018  
**PROGRAM:** Harris Public Policy  
**LOCATION:** Chicago, Chicago Council for Global Affairs  
**RESEARCH TOPICS:** Food Security, Sustainable Development, and Gender Equality

**CENTRAL AMERICA**

Margarita Ramirez, Class of 2019  
**PROGRAM:** The College, Biology and Human Rights  
**LOCATION:** Panama City, Panama  
**RESEARCH TOPICS:** Toxoplasmosis

Davina Moossazadeh, Class of 2018  
**PROGRAM:** The College, Statistics  
**LOCATION:** Panama City, Panama  
**RESEARCH TOPIC:** Toxoplasmosis
AFRICA

Chinye Ljeli, Class of 2018  
PROGRAM: The College, Biological Sciences  
LOCATION: Abuja, Nigeria  
RESEARCH TOPIC: Sickle Cell Disease

Sarah Chung, Class of 2018  
PROGRAM: Harris Public Policy  
LOCATION: Lagos, Nigeria  
RESEARCH TOPIC: Reproductive Health

Vivek Sarma, Class of 2018  
PROGRAM: The College, Economics and South Asian Languages  
LOCATION: Ghana  
RESEARCH TOPIC: Reproductive Health

Rashad Crosby, Class of 2018  
PROGRAM: The College, Public Policy  
LOCATION: Ibadan, Nigeria  
RESEARCH TOPIC: Adolescent Health

Isabella Pan, Class of 2018  
PROGRAM: The College, Comparative Human Development  
LOCATION: Ibadan, Nigeria  
RESEARCH TOPIC: Household Air Pollution (HAP)

Whitney George, Class of 2019  
PROGRAM: The College, History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Science and Medicine  
LOCATION: Kumasi, Ghana  
RESEARCH TOPIC: Childhood Immunization

SOUTH ASIA

Meera Mody, Class of 2018  
PROGRAM: The College, Economics and Mathematics  
LOCATION: Mumbai, India  
RESEARCH TOPIC: Health Systems

Stratton Tolmie, Class of 2018  
PROGRAM: The College, Biological Sciences  
LOCATION: Mumbai, India  
RESEARCH TOPIC: Health Systems

Graciela Caraballo, Class of 2018  
PROGRAM: The College, Biological Sciences and Sociology  
LOCATION: Ghana  
RESEARCH TOPIC: Hypertension

Cindy Xinxin Du, Class of 2018  
PROGRAM: The College, Biological Sciences  
LOCATION: Johannesburg, South Africa  
RESEARCH TOPIC: Breast Cancer

Mercy Loyo, Class of 2018  
PROGRAM: The College, Public Policy  
LOCATION: Johannesburg, South Africa  
RESEARCH TOPIC: Health Policy

Jenny Kim, Class of 2019  
PROGRAM: The College, Biological Sciences  
LOCATION: Cape Town, South Africa  
RESEARCH TOPIC: Cancer
MAKING CONNECTIONS, OPENING DOORS
Rima McLeod, MD, pediatrics medical director of the Toxoplasmosis Center and Professor of Ophthalmology & Visual Science, is an expert in toxoplasmosis. She is internationally recognized for leading investigative studies that are working to develop more effective screening, detection, and treatment strategies. She served as a mentor to CGH summer research fellows in Panama investigating infectious disease, specifically toxoplasmosis. During this summer project, she helped students compare established toxoplasma centers in Panama, the U.S., and Morocco in order to analyze the effectiveness of various health infrastructures and policies.

“Understanding how the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii* causes disease also will inform future development of multiplexed vaccines and assure effective medicines.”

Rima McLeod, MD

Seeba Anam

Seeba Anam, MD, is a child and adolescent psychiatrist and an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Chicago. Dr. Anam specializes in analyzing the effect cultural factors play in the manifestation of psychiatric disorders. Dr. Anam’s research seeks to address gaps in mental health care and research. The Center for Global Health awarded Dr. Anam a seed grant to research ways to build interdisciplinary programs for resident and medical student trainees interested in global mental health, incorporate innovative curricula, and establish a research and training infrastructure for ongoing international collaboration in global mental health.

Sarosh Rana

Sarosh Rana, MD, MPH, is the Chief of the Section of Maternal-Fetal Medicine in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She is considered an expert in preeclampsia and dealing with high-risk pregnancies. Dr. Rana was awarded a seed grant to improve maternal and fetal health through research on angiogenic biomarkers that predict mortality in women with preeclampsia in Haiti. Her work at the Hôpital Albert Schweitzer in Deschapelles in central Haiti will seek to define the prevalence of postpartum hypertension in rural Haiti, characterize the antepartum risk factors associated with the development of postpartum hypertension, and develop protocols to improve care. Dr. Rana’s work contributes to other ongoing research on the regional burden of disease in Haiti, which is being used to develop region-specific systems.
The University of Chicago Center for Global Health is thankful to its generous friends and partners, without whom the Center’s various initiatives would not be fruitful.

We hope to sustain these relationships and welcome new ones as we endeavor to advance our impact and interdisciplinary mission.