



**Weill Cornell
Medicine**

GLOBAL HEALTH EDUCATION

**SUMMER 2020
NEWSLETTER**

**COVID-19's IMPACT ON THE
OFFICE OF GLOBAL HEALTH EDUCATION**





The sudden outbreak of a novel coronavirus in Wuhan, China in late December 2019, has rocked the world with its rapid spread and high case fatality rate. The virus has proven to be both highly transmissible, virulent, and unpredictable. As of June 30, 2020, the coronavirus COVID-19 (Covid-19) is present in 213 countries and territories around the world, with over 10 million confirmed cases reported worldwide. This most probably is an underestimate given that testing has been spotty and that an unknown number of asymptomatic individuals are not counted in the statistics.

In the US, almost 2.6 million people have been confirmed as having the virus, with almost 127,000 dying from the disease. Today, the pandemic is raging in areas that several months ago did not have many cases—Florida, Texas, New Mexico. Yet, New York State and New York City, and other Northeastern states, having imposed stringent social isolation policies and wearing of masks since mid-March, are ahead of the curve and have gradually begun to reopen after the Covid-19 shut down.

Covid-19 has had a dramatic impact on our global health program. Students in the Class of 2020 who had hoped to take an international clinical elective in March or April were disappointed to learn that this was not going to be possible. Ninety-six visiting international final year medical students who were hoping to take a clinical elective at Weill Cornell or at one of our hospital affiliates were prevented from traveling to the US to do so. The virus put a kibosh on these plans. Elective placements for visiting students are on hold until further notice. Forty-two students in the Class of 2021 have applied to take an international clinical elective in the Spring of 2021, but we will have to see if this will be possible.

I have been in touch with colleagues at our partner schools around the world, making sure that they are coping well. Our colleagues in Peru, Brazil, and India, report that the situation is dire in their respective country and our thoughts are with them at this time. I am involved in a multi-national screen and treat study taking place in rural Tamil Nadu, India, with colleagues at the University of Edinburgh (Scotland) and the Christian Medical College Vellore (India) where we hope to get ahead of the curve and limit the potential harm to a vulnerable, poor, rural population.

For the first time, OGHE hosted its annual International Fellows reception via video, including taped remarks from two of our generous donors, Dr. James Blankenship and Mr. Jeffrey Lynford. Please [click here](#) to view the 2020 International Fellow's presentation. OGHE has moved quickly to pivot to a virtual platform and has plans to offer many seminars and talks via Zoom. In the following pages we highlight our activities in this Age of Covid-19.

Stay safe and healthy!

Madelon L. Finkel, Ph.D.

Professor of Population Health Sciences
Director, Office of Global Health Education
Population Sciences Curriculum Leader

Global Health Education Highlights

Office of International Affairs



Dean Choi created a new Office of International Affairs designed to unify the institution's wide-reaching portfolio of international activities and to

strategically plan future international collaborations. Dr. Michael G. Stewart, Professor and Chairman of Otolaryngology, was named Senior Associate Dean for International Affairs and Affiliations and will oversee the operations of the new office. Dr. Stewart will work closely with the Directors of the Office of Global Health Education, the Center for Global Health, and the Salzburg Weill Cornell Seminars to achieve these objectives.

Barbara Slifka Global Health Award

The Office of Global Health Education created a new award in honor of Barbara Slifka, whose generosity over the past years has enable scores of Weill Cornell students to participate in the medical college's international electives program. One student in the graduating class will be selected to receive the *Barbara Slifka Global Health Award* at Convocation. The award, which carries a cash prize, recognizes an individual who showed exceptional leadership in the area of global health.

Global Health Education Program Highlighted in a New Publication

A collaborative effort among students and faculty resulted in a recent publication in the International Journal of Medical Students. In this article, [Teaching Cultural Competency through Global Health Education at Weill Cornell Medicine](#), we share WCM's experience in building and expanding its global health curriculum. One of the hallmarks of our program is the successful collaboration between students and faculty who work together to create a multi-disciplinary global health program focused on education, clinical field placement, and collaborative research.



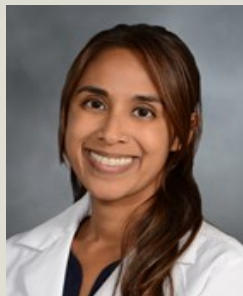
Global Climate Change Elective



Dr. Finkel, created a new independent elective focusing on **global climate change**. The 7-week seminar series explores the multiple impacts of climate change on human health and the environment. The primary purpose is to explore the consequences of climate change and to enable participants to engage in discussion with guest speakers. Topics include extreme events (i.e., hurricanes, floods, wild fires, heat waves), the implications of climate change on health and well-being, climate change and food security, the economic impact of climate change, climate law and policy, and mitigating risks of climate change (i.e., switching to renewable energy sources).

A **conference on climate change**, hosted by OGHE, is also being planned for 2021. Stay tuned for more information!

Global Health Career Seminars



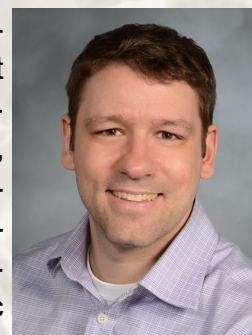
The *Global Health Career Seminars* offer the chance for students to engage directly with faculty who have successfully incorporated global health work into their medical practice. This Spring, the Career Seminar Series moved online with a virtual round-table discussion led by Emergency Medicine physician, Dr. Radhika Sundararajan, Assistant Professor. Dr. Sundararajan discussed her background in anthropology and medicine as well as her global health research, including various projects in India, Uganda and Tanzania.

Global Health Journal Club

The *Global Health Journal Club* is a popular student initiative. Once a month, students meet to discuss an article published on a timely global health topic. Through short student presentations, key concepts are reviewed and discussed by the group. The Journal Club is an excellent way to educate students about a global health issue and illustrates diverse ways in which global health work is carried out in the field of medicine.

Global Health Grand Rounds

The *Global Health Grand Rounds* is a lecture series that serves as a platform for dialogue on contemporary global health challenges. This Spring, OGHE hosted its first virtual Global Health Grand Rounds, enabling almost 70 individuals to hear a presentation by Dr. David Scales, Assistant Professor in Medicine. Dr. Scales' talk, "Preparing for COVID-19 in a Palestinian Refugee Camp: Leveraging Chronic Disease Community Health Workers for Emergency Response", focused on his experiences working with local leaders at two refugee camps in the West Bank and provided new insights on the spread of COVID-19 in this densely populated geographic area.



These lectures are free and open to the public. If you are interested in CME credits, these lectures are offered for 1 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*™. For more information and to be added to the listserv for notification of upcoming lectures please send an email to GlobalhealthTA@med.cornell.edu.

Wishing our 2020 Global Health Fellow Good Luck



Priyanka Patel, OGHE's Global Health Teaching Associate for the 2019-2020 academic year, will be heading to medical school this Fall at New York Medical College. A 2019 graduate of Cornell University, Priyanka has a rich background in global health, including having participated in an international field experience in Lusaka, Zambia studying sanitation and hygiene practices in health care. While at WCMC, Priyanka co-authored an article on our global health education program. We wish Priyanka much success as she begins medical school.

The Global Health Curriculum at WCM

Since 2009, OGHE has worked to integrate global health into the pre-clinical and clinical curriculum through a multi-disciplinary, multi-faceted program focused on education, clinical field placement, and collaborative research. We are constantly striving to prepare students to address complex global health issues in new and innovative ways. The Covid-19 pandemic, however, has made it necessary to pivot from what we have been doing to what we now need to do in the age of Covid-19. For the past 10 years (pre-covid-19), for example, OGHE hosted a Global Health Orientation on campus for first year medical students. Over three-quarters of the incoming Class participated in this event to learn about the global health opportunities at Weill Cornell. For the Class of 2024, we will host a virtual orientation session and subsequent follow up Zoom sessions to enable students to learn about the global health curriculum and how to become involved in global health activities at Weill Cornell. The medical school's Global Health program is a major reason why students apply to Weill Cornell and OGHE will continue to engage and excite students to participate in our global health activities.

Certificate in Global Health

11 students from the Class of 2020 received a *Certificate in Global Health* as an acknowledgement of their active participation in various aspects of the Global Health Curriculum during medical school: Joanna Go, Iliana Gutierrez, Tiffany Huang, Andrea Liu, Evguenia Makovkina, Herie Sun, Stephanie Tsai, Francesca Voza, Sven Walderich Katie Wilcox, and Richmond Woodard.



Preceptorship Survey Responses

"[This experience enabled me] to have learned from patients, who were far better teachers than any textbook, and from a clinician who is dedicated not just to providing medical services to "underserved populations," but dedicated to giving high quality medical care to each person that came to her door."

"This preceptorship has helped me reaffirm that global health is so important. Patients are not cookie cutters. [The underserved population] face various obstacles and come from different backgrounds. It is important to keep this in mind when speaking to and caring for them."

Global Health Preceptorship

7 first-year students participated in the *Global Health Preceptorship Program* this Spring. This program allows first-year students a unique opportunity to shadow clinicians who provide care to underserved, vulnerable patient populations in New York City. The program highlights the disparities in health care among demographically and economically diverse populations. Unfortunately the program was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Introduction to Global Health Elective

10 students in the Class of 2023 participated in the *Introduction to Global Health* elective during this Spring. The objective of this elective is to provide a foundation of global health core competencies in a series of 10 seminars. Students develop problem-solving skills and learn multidisciplinary approaches to addressing global health problems. This year's topics included Geographic Approaches to Disease Control, Women's Health in LMICs, and Issues of Drug Resistance.

Introduction to GH Electives Survey Responses

"I learned that most of blindness in developing countries is preventable and that simple investments in global ophthalmology can effectively reduce these rates."

"[The course] was informative in reviewing the ways in which global inequalities still exist and the measures that are used to convey those inequalities."

"I enjoyed the perspectives of other students and actually enjoyed that we were all encouraged to speak."

Congratulations
to the
Class of 2020 Global Health International Fellows

12 members of the Class of 2020 took an international elective in their spring term. Funding the global health program is imperative for its continued success. This past year, we gratefully thank our donors for their support. Please [click here](#) to view the 2020 International Fellow's presentation.



LYNFORD FAMILY INTERNATIONAL FELLOWS

Orrin Belden - *San Vito, Costa Rica*
Iliana Gutierrez - *Lima, Peru*

DR. MILTON B. ROSENBLUTH FELLOW

Lu Jin - *Mwanza, Tanzania*

MARLAN AND JACK BLANKENSHIP FELLOW

Tasher Losenegger - *Moshi, Tanzania*

DR. B.H. KEAN CLASS OF 1964 AND 1965 FELLOW

Sven Walderich - *Moshi, Tanzania*

SONAM AND DANIEL ROSBERGER INTERNATIONAL FELLOW

Qianjing (Jenny) Xia - *Thimpu, Bhutan; Bangkok, Thailand (Thailand only due to Covid-19)*

WEILL CORNELL MEDICINE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION GLOBAL HEALTH FELLOW

Herie Sun - *Paris, France*

MAX KADE FOUNDATION FELLOWS (VIENNA, AUSTRIA)

John Butterworth
Francesca Coxé
Mitali Kini
Andrea Liu
David Zhang

The following 14 students either had their international elective canceled or were not able to complete it due to the coronavirus pandemic:

Anna Cai - *Taipei, Taiwan*

Jeremy Ho - *Glasgow, Scotland*

Yun-Han (Hannah) Huang - *Cambridge, England*

Yujin (Stacy) Joo - *Seoul, South Korea*

Daniel Lara – *Madrid, Spain (US-EU Medical Education Exchange Program)*

Nicole Luche – *Munich, Germany (US-EU Medical Education Exchange Program)*

Aoife MacMahon – *Vienna, Austria*

Evguenia (Jenny) Makovkina – *Vienna, Austria*

Kevin Oh - *Seoul, South Korea*

Edwin Rosendo – *London, England (US-EU Medical Education Exchange Program)*

Stephanie Tsai - *Taipei, Taiwan*

Teagan Marshall - *Paris, France*

Francesca Voza - *Paris, France*

Lisa (Tian-Tian) Zhang - *Edinburgh, Scotland (US-EU Medical Education Exchange Program)*

Visiting International Students Program

Our Visiting International Clinical Electives Program is an excellent way for foreign medical students to obtain exposure to the world-class medical care provided at Weill Cornell/NY Presbyterian Hospital. Ninety-six students from around the world were expected to take electives in March through June 2020. Unfortunately Covid-19 upended these plans. Thirty-two students in the March elective could only complete two weeks of the elective, and sixty-four students hoping to take their elective in April, May or June were not able to travel to the US.



Some visiting international students from our February 2020 cohort of Visiting International Students from around the world: Luis, Felipe, Glucan, and Fouad.



Shanzae and Dr. Daniel Skupski, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology.



Amparo and Luis visiting the American Museum of Natural History.

Visiting Student Spotlight

Prima (Princess) M. Liboon, a final year medical student from Southwestern University—Matias H. Anzar Memorial College of Medicine in the Philippines, completed an elective in Emergency Medicine at Lincoln Hospital in January 2020. She was excited to learn from our superb Emergency Medicine faculty and to experience providing care to a diverse population seeking emergency care. In the Philippines, many cannot afford basic medical care and needs. She hopes to become an Emergency Medicine physician after her training.

"This opportunity allowed me to become an active member of the emergency team, to work with and learn from Residents and Attendings who are knowledgeable experts in their field. The diversity of patient population was also an eye-opening experience and gave me the thirst for more knowledge. Having hands-on experience under the supervision of these Residents was an invaluable experience. This has fueled my desire to pursue emergency medicine so that I can help those who are underserved. May your excellent program continue to inspire more future doctors as you have with me." ~Prima Liboon



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The Office of Global Health Education (OGHE) was established by the Dean of the Medical College to facilitate student participation in global health. OGHE oversees the international educational programs at Weill Cornell. OGHE also provides visiting international students opportunities to take clinical electives at Weill Cornell and its affiliates.

[Click here to visit us on the web!](#)



Francesca Coxe, WCM '20, with her Resident and Attending at the Medizinische Universität Wien.



Sven Walderich, WCM '20, Dr. Mtui and Tasher Losenegger, WCM '20 from Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre.



Weill Cornell Medicine Class of 2020 students during their elective in Vienna, Austria: Jough Butterworth, Francesca Coxe, David Zhang, Andrea Liu and Mitali Kini.



A few visiting international students from the Feb '20 cohort: Pranami, Shanzaee, Teresa-Maria and Aishwarya.



Herie Sun, WCM '20, and his mentor, Dr. Gilles Boccard during his elective in Paris, France.



Jenny Xia sharing lunch and stories with the local medics and Burmese trainees, after delivering two babies!

**To make a donation, please contact Dr. Madelon Finkel at
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*From the Office of Global Health Education, stay
safe and have a great summer!!!*

