

Global Health Education Winter 2020 Newsletter







2020 is shaping up to be one of the wildest, strangest years that I can remember. In addition to the Presidential election and its ensuing chaotic transition from the lame-duck Trump administration to the incoming Biden administration, it is COVID-19 that will define this year in so many ways, not the least of which is making armchair epidemiologists of all of us, and causing us to rethink how we live, work, and socialize. As of this writing, the world continues to be consumed by the relentless spread of COVID-19. Ten months into the pandemic, we are now witnessing the "second wave", causing countries that had been ahead of the curve to re-impose lock-down measures.

The international travel ban due to COVID-19 caused an abrupt halt to our electives placement program, disappointing so many Weill

Cornell students who had hoped to travel abroad for this unique opportunity as well as over 100 foreign students who planned to take clinical electives at Weill Cornell and our Network hospitals. The good news is that vaccine clinical trials are showing very impressive results, which hopefully will bode well for 2021.

I have been in close contact with our partners in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, India, and Latin America and we all are eager to resume the clinical electives program once it is safe to do so. I want to give a huge shout out to Weill Cornell global health faculty mentors who managed to provide an "international" experience for several of those in the Class of 2023 by having students work remotely on projects that are based in the host country.

The Office of Global Health Education (OGHE) has pivoted to a virtual platform, hosting Global Health Grand Rounds, Global Health Career Seminars, and a newly created Climate Change Seminar Series. Using Zoom, we have been able to continue our educational program seamlessly, and are now able to include our global partners! For example, faculty and students from the Faculty of Medicine Botucatu, UNESP (Brazil) regularly join these Zoom sessions, as do colleagues from Canada. All sessions are recorded, allowing our partners in different time zones around the world to view the sessions.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the continued generosity of our donors. Without their financial support in the form of Fellowships, endowments, and stipends, we would be hard-pressed to enable any student who wishes to take an international elective to do so. Included in this Newsletter is a listing of our donors, many of whom are Weill Cornell graduates. In particular, OGHE wants to express its thanks to long-time donor, Barbara Slifka. We have created the Barbara Slifka Global Health Award to be awarded at Convocation to a student who best exemplifies commitment to global health.

Sadly, this year we mourn the loss of our long-time champion of our global health education program, Dr. Michael Rosenbluth. Over the years, Dr. Rosenbluth and his family have supported scores of Weill Cornell students who have taken a global health elective in Low- and Middle-Income Countries. His children, Dr. Adam Rosenbluth '96 and Eliza Rosenbluth Silvester will continue the legacy of supporting our program.

As 2020 draws to a close, the OGHE staff and I look forward to building on our global health program and appreciate the support and enthusiasm of the administration and, importantly, our students. We have some exciting, new ideas for 2021.

Wishing you a safe, healthy, and happy holiday.

Madelon L. Finkel, Ph.D. Professor of Population Health Sciences Director, Office of Global Health Education Population Health Science Curriculum Leader



Global Health Career Seminars

The Global Health Career Seminars offer students an opportunity to hear from clinicians who incorporate global health into their practice. The seminar series is designed to enable students to engage in a conversation with the speakers in an informal setting to "hear their story". This Fall the Career Seminars were offered virtually, but this did not seem to dim the enthusiasm of either the speakers or the students. Two of the speakers are Weill Cornell graduates who, as undergraduates, were very active in the global health education program.

Drs. Elizabeth Triche '09, Jyoti Mathad and Alicia Genisca '09 talked about their global experiences during Residency and as clinicians. Dr. Elizabeth Triche, led the first 2020-21 Career Seminar live from Saipan where she is chief of Pediatrics at the island's hospital. Dr. Triche brought her enthusiasm to the table when she discussed opportunities that are out there that can be beneficial to students who are interested in a Global Health career.

Dr. Jyothi Mathad, Assistant Professor in Medicine at Weill Cornell, discussed the awakening behind her work in Pune, India and what family life is like when you are choosing a career in Global Health.

Dr. Alicia Genisca, Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine and Pediatrics & Pediatric Emergency Medicine Physician & Pediatric Emergency Medicine Global Health Coordinator at Brown Emergency Medicine, shared her inspiration and experience in the global health field and Pediatric ebola research. She has worked in Ethiopia and most recently in Belize.

While these round-table discussions are primarily for medical students, they are free and open to the public.

To be added to the listserv, please email globalhealthta@med.cornell.edu. For recordings and upcoming Global Health Career Seminars please <u>click here</u>.

timely, but also very informative and cutting-edge.

email to GlobalhealthTA@med.cornell.edu.



Roy Gulick, M.D., M.P.H



Douglas Nixon, M.D., Ph.D.

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 Fall, OGHE continued to offer the Global Health Grand Rounds virtually, which had a silver lining in that our partners from around the world were able to attend.

It is no surprise that the Fall Grand Rounds speakers focused on COVID-19. From Dr. Roy Gulick's COVID-19 Progress and Prospect, to

Dr. Douglas Nixon's COVID-19 Can Old Vaccines Have New Tricks? and concluding with Drs. Joseph Fins and Rogelio Altisent's *Boiethics in Spain* before and after the COVID-19 Pandemic, these talks were not only very

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)TM. For more information and to be added to the listserv, please



Joseph Fins, M.D., M.A.C.P., F.R.C.P.



Roglio Altisent's, M.D., Ph.D





Jyoti Mathad, M.D.



Alicia Genisca, M.D. '09

For recordings and upcoming Global Health Grand Rounds, please <u>click</u> here.



OGHE Introduces a New Seminar on Climate Change

There is an almost universal consensus that there is an urgent need for the world to act sooner rather than later to minimize the potentially devastating impacts of climate change. Failure to do so could have serious consequences for human and animal health, the environment, extreme weather patterns, food shortages, and migration patterns.

The Office of Global Health Education initiated a new seminar series on climate change this Fall in an effort to engage the medical students and faculty in a climate change dialogue. The Weill Cornell Medical Student Sustainability Group helped identify topics for this series. Experts in the field provide a 60-minute overview of various topics in a virtual format. Our colleagues at the Faculty of Medicine of Botucatu, UNESP in Brazil are participating in this event, as are colleagues in Toronto, Canada. The lectures are open to the public and we invite those interested in learning more about the issues to access the recorded session from our <u>website</u> and join us for upcoming lectures in January, 2021.

<mark>7</mark> January 2021	Ethics and Climate Change Click here for zoom meeting PSWD 847777	Karenna Gore, J.D. Center for Earth Ethics, Union Theological Seminary and the Earth Institute of Columbia University
<mark>13</mark> January 2021	Climate Change and Local Leadership – How New York City is Confronting the Climate Crisis and Working Toward a Green Recovery <u>Click here for zoom meeting</u> PSWD 837541	Daniel Zarrilli, P.E., M.S. Chief Climate Policy Advisor and OneNYC Director NYC Office of the Mayor
20 January 2021	Climate Change and Physician Involvement <u>Click here for zoom meeting</u> PSWD 513862	Jonathan Patz, M.D., M.P.H. Professor and the John P. Holton Chair in Health and the Environment, Director of the Global Health Institute, University of Wisconsin-Madison
<mark>28</mark> January 2021	Extreme Events/Natural Disasters: How Did We Get in this Situation? Click here for zoom meeting PSWD 336225	Radley Horton, Ph.D. Lamont Research Professor Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory Columbia University

Past Climate Change Sessions

The Implications of Climate Change on Health and Well-being in the Age of Covid-19	Watch Recording
The Implications of Climate Change on Health and Well-being: Focus on Migration	Watch Recording
The Implications of Climate Change on Global Food Security	Watch Recording
The Implications of Climate Change on Water Resources	Watch Recording
The Implications of Climate Change on Air Quality: Focus on Reducing Carbon Emissions	Watch Recording
Climate Change and Vector-Bourne Diseases	Watch Recording

A Big Thank You to OGHE Donors

Our global health education program relies on outside funding for its continued success. We are grateful to our generous donors who help make it possible to provide funding for our students who wish to take an international elective. Their financial support, in the form of gifts and endowments, allows us to provide this wonderful opportunity without students having to accumulate more debt. As 2020 draws to a close, we gratefully thank our donors for their support.

The Class of 1964 and 1965 funded the **Dr. B.H. Kean Fellowship** in honor and memory of Dr. Kean, a world-renown Infectious Disease physician and one of the most charismatic Professors at Weill Cornell.

Jeffrey and Tondra Lynford funded the Lynford Family International Fellowship, which has enabled scores of Weill Cornell students to take an international elective in a Low- and Middle-Income Country.

The Rosenbluth family provided funds to honor the memory of Dr. Milton B. Rosenbluth. The Dr. Milton B. Rosenbluth Fellowship funds 5 students each year to take an international elective.

The family of the late Joan M. May, one of the early supporters of global health at Weill Cornell, established the **Joan M. May Fellowship** in her memory.

Dr. James Blankenship '80 and his wife, Mary, established the Marian and Jack Blankenship Fellowship in memory of their parents.

The late Dr. Bryant Barnard '62 endowed the Dr. Bryant Barnard International Fellowship as a show of support of our global health education program.

The Scudder family foundation established the Ida S. Scudder, M.D. 1899 Fellowship to honor Dr Scudder, one of the first females to graduate from Cornell medical school.

The Weill Cornell Alumni Association established the **Weill Cornell Medical College Alumni Association Global Health Fellowship** to support the medical school's global health program.

Austrian-based Max Kade Foundation established the Max Kade Foundation Fellowship to enable students to take a 4-week clinical elective in Vienna.

The family of Rolf Fein and benefactor Samuel Fleming established the **Samuel Fleming and Rolf Fein United States European Union Medical Education Exchange Fellowship**, a bilateral exchange program with our partners in Europe.

Drs. Daniel and Sonam Rosberger established the **Sonam and Daniel Rosberger International Fellowship** to enable students to learn about the health care system in Bhutan.

Dr. Madelon Finkel and her sisters, Donna and Nancy, established the Lorraine and Ralph Lubin International Fellowship in honor of their parents.

Special Thanks to Benefactor: Ms. Slifka

Ms. Barbara Slifka has been a long-time supporter of our global health program. Ms. Slifka's generosity has enabled scores of Weill Cornell students to take an international elective, including taking a year off to do research at a host medical center. To show our appreciation and thanks, we have established the **Barbara Slifka Global Health Award** to be awarded to a graduating student at Convocation. The Barbara Slifka prize will be awarded for the first time in 2021.

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we noted the passing of one of our generous benefactors, Dr. Michael Rosenbluth. Dr. Rosenbluth was a tireless champion of global health education at Weill Cornell and delighted in meeting the Rosenbluth Fellows at our annual International Fellows Reception every May. He was a generous, witty, caring man whose efforts helped to provide the means to enable so many medical students to experience first-hand the delivery of medical care to those less fortunate around the world. His children, Dr. Adam B. Rosenbluth '96 and Eliza Rosenbluth Silvester, will carry on the work of the Rosenbluth Foundation.

Taking a clinical elective abroad is considered to be a highlight of the 4th year. Forty-one students in the Class of 2021 applied to take an international elective during Spring term; however, the COVID-19 pandemic made this impossible. The travel ban imposed by Weill Cornell as well as by our partners around the world caused all international electives to be cancelled. Ensuring student safety and health is of paramount concern to us, which the students understand.

Nine 1st year students who were hoping to travel abroad this past summer to conduct research had to cancel their travel plans. However, thanks to the innovative thinking of their mentor, the students manage to complete their research projects without leaving the US. <u>Click here</u> to view the brochure highlighting these students.

Each year, several, students participating in a Global Health Area of Concentration (AOC) travel abroad to conduct research under the guidance of the host mentor. Despite the pandemic, two students managed to travel abroad during early 2020, right before the travel ban was mandated, but had to return home once the pandemic was raging out of control. One student traveled to South Africa to work on an evaluation of the first phase of implementation of the South African Diabetes Prevention Program but returned home after a few weeks to complete her project at home. Another student was involved in a project based in India where she studied the usability and feasibility of a mobile health app to trace patients after GI surgery and returned to the US to complete the project.

SUMMER 2020 RESEARCH FELLOWS



Rachel Abramson

Mentors: Robert Peck, M.D.; Justin Kingery, M.D.; Daniel Fitzgerald, M.D.

Country: Tanzania

Research Title: Longitudinal Cohort Study, Healthcare in Tanzania, the Relationship Between Sex and Cardiac Diastolic Dysfunction



Rinu Alakiu

Mentor: Jennifer Downs, M.D.

Countries: Haiti, Tanzania, United States

Research Title: Barriers Surrounding Work-Life Balance Encountered and Proposed Solutions to Support Women Working in Global Health: A Qualitative Data Analysis from Three Countries



Kathryn M. Broderick

Mentor: Radhika Sundararajan, M.D.

Country: Uganda

Research Title: A Study on Traditional Healer Practices and Connecting Locals to HIV Testing



Yunchan Chen

Mentor: Robert Peck, M.D.

Country: Tanzania

Research Title: Atrial Fibrillation and Mortality in Outpatients with Heart Failure in Tanzania: A Prospective Cohort Study



Arsalan Haghdel

Mentor: Caitlin Hoffman, M.D.

Country: Tanzania

Research Title: Outcomes Research, Epilepsy Database and Epilepsy Management and Surgery in Tanzania





The Global Health Curriculum at WCM

Mentor: Madelon Finkel, Ph.D.

Countries: Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda

Research Title: Gender Based Violence in Five Countries

Natalie Nguyen

Mentor: Jennifer Downs, M.D.

Country: Haiti, India, Tanzania, United States

Research Title: Gender-Based Discrimination and Proposed Solutions to Support Women Working in Global Health: A Qualitative Data Analysis From Four Countries

Kyrie Olsen

Mentor: Ruth Master Creber, Ph.D.

Country: Myanmar

Research Title: Qualitative Research Using Mobile App-Based Data Collection Platform to be Used by Community Health Workers

Chimsom Orakue

Mentor: Onyinye Balogun, M.D.

Country: Africa

Research Title: Constructing a Systematic Review of the Prevalence of Specific HPV Genotypes in African Countries





Class of 2020 Testimonials

Francesca Coxe

Vienna, Austria

"Overall, I am so grateful to the American Austrian Foundation, Max Kade, AKH, and Weill Cornell Medicine Global Health for making this possible. While there were several noted differences between Vienna/AKH and the US, the same anatomy and principles of treatment exist and unify my experiences more than the differences detract. When speaking to one of the surgeons about the Austrian healthcare system, he stated that "[the US and Austrian healthcare systems are] very different systems, with more money in US system, yet many more people fall through...Everyone gets care in Vienna in the public system." Given the tenuous political climate in the US and focus on universal healthcare, perhaps we can learn something from Austria's system.

Orrin Belden

San Vito, Costa Rica

"During my time, I was able to accompany a medical group to an indigenous Ngobe community in deep in the jungle hills of the community to screen children for developmental milestones and give vaccines. The six-week experience in San Vito, Costa Rica was the first time I worked in and observed a different health system. When I enrolled to travel to Costa Rica, my only expectation for the experience was that it was going to be different than my lifestyle in New York City and that the philosophy of providing healthcare would be different. The best aspect of the trip was being able to compare the system of health there to the US."

John Butterworth

Vienna, Austria

"I would recommend this rotation to other students. This rotation challenged me to integrate into a healthcare system despite not being fluent in the primary language spoken. While a challenge, I enjoyed improving my language skills, and was grateful to both physicians and patients who were willing to take extra time to explain things to me. I learned new ways to communicate effectively and respectfully despite cultural or language differences, and feel that I have a greater understanding and appreciation for how Austria approaches healthcare."

Iliana Gutierrez

Lima, Peru

"My primary objective was to learn about the healthcare system in a Latin American country. Being at two large institutions I was able to see a great variety of cases, as well as see how numerous physicians handle patient care. This was a great advantage as I was able to see emergency care, routine clinic care, and the inpatient unit."

Mitali Kini

Vienna, Austria

"My experience working in the General Hospital of Vienna has given me a new perspective of medical care on a Urology service. As a future Urologist, I am excited to have had the opportunity to work with a fantastic group of urologic surgeons at AKH and to learn about interesting patient cases, observe how care is delivered in an international healthcare system, and to observe how surgery is performed."

Andrea Liu

Vienna, Austria

"This elective was an eye-opening experience that allowed me to see how healthcare utilization, doctor-patient relationships, clinical responsibilities, medical team dynamics, and other factors compare in another country and in a country that provides nearly universal healthcare coverage."



Class of 2020 Testimonials continued

Tasher Losenegger

Moshi, Tanzania

"I completed this terrific elective and worked with the otolaryngology unit at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre, where there is a dedicated clinic, an inpatient ward and two ORs. The residency program there is one of only a few in the country. I enjoyed learning about common surgeries and complex cases used as teaching cases presented by affiliated ENTs visiting from the US, the UK or the Netherlands."

Herie Sun

Paris, France

"The lead-up to my rotation was somewhat chaotic, as I had originally been slated to go to Singapore with two other students, but those plans fell through at the last moment due to the rapidly emerging international coronavirus pandemic. Luckily, I was able to arrange a makeup rotation at the American Hospital in Paris. A valuable part of my rotation was the chance to work alongside and spend time with two French medical students, who were in their third year of schooling. I am so happy that I was able to do this rotation. I would highly recommend that students pursue this elective, and encourage them to view this as an opportunity to immerse themselves in the unique culture of Paris and France, as well as to learn more about how healthcare is distributed in other Western nations."

Sven Walderich

Moshi, Tanzania

"Throughout my time at KCMC I was able to learn about a wide variety of fascinating diagnoses that I had never encountered before. From advanced cases of HIV/AIDS complicated by opportunistic infections including toxoplasmosis, cryptococcal meningitis or disseminated TB and advanced liver disease secondary to chronic viral hepatitis, to other infections such as malaria, schistosomiasis, tuberculosis, tetanus and clostridium perfringens as well as interstitial lung disease secondary to occupational exposures in local mines where Tanzanite is sourced, the learning opportunities were endless."

Qianjing Jenny Xia

Thailand

"Much of my time was spent at the Mae Tao Clinic along the Thai-Myanmar border as I completed only the first part of this two-country elective. Due to the pandemic and subsequent travel ban, I could not travel to Bhutan to complete the second part of this elective. The highlights of my experience was learning and sharing knowledge and experience with local Burmese medics, trainees and other volunteer medical students from different countries around the world, and learning about some medical conditions not common to the U.S. and the differences in the healthcare delivery system between the U.S. and Thailand."

David Zhang

Vienna, Austria

"I completed the Max Kade Clinical Elective and had a great time working in the Radiology department for a month, shadowing radiologists and oncologists, and learning about the healthcare system in Vienna."



The COVID-19 pandemic put a screeching halt to our visiting international student clinical electives program. While 73 visiting students managed to complete four-week electives during January, February and March, travel bans that went into effect in April necessitated the cancelling of electives for 96 students from around the world who had hoped to come to Weill Cornell. Sadly, all clinical electives for both domestic and international students are suspended until June 2021.

Visiting International Students Program

OGHE has reached out to alumni of our visiting international clinical electives program and we are very proud how well the students, now young physicians, have done. Many have completed their Residency at US hospitals. We have created a "Where are they now" section on our website. https://international.weill.cornell.edu/visitinginternational-students/where-are-they-now.



Biren Chauhan, MD B.J Medical College, Ahmedabad, India Infectious Diseases, November 2010 Currently Chief Operating Officer of Sunshine Global Hospitals, Gujarat, India



Enad Maher Dawod, MD University of Jordon, Amman Jordon Trauma Surgery — November 2014 Currently an Internal Medicine Fellow at Weill Cornell



Hyasinta Michael Jaka, MD, PhD Hubert Kairuki Memorial University, Tanzania Infectious Diseases, September 2008 Currently the Principal of Mwanza College Of Health and Allied Sciences, Gastroenterologist at Bugando Hospital and Senior Lecturer at Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciencesin Mwanza, Tanzania

Sabine Karam, MD Saint Joseph's University, Beirut, Lebanon Nephrology - June 2005 Currently Head of Nephrology at the University of Balamand in Beirut.



Karine Dookeeram, MD University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies Pulmonary Medicine—March 2012 Pediatric Cardiology—April 2012 Currently working as a Obstetrics and Gynecol-ogist at the Mt. Hope Women's Hospital in Trinidad and Tobago.



Alessandra Kostolias, MD Federal Flumenense University, Brazil Maternal Fetal Medicine, Obstetrics -October 2009 Currently in Private practice as an OBGYN in California



Nikita Garg, MD Lady Hardinge Medicl College, New Delhi, India Pediatric Hematology and Oncology -November 2018 Currently a Pediatric Resident at St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Illinois.



Alejandro Martinez Herrada, MD, FAAP San Fernando Medical School — National University of San Marcos, Peru Pediatric Infectious Diseases — February 2010 Emergency Medicine — March 2010 Currently a Pediatric Critical Care Fellow at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital/Case Western University in Miami, Florida



lorida

Mohammed Ibrahim, MD Faculty of Medicine, Alexandria University, Egypt Otolaryngology/ Head and Neck Surgery — March 2011 Radiology — May 2011 Hematology/ Oncology — June 2011 Currently a Radiology Attending at the Cardiothoracic section of MSMC in Miami Beach,





Interventional Radiology — April 2008 Currently a Clinical Research Fellow at the University of Miamí Miller School of Medicine.



Felix Machleid MD Technical University of Munich, Germany Nephrology Consultation — November 2019 Currently working on MPH in London, England at the Imperial College London



Mariam Victor, MD Qingdoa Medical College, China Urology—September 2014 Currently working on MPH in Sydney, Aus-tralia at Macquire University

COMING SPRING 2021

Climate Change Confernece

In honor of Earth Day 2021, the Office of Global Health Education (OGHE) will be hosting a **1-Day** Climate Change Conference.

Lectures for this conference will include topics such as extreme weather patterns and vector bourne diseases.

For more information and updates regarding this Climate Change conference, please email OGHE at globalhealthta@med.cornell.edu.

Introduction to Global Health Elective

Starting in February 2021, the Office of Global Health Education will be offering its Introduction to Global Health Elective. The faculty of this course are drawn from Weill Cornell community who have extensive research and experience in global health. Each session of this elective will focus on a key topic in global health.

If you are interested and would like to receive more information about the Introduction to Global Health elective course, please send an email to globalhealthTA@med.cornell.edu.





Donors Interview

Dr. Madelon Finkel will be conducting one-on-one interviews with OGHE's donors to gain insights on their motives, expectations, and reasoning behind their contribution to OGHE.

Please look out on our <u>website</u> for our Donors Interview video in the coming months.

To be alerted of video release, send an email to globalhealthTA@med.cornell.edu.

To make a donation online please <u>click here</u>. Under the "About Your Gift, *Designation*," select "Other" and enter "Global Health Education."

If you have questions about making a donation, please contact Dr. Madelon Finkel at maf2011@med.cornell.edu or call 646-962-8038 Weill Cornell Medicine OFFICE OF GLOBAL HEALTH EDUCATION

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Madelon Finkel, PhD Savita Birbal, MA Portia Harvey, MBA Maritza Montalvo, BA Dianne Young, MPH

Ex officio Member: Oliver Fein, MD



Twitter: Follow us @WeillCornellGH

To make a donation, please contact Dr. Madelon Finkel at maf2011@med.cornell.edu or call 646-962-8038

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!





Happy Holidayz





Wishing you Holiday Cheer and a Happy Health New Year from the Office of Global Health Education