



Health Sciences Center for Global Health

The Global Address

Dear Friends,

We hope you had a healthy and happy 2010. This is the time of year when organizations often self-reflect to see where they have been and where they would like to go. As 2010 began we made our wish list and it included:

1. Creating opportunities for students who really want to use their talents to help improve the lives of others in developing countries and want to learn from them as well.
2. Identifying faculty who want to share their expertise, experiences, and commitment to health with the next generation of health care professionals.
3. A medical center CEO and college Deans who support and encourage the global health program because they know it is important to their students, faculty, and staff.
4. A University that places value on students having a global perspective.
5. Buckeyes—yes, the chocolate and peanut butter type.



holiday greetings
from the
Health Sciences Center for Global Health

We are happy to report that all of these goals were achieved to some degree (ok, not the Buckeyes). Thanks to the support of the leaders of the health sciences colleges and the medical center, there are now 65 students in the Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Global Health program representing nine colleges. The Center, in partnership with the Health Sciences Colleges, have funded 17 international field experiences for students from Mexico to Ethiopia, Uruguay to Sierra Leone and many sites in between.

Center co-Director, Daniel Sedmak, MD, taught a global health course at Metro High School that culminated with a trip to China to see some of the concepts students learned in the classroom in action. With our mandate to create an interest in global health careers, the connection with Metro and Westerville Central High Schools allows us to share our passion and hopefully ignite theirs before they decide on majors and careers.

OSU graduate students formed *Buckeyes Without Borders (BWB)* this year. BWB strives to foster global health awareness and the benefits of an interdisciplinary health care team on positive patient outcomes to its members through outreach and education to Ohio State University and Central Ohio communities. We will be covering the activities of BWB as the group develops because they have some great ideas on the drawing board.

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Holiday Greetings Continued from cover

Abigail Norris Turner, PhD, (Medicine) developed a new course for the GISGH program titled, *Advanced Readings in Global Health Research*. Jodi Ford, PhD, PNP, RN, (Nursing) created the course *Introduction to Global Health Research Methods and Design* and Marjean Taylor Kulp, OD, (Optometry) *Special Topics in Vision Science: Global Issues in Optometry and Ophthalmology*. Other faculty members such as Yun Xia, MD, PhD, Jesse Kwiek, PhD, Walter Hull, MD, Abhay Satoskar, MD, PhD, and Shelley Francis, PhD, all shared their time and expertise with students. Additionally, the HSCGH Faculty Advisory group serves as an indispensable link between the Center and their respective colleges and students.

Distinguished guest speakers this year included 2005 Nobel Laureate Barry J. Marshall AC, Amita Umesh Athavale, MD, head of the Department of Chest Medicine and Environmental Pollution Research Center at Seth G.S. Medical College and K.E.M. Hospital in India, and William C. Miller, MD, PhD, MPH, director of the Program in Health Care Epidemiology and Clinical Research in the Gillings School

of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Catherine Lucey, MD, interim dean of the College of Medicine traveled with us to Peru and through her contacts helped create a relationship between the HS Center and the Institute of Tropical Disease at the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia. That partnership will bear fruit in April when the first OSU student attends the Lumbreras Tropical Medicine Course.

This year has been one of rapid growth for the Center and we are grateful to all the people who made that happen. As we think about our goals for 2011 we would love your input. What would you like to see created or improved? The Center doesn't exist for students and faculty to fit into—you help define it and we work for you. So come on, don't hold back, we know you have opinions and we want them!

Now, about those Buckeyes...

Imm Wins AMA Award

Matthew Imm (Med 4) has been recognized with the 2011 AMA Foundation Excellence in Medicine Leadership Award. Imm received the award for his work as the founder, president and CEO of Partnership for Ongoing Developmental, Educational, and Medical Outreach Solutions (PODEMOS), an organization that serves marginalized populations in Honduras. Begun as a student initiative in 2008, PODEMOS has served over 2000 patients during its semiannual service trips to Honduras and now employs a community health worker that monitors pregnant women and chronic conditions in the community when the PODEMOS team is not in the country. To learn more, visit their [website](#).



Matthew Imm, far right, is shown here with other PODEMOS team members during a winter trip to Honduras.

Be the Change: Save a Life

Excerpted from abc.com



ABC News announces a year-long project to focus attention on the diseases and health conditions that disproportionately afflict the world's poorest people. The series, "Be the Change: Save a Life," will kick off in December and continue throughout 2011. A Special Edition of "20/20" anchored by Diane Sawyer highlights the world's top global health issues and gives the audience simple ways to make a difference. As part of the ABC News initiative, a dedicated [website](#) will premiere the same night. For the next year, it will act as a clearing-house for global health information. Viewers who want to know more and get involved will find ways, large and small, to make a difference in their own communities and around the world.

Left: Nine-year-old children in Guatemala are significantly shorter than the World Health Organization's global average height for their age. Chronic malnourishment, which causes stunted growth, is an epidemic in Guatemala. In rural villages, more than 80 percent of the population is stunted (ABCNews).

OSU COM Alum: Anne Eiting Klamar, MD

Anne Eiting Klamar, MD, was the Maurice Mullet Student Alumni Forum speaker on October 28. Dr. Klamar graduated from the OSU College of Medicine and is the president and CEO of Midmark Corporation, a manufacturer of medical, dental and veterinary healthcare equipment.



L to R: Dr. Klamar with Drs Emil Kikwili and Marion Bergman at the Muhimbili University Dental School

The Maurice Mullet forum is an opportunity for current medical students to hear from alumni about the direction their careers have led them. Dr. Klamar shared her passion for global health by describing her trip to Tanzania, Africa and her company's subsequent donation to the Muhimbili University Dental School project.

Klamar's interest in global health did not develop in medical school but started

much later after a business colleague talked to her about a project in Tanzania. They were looking for philanthropic support and invited her to come see the site. "I went to the dental school and it was so dilapidated that I was appalled. I couldn't leave things that way," says Klamar. Midmark Corporation donated equipment to renovate the operator and the steri-center and the whole experience ignited Klamar's desire to be more involved and to include her 13-year-old son as well.

She thinks global health curricula and field experiences are important for medical students and other healthcare professionals, noting that "Africa for example, has 15% of the world's population, 3% of the healthcare providers and 25% of the disease burden. Working there, students gain the satisfaction of knowing they made a positive difference and are doing the kinds of things they went into medicine for. They can learn so much and build their confidence in solving problems. Also, they will never not be appreciative of running water!"

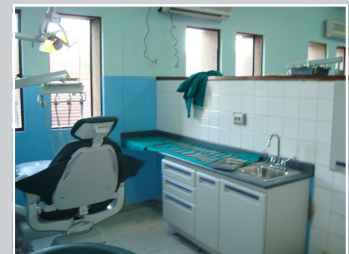
Learn more about Dr. Klamar's experience and interest in global health in next quarter's issue of *The Global Address* where she will be a guest columnist.



Sterilizer before the renovation



Stericenter after the renovation



An operator after the renovation project

Eisenhower Fellow Visits OSU



Amita Umesh Athavale, MD, visited OSU as part of her Eisenhower Fellowship. Students in the Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Global Health had the opportunity to hear her speak about environmental conditions and their connection to health in India. Pulmonary experts Mark Wewers, MD, Karen Wood, MD, Steve Hoffmann, MD, and John Mastronarde,

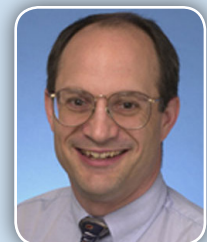
MD, met with Athavale to discuss practices in pulmonary medicine, which is her specialty.

Dr. Athavale heads the Department of Chest Medicine and Environmental Pollution Research Center at the Seth G.S. Medical College and K.E.M. Hospital in Mumbai, India.

Eisenhower Fellowships bring 20-25 Fellows from countries all over the world to the U.S. each year. The competitive fellowships are open to men and women who have "demonstrated significant achievement and are poised to assume positions of substantial influence in their fields." Their up to seven week itineraries are designed to provide opportunities to enhance their leadership skills and broaden their professional networks.

Global Health Scientist Speaks at OSU

On November 29, William C. Miller, MD, PhD, MPH, was the featured speaker of a lecture jointly sponsored by the Center for Microbial Interface Biology and the Health Sciences Center for Global Health.



Dr. Miller, who presented, "The future of HIV prevention in Africa: Is acute HIV infection important?" is the director of the Program in Health Care Epidemiology and Clinical Research at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. His research interests are in the areas of global health, infectious disease, and women's health.

Students enrolled in the Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Global Health had the opportunity to have lunch with Dr. Miller and discuss career opportunities in global health.



Dr. Tarira (center) visiting the home of the first woman to receive nevirapine in a rural area to prevent mother-to-child-transmission (MTCT). The woman, Sabina, was the first HIV-positive pregnant woman to volunteer for the clinical trial at St. Albert's to show that rural hospitals are capable of administering the drug to prevent MTCT. Her son, who is HIV-negative, is on Dr. Tarira's right.



My Take: Why St. Albert's

by Darrell Ward

My admiration for the three women doctors, Elizabeth Tarira, Neela Naha, and Julia Musariri, who run St. Albert's Mission Hospital in Zimbabwe began during a visit to the hospital in December 2000 when a large delivery truck from the country's central medical supply arrived.

The hospital's Zimbabwean director, Elizabeth Tarira, MD, MPH, expected the truck to deliver 131 basic hospital items, but it brought just 17 of them. Missing were scalpel blades—the hospital had requested 1,000 each of four different sizes—sutures, crutches, surgical and exam gloves, disposable syringes, catheters, urinary drainage bags, gauze dressings, umbilical-cord clamps, autoclave control tape and many other items, including drugs. Following each missing item on the manifest were the words “Out of stock, please re-order.”

Zimbabwe's economy even then was in such a shambles it couldn't meet even the fundamental needs of its hospitals—and conditions in the country would soon become much worse. But this 140-bed hospital was the only one available to more than 115,000 impoverished people in this area of Zimbabwe some 120 miles north of the capital city of Harare.

St. Albert's, which serves an 1,800 square mile area, resides in a beautiful area of northern Zimbabwe on the edge of the Zambezi escarpment. Patients arrive on foot and by ox cart or kombi from villages on the escarpment and from the poorer, dryer, malaria-ridden Zambezi Valley down below. Some come from Mozambique.

My admiration for Dr. Tarira and the hospital's staff grew further when she took me to the hospital's Farm Project, 100 hectares

of land that she'd acquired for growing maize, peanuts, potatoes, green vegetables, carrots, beans, tomatoes—and pigs. The project provides food for hospital patients, and any surplus is sold to pay the farm workers.

I came to know the hospital's other programs and services: voluntary HIV/AIDS counseling and testing; home-based care for the chronically ill; matching orphans with donors who pay their school fees; caring for young, abandoned pregnant women and women with troubled pregnancies. Back home, I gave talks to help them and the people they served.



The Water Project reservoir

In 2004, a long-running drought was drying up the hospital's wells. Fearing the hospital might be forced to close, Dr. Tarira embarked on the Water Project. The initiative involved damming a seasonal stream that ran through the farm project to create a reservoir that would provide a back-up water supply. The project's success relied entirely on the generosity of donors.

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Darrell Ward is the associate director of cancer communications at The Ohio State University Medical Center and the author of *The AmFAR AIDS Handbook: the Complete Guide to Understanding HIV and AIDS* (W.W.Norton, 1999).

A friend at Ohio State helped me set up a website to help Dr. Tarira raise funds for the project. In Zimbabwe, inflation was out of control, reaching unbelievably into the millions of percent by early 2009. Spare-parts shortages and fuel costs slowed progress, but by March 2006, a reservoir shimmered in the sun and pipe was being laid from an adjacent holding tank to the hospital's water towers.

By late 2008, a purification system was in place and the Water Project was helping sustain the hospital. Dr. Tarira succeeded through dogged determination.

Through their dedication and perseverance the doctors of St. Albert's have endured national economic catastrophe, episodic political violence, and collapse of their country's health system. In 2009, a small group of volunteers came together to form Better Healthcare for Africa, Inc. (BHA), a 501(c)3 that seeks tax-deductible donations to help keep the hospital running.

In 2010 BHA provided supplies and equipment to the hospital, including an X-ray film processor and over 800 sutures. We are working with Brother's Brother Foundation to facilitate the shipment of containers of medical supplies to St. Albert's and other mission hospitals in Zimbabwe in 2011.

We also use our experiences and interactions with St. Albert's to interest and excite American students about global health and the value and rewards of doing service abroad and at home.

Since 2006, we've facilitated volunteer work at the hospital by



St. Albert's Mission Hospital

five nursing students and one young physician, a fellow in pediatrics. Other education efforts include giving talks at colleges and high schools about the challenges facing the doctors at St. Albert's and the people living in the region.

In spring 2011, Abby Davids, a fourth-year medical student and MPH candidate here at Ohio State, will be volunteering at St. Albert's. For her honors project in Family Medicine, Abby is writing on the BHA website about her trip and preparations for it. Her entries should help other students prepare for their own volunteer efforts, as well as provide interesting reading for the rest of us.

Please visit our [website](#) to follow Abby and other BHA activities. BHA is a tax-exempt volunteer organization with minimal overhead, so all donations are used to support BHA's mission and programs.



Dr. Julia Musariri giving HIV/AIDS education to people picking up their antiretroviral therapy.



Orphans being taught to farm at St. Albert's farm project



Volunteer home-based care workers



Child with burned hands in rehab

Farm-to-Table Study Program

This past October, faculty members Armando Hoet, DVM, PhD, and Thomas Wittum, MS, PhD, along with four Veterinary Public Health specialization students, took part in a "Farm-to-Table Study Program." The program took place in three southern cities of Uruguay, and was organized by OSU, the University of Minnesota (UMN), the Universidad de la Republica in Uruguay, and the Uruguay Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture, and Fishery.

OSU MPH-VPH students Janet Buffer, Caitlin Lacey, Pouneh Behin, and Rachel Chouinard participated in the program. The students received scholarships from the Health Sciences Center for Global Health, the College of Veterinary Medicine, OARDC and the UMN. Participant Caitlin Lacey said, "While the trip was very beneficial educationally, I also had an extraordinary experience interacting with individuals from other countries."



Explanation on fish quality and processing at the Fish Plant "La Serrana" by the national director of livestock services

Throughout the 5-day trip the group visited over 12 establishments across southern Uruguay and developed a better understanding of the beef and dairy cattle-related food systems in Uruguay in comparison to the US and other countries, and its impact on animal health and welfare, food safety, international commerce, the environment, and public health.

Seeing Ghana



Thomas Mauger, MD, chairman of the OSU Department of Ophthalmology, spent his Thanksgiving vacation on a medical mission trip to Akrosa Township in Ghana. This year he was accompanied by resident Adam Cloud, MD, and 4th year medical student Sarah Hilkert. He first visited the township at the request of a

patient who was from the village and mentioned that there was no eye care available. That was five years ago and Mauger has been there every year since. He tries to take a resident on each trip for the opportunity to see a different health system and a different culture as well as hands-on experience with a different method of cataract surgery. Though he did perform a corneal transplant as well as a conjunctival flap for infections, he mostly does cataract surgeries and notes there is a high rate of glaucoma.



charity: water at OSU

by Amanda Postalakis

Four OSU departments, the Office of International Affairs, the Office of Outreach & Engagement, the Health Sciences Center for Global Health and the International Program for Water Management in Agriculture, collaborated with two Upper Arlington schools to teach students about the lack of clean water in the world. The benefit? Together, the three institutions have raised enough money to build one water well in a developing country. It will be called The OSU/UA Collaboration Water Well and we will know its GPS coordinates in the summer of 2012.

This journey began with Dr. Gee's words, "We have a limitless capacity to do good in the world." So began the effort to work with [charity: water](#) to raise awareness and funds. The Ohio Union hosted a talk given by Lane Wood of charity: water on October 19, 2010. charity: water is a well known New York 501c(3) that helps build water wells and establishes sanitation services in developing countries. OSU's First Year Experience program tied this project to the book "No Impact Man."

The project exceeded its goal of building a water well by raising \$5,660. The average cost of a well is approximately \$5,000. Because of these efforts, others will get clean water, sanitation services, better health and a better life.

To learn more about this program, contact [Amanda Postalakis](#).

Buckeyes Without Borders

Buckeyes Without Borders (BWB) strives to foster global health awareness and the benefits of an interdisciplinary health care team on positive patient outcomes to its members through outreach and education to the Ohio State and Central Ohio communities.

Buckeyes Without Borders currently has over 90 members from dentistry, medicine, nursing, optometry, pharmacy, public health, SAMP, and veterinary medicine who are working together to create service projects locally and abroad. Currently BWB is conducting monthly meetings to give all of its members a more in-depth view of the training, job opportunities and impact that their respective fields have on global health! Please [contact them](#) for more information.

