



Health Sciences Center for Global Health

# The Global Address

## On the Road in Uganda

## Interdisciplinary Learning

In 2009, *A Strategic Plan for Health Sciences Collaboration* was developed and approved by the Colleges of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Optometry, Pharmacy, Public Health, and Veterinary Medicine.

The plan outlined strategic initiatives including promoting collaborative outreach, specifically:

- Developing an outreach program to coordinate students and staff from different colleges and disciplines to engage in community service and learning opportunities, introducing students to applied health, wellness, and disease management concepts in community settings, focusing on health promotion and care delivery, and reaching out to urban, rural, poor and underserved populations.
- Leveraging the NIH Fogarty grant for global health awarded to Ohio State to provide international experiences for students—forming teams to travel internationally on service and learning missions.

It was with these initiatives in mind as well as the objectives of the Center's NIH Fogarty International grant, that the Health Sciences Center for Global Health (HSCGH) began exploring the possibility of a field experience involving students from multiple disciplines. In September, the first multidisciplinary team went to Kampala, Uganda working through the organization, Global Youth

Partnership for Africa. Students from the Colleges of Public Health, Medicine, Nursing, and Veterinary Medicine had their own individual goals in addition to the team goal of learning more about each other's respective fields. Collaboration among the Center and the Health Sciences Colleges provided funding to make the trip possible.

The team consisted of James Rosenblum (CPH), Angela Jiang (COM), Judith Stella (CVM), Rebecca Lauer (CVM), Cara Rice (CPH) and Jessica Blank (CON). The trip was loosely organized so that students pursued their individual interests for the first two days and then re-formed as a group for the remainder of the two-week trip. The result was a validation of the idea that interdisciplinary teams enhance the learning experience and in the words of Angela Jiang, "It really spoke to me how, in order to provide relief to a global health problem, it would have to be through a concerted team effort with members from other parts of the health care field." All the students returned with a similar appreciation for the broader perspective they were able to gain as a result of seeing health in Uganda through the lens of another discipline.



At the Murchison Falls National Park (top, l to r): Becky Lauer, Angela Jiang, Jessica Blank, James Rosenblum, Cara Rice and Judi Stella

Daniel Sedmak, MD, the principal investigator of the Fogarty grant and the HSCGH co-director sees the trip as the culmination of an idea envisioned four years ago as well as the beginning of a new way of teaching healthcare professionals. "Providing integrated training among our health sciences students is not only aligned with OSU's "One University" philosophy but also reflects the shift away from training professional students in silos and towards interactions early in their academic careers with their colleagues in other disciplines. In addition to a better understanding of how they can work together to more effectively provide patient care or conduct research, integrated training provides students the opportunity to learn communication skills, conflict management, and how to utilize their unique strengths in a healthcare team setting."



Becky Lauer  
DVM candidate  
College of Veterinary Medicine

"It is a really good idea to send a team of students in different disciplines somewhere together because they are able to ... learn about different global health aspects from each other. For example, I learned about health care in Mulago Hospital from Angela and Jessica. Cara was the one who informed me on just how large of a scale the orphan problem is due to the AIDS epidemic. James taught me a lot about water treatment and how it is done. And in turn, Judi and I taught the others about animal health and conservation issues. In fact, I feel like a lot of my learning came from conversations with the others and talking about what all of us discovered."



## My Take: Reflections on Uganda

Below are excerpts from the student's reports. You can read [more on our website](#).



Angela Jiang, MS  
MD Candidate  
College of Medicine

"Every evening during and after dinner, our conversations would inevitably turn to discussing what we had seen that day—what problems there were and what solutions we envisioned. It was groundbreaking for me to see completely different ways of approaching problems, or how each of us would see different problems in the same situation, depending on our field and training. For example, when we were at the Nyamungo slum, I was really focusing on malnutrition, malaria, and cholera. However, the environmental health student really opened my eyes to how their problems with wastewater treatment was a core issue on why those diseases were so prevalent. It even got to the point where towards the end of the trip, some of us were wishing that we were in school to be trained in another person's field! For example, I was very frustrated while there that I felt I could only personally provide a short-term "Band-Aid" measure of relief, since I believe many of the biggest problems stem from an issue in infrastructure, or in policy. To that end, I felt that I would only be able to make long-term, sustainable solutions, by working in public health and changing policy. Conversely, the public health student felt frustrated that she couldn't be as hands-on and fix things immediately, as she could if she was a pediatrician. It really spoke to me how, in order to provide relief to a global health problem, it would have to be through a concerted team effort with members from other parts of the healthcare field."



James Rosenblum, MPH  
PhD candidate in Environmental  
Health Sciences  
College of Public Health

"[Planning] presented a challenge since we wanted to include experiences for the group that allowed the students to gain first-hand experiences in their respective fields and to share this experience with their fellow students. Overall, I believe this was successfully done, since each student had their opportunity to educate the group about what [they] saw in Uganda, and explain ... the differences and similarities in the U.S. This made for excellent conversation, and [was] simply a great way to educate the others about each student's field of study."





## My Take: Reflections on Uganda

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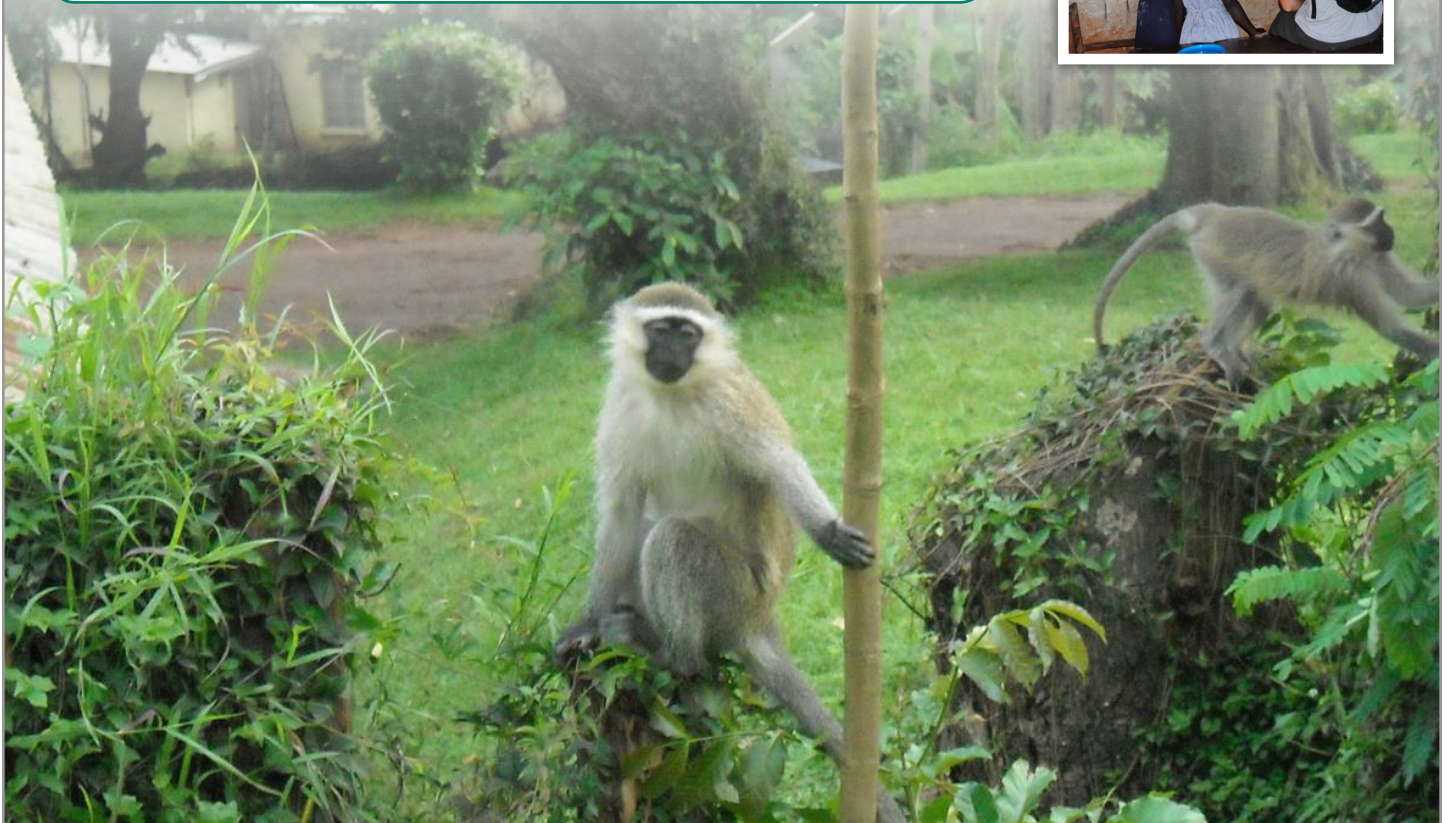
Cara Rice, MPH  
PhD candidate in Epidemiology  
College of Public Health

"If I am honest, I had my reservations about the interdisciplinary nature of the trip. In the planning stages, I felt like this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity—one in which I wanted to soak up every possible minute learning about the things I am most passionate about (reproductive health, HIV, and children). However, I cannot overemphasize how much I learned from the interdisciplinary nature of the group and our interests. I could have left Uganda with a very skewed picture of the country had I spent all of my time in HIV clinics, with HIV researchers, and with "AIDS orphans." But, instead, I left Uganda with a broad (although there is still much to learn) understanding of what life in that country looks like. Because of the interdisciplinary group, every day was enhanced as an educational opportunity. I feel more confident that I understand more about the challenges Ugandan residents face, which, ultimately, is necessary if I want to help that population."



Judi Stella  
PhD candidate in Comparative  
and Veterinary Medicine  
College of Veterinary Medicine

"The interdisciplinary aspect of the trip was unique and educational. I think hearing about different experiences and interpretations of the same experience were invaluable. Everyone brought something different to the table. The goal of the GISGH program is to gain respect for each other and our respective disciplines and to acquire the skills needed to work together on large-scale problems. I believe all required practicum's should aim to be interdisciplinary. It is real world experience that cannot be imitated by doing group projects in a classroom setting. I am proud to have been a part of this group. I have made friends and contacts that I hope to collaborate with on future projects after graduation."





## Costa Rica is Pura Vida! (Full of life)

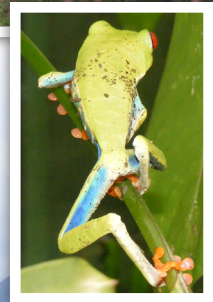
An understanding of global health is inextricably linked to understanding the role that environment plays in the health of a population. Students from Metro and Westerville Central High Schools participating in the S.T.E.M. Bodies program had the opportunity to go to Costa Rica this past July. The Bodies program focuses on biomedical sciences and is an early college experience for which the students receive OSU credits.

The trip was the culmination of a course, "Global Health in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" taught by Daniel Sedmak, MD, co-director of the OSU Health Sciences Center for Global Health. Led by Jeff Lehman, PhD, a professor in the Department of Biology and Earth Sciences at Otterbein College and Eric Rothacker, PhD, a lecturer at OSU in the Center for Life Sciences Education, the sojourn focused on global health, medicinal plants, conservation and sustainability, and the culture of one of the indigenous tribes of Costa Rica. A shaman from the Bribri tribe demonstrated some of that cultures traditional medical practices to the students.

Students visited the National Biodiversity Institute (INBio), Monteverde Cloud Forest Biological Reserve, Finca Educativa—a sustainable farm, and Finca Nueva Luna to study medicinal plants. In addition, owing to the incredible biodiversity of Costa Rica they were able to experience cloud and rain forests as well as primary and secondary forests all in the same trip. According to INBio, Costa Rica is one of the 20 countries with the greatest biodiversity in the world and the over 500,000 species that account for nearly 4% of total species worldwide.

Other highlights included walking over lava fields while hiking around Arenal Volcano, one of the 10 most active volcanoes in the world, spending two nights with the indigenous BriBri Indian Tribe and visiting the Torrugeuro National Park. Finally, students visited two medical clinics and a hospital to learn about health care in Costa Rica.

*Dr. Sedmak teaches the course at Metro High School as part of a NIH training grant from the Fogarty International Center for which he serves as the principal investigator.*



### HELP WANTED!

Ever dream of taking part in a global health experience but haven't found the right one?

[PODEMOS](#) is a grass-roots medical outreach organization supported by medical, law, nurse practitioner and pharmacy students. Each year, the organization sponsors two missions to villages outside of El Progreso, Honduras. We are currently seeking attending physicians, resident physicians and nurse practitioners who would be willing to accompany the group on their upcoming mission from December 26 to January 2.

As a health care provider, you will supervise primary care visits for residents of the three communities served by the group. Accommodations are in a nearby hotel where meals are provided. Internet is available as well.

[Questions?](#)



# THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

## Faculty, Staff and Student News

### Global Health Symposium

"If you are involved in volunteer clinical outreach services at resource-poor international sites, come share what you do and network with other clinicians who share an interest in global health." That was the invitation that went out and on September 6, and more than 30 people responded to the call to discuss their international work as well as to learn what other clinicians are doing.



Thomas Mauger, MD



Daniel Sedmak, MD

Organized by College of Medicine faculty Thomas Mauger, MD, chairman, Department of Ophthalmology and Daniel Sedmak, MD, director, Office of Global Health Education, both of whom have delivered care in developing countries, the meeting was meant to facilitate connections among interested clinicians to get a sense of the scope of work done around the world by OSU clinicians/nurses/healthcare professionals. "Ideally, we would like to create a list of service/mission trips led by OSU clinicians that students, residents or faculty could participate on when suitable."

If you provide clinical service in a developing country and would be interested in including health sciences students or residents on a trip please contact [Daniel Sedmak, MD](#) or [Pamela Potter](#).

### Farm-to-Table Program

The "Farm-to-Table Study Program" will take place October 31-November 4, 2011 in Costa Rica. This is a collaborative effort between Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica, the University of Minnesota and the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine. Armando Hoet, DVM, PhD, represents OSU in the collaborative.

Participants will have the opportunity to learn how the USDA, FDA, and international regulations are applied to the food industry in a developing country, where a large percent of such products are exported to the U.S. and the European Union.

### 2011 Global Health Conference

Mark your calendars for November 13-15 when the Canadian Society for International Health, the Consortium of Universities for Global Health and the Global Health Education Consortium jointly present the 2011 Global Health Conference, Advancing Health Equity in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, in Montreal, Canada. Visit the conference [website](#) to register or for more information.

### Student Publishing Opportunity

The American Medical Student Association's [Global Pulse Journal](#) is an open access, medical student edited, online journal dedicated to sharing the international health experiences of all students, from pre-meds to residents and other allied health professionals (MPH, Nursing, Dentistry, etc). They are currently accepting [submissions](#) for the Fall 2011 issue on Global Health Education. You can also [request to join](#) their mailing list to find out about upcoming publishing deadlines, opportunities for students to join their editorial staff, and ongoing project collaborations.

### 2012 Critical Language Scholarship Program

**Deadline: November 15, 2011**

The United States Department of State announced the scholarship competition for the 2012 Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program for overseas intensive summer language institutes in thirteen critical need foreign languages. CLS institutes provide fully-funded group-based intensive language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experiences for seven to ten weeks for U.S. citizen undergraduate and graduate students. Students may apply for one language, and will be placed at institute sites based on language evaluations after selection.

Languages offered: Arabic, Azerbaijani, Bangla/Bengali, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Punjabi, Russian, Turkish, and Urdu.

Interested applicants should review the full eligibility and application information on the [CLS Program website](#).

### Global Health & Innovation Conference 2012

Unite For Sight is hosting the Global Health & Innovation Conference 2012 at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut from Saturday, April 21 through Sunday, April 22, 2012.

The Global Health & Innovation Conference is the world's largest global health conference. The conference annually convenes 2,200 leaders, changemakers, students, and professionals from all fields of global health, international development, and social entrepreneurship. [Register](#) before October 31 to secure the lowest registration rate.

### Global Policy Program in Geneva

**Deadline: November 28, 2011**

The Duke Program on Global Policy and Governance in Geneva, Switzerland is now accepting applications for 2012 from graduate and professional students from all disciplines interested in issues of global policy and governance. The program offers students unparalleled access to internships in Geneva-based institutions, the opportunity to learn directly from experts working to resolve some of the world's biggest challenges, and a community of fellow students from around the world.

Additional details about the program and admission requirements can be found on their [website](#). For questions, [e-mail](#) or call 919-613-9289.

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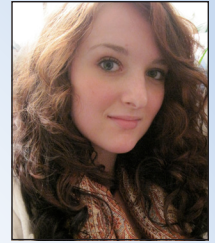
[www.globalhealth.osu.edu](http://www.globalhealth.osu.edu)





## the Undergraduate Perspective

From the time we were children, we have been told by parents and teachers that any journey, no matter how long or daunting, begins with a single step.



by Katie Ferman

This is certainly true for Ayla Cash, undergraduate student and President of the Global Health Initiative at Ohio State. Standing in the bustling Performance Hall of the Union at the 2011 Student Involvement Fair, she hands out flyers to passing students and proclaims: "Are you interested in global health? Then this is the club for you!"

To Ayla, and certainly to many undergraduates at Ohio State, the first, "single step" is perhaps the most important—recruiting others to the cause. As she continues to pass out flyers, she explains the group's mission:

"Currently, one billion people in the world lack access to health care systems, and approximately 11 million children under the age of five die from malnutrition and preventable diseases each year. As the premier undergraduate global health organization on campus, GHI is dedicated to increasing awareness and providing educational opportunities related to global health issues such as these."

Ayla and her colleagues have certainly striven to meet the challenge. Not only have they held numerous campus events and conferences highlighting such disparities, but they have reached out to the community via local volunteering at clinics and their high school outreach program. Members have also traveled to the Dominican Republic and India to work in local health clinics and hospitals and are planning to go abroad once again this upcoming summer.

The Global Health Initiative is not alone in the fight to improve global health. Several undergraduate students have also taken the initiative to establish campus chapters of national non-profits, such as the ONE Campaign and Global Public Health Brigades. A short distance away from the GHI table is the booth for Project Nicaragua, one particular example of such an organization that has made its indelible mark in undergraduate global health at Ohio State. Seva Khambadkone, the President of Project

Nicaragua at OSU, wastes no time in explaining the group's vision:

"Global health defines itself in two ways. First, it refers to the health of the globe, or all people of all circumstances. Second, global health is also global in that it holistically considers all factors that tie into health: medical care, nutrition, maternal education, income level, etc. Project Nicaragua addresses both definitions by focusing our efforts on underserved populations in Nicaragua and working not only to better medical care but also to reduce socioeconomic factors contributing to poor health."

*Many undergraduate students have taken the "single step" mentality a step further and founded their own global health groups, unique to the Ohio State campus.*

Over the past several years, the members of Project Nicaragua have raised tens of thousands of dollars to build an agricultural and technical school in the Nicaraguan community of Rancho Grande, as well as collecting hundreds of used eyeglasses to benefit the Nicaraguan people. Members also participate in yearly service trips to Nicaragua and are planning to create nutrition programs and sewing and craft programs for the people of Rancho Grande this upcoming year.

Many undergraduate students have taken the "single step" mentality a step further and founded their own global health groups, unique to the Ohio State campus. One of these groups is the Pure Water Access Project (PWAP), a charitable, educational, and research organization founded by current students at Ohio State. One of the primary goals of the group, explains PWAP member Alex Chaitoff as I stop to read the tri-fold, is to test water filtering systems in developing

countries to determine not just their use as a technology, but also their feasibility as an addition to the local culture. A short distance away from the Pure Water Access Project booth stands another table devoted to global health, the Global Nutrition Club at OSU. As I walk past, President Lauren Saunders hands me a flyer and begins to press upon me the importance of nutrition both in developing nations and here in Columbus.

"[The Global Nutrition Club] not only helps the world around us, but also provides students with the opportunity to grow and prosper in a field they truly enjoy. We believe that everyone should have the option of proper nutrition in their own lives, and we will strive to make this a reality not only from a global perspective, but a local one, too."

No one could more agree with this sentiment than Julie Humbel-Courtney. As the Scholars Coordinator for the Health Sciences Scholars program on campus, Julie devotes her time teaching incoming students to get involved in global healthcare issues locally. She says that student global health organizations at the undergraduate level are a key component in sparking an interest in our future doctors and leaders to do their part to better the world. "Exposure to globally-minded methods to solve current healthcare challenges leads to local action on the part of enthusiastic students who wish to leave their mark on the world. You could say that such exposure has a profound 'ripple effect' here at Ohio State."

Whether a journey of single steps or a wave that builds from a ripple, the quest to provide adequate health care to those around the world begins with the undergraduate students who believe that with a bit of hard work (and a lot of flyers), the people of tomorrow may enjoy healthier lives than those of today.

*Katie Ferman is an undergraduate student majoring in International Studies and Environmental Policy and Management, and the Coordinator of International Volunteering for the Global Health Initiative at Ohio State.*

# 1<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Pathogens at the Human-Animal Interface

The inaugural [International Congress on Pathogens at the Human-Animal Interface](#) (ICOPHAI) was held at the United Nations Conference Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia September 15-17. The event was organized by the **VPH Biotech Global Consortium**, a consortium founded at The Ohio State University, College of Veterinary Medicine's Department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine in partnership with collaborating institutes in eastern Africa, Latin America and Asia-Pacific.

The goals of the congress were stimulating scientific information exchange, fostering professional networking among the various disciplines engaged in prevention and control of zoonotic infectious diseases and raising awareness of the significance of zoonotic diseases to policy makers, consumers and scientists around the world.

The congress attracted 356 registrants from 35 countries of every continent. Speakers from OSU included College of Veterinary Medicine Dean Lonnie King, DVM, who gave a keynote address on "Confronting Infectious Diseases in an Interconnected World," Linda Saif, PhD, Food Animal Health Research Program and Larry Schlesinger, MD, director of the OSU Center for Microbial Interface Biology (CMIB). Additionally, William Brustein, PhD, vice provost for Global Strategies and International Affairs delivered a speech on the significance of global partnerships. OSU Professor Wondwossen Gebreyes, DVM, PhD, served as the Chairperson of the congress and several faculty members also served on the organizing and scientific planning

committees including from the College of Veterinary Medicine Bayleyegn Molla, DVM, PhD; Gireesh Rajashekara, DVM, PhD; Prosper Boyaka, PhD; and Armando Hoet, DVM, PhD, and from the College of Medicine, Joanne Turner, PhD; and Abhay Satoskar, MD, PhD.

Other world-renowned keynote and plenary speakers included Maria Giovanni, PhD, National Institutes of Health; Cecil Czerkinsky, PhD, International Vaccine Institute; Frank Brombacher, PhD, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology and Karen Nelson, PhD, J. Craig Venter Institute. More than 100 posters and 45 short slide presentations were delivered in the eight thematic sessions. OSU was also represented by seven professional and graduate students from the Colleges of Veterinary Medicine, Public Health, Medicine and Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences who gave oral and poster presentations on service learning projects in eastern Africa funded by the Battelle Endowment for Technology and Human Affairs (BETHA). Faculty members

from the International Poverty Solutions Collaborative included Howard Goldstein, PhD, and Ann O'Connell, PhD.

The VPH Biotechnology Global Consortium is grateful for the generous financial sponsorship by several partners including the USAID, USDA, NIH Fogarty International Center, BETHA, CDC, Tuskegee University, MTNGS, National Pork Board, Food and Agricultural Organization and internal sponsors including the OSU Office of Research, the Office of the Vice Provost for Global Strategies and International Programs, the Health Sciences Center for Global Health, Public Health Preparedness for Infectious Diseases, Department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine and the College of Veterinary Medicine.

More details and video presentations of the congress and other details can be accessed at the congress [website](#). The next ICOPHAI congress will be held in Brazil in the summer of 2013.

## Conference Speakers from OSU

Lonnie King, DVM  
Linda Saif, PhD  
Larry Schlesinger, MD  
William Brustein, PhD  
Wondwossen Gebreyes, DVM, PhD

## Conference Committee Members from OSU

Bayleyegn Molla, DVM, PhD  
Gireesh Rajashekara, DVM, PhD  
Prosper Boyaka, PhD  
Armando Hoet, DVM, PhD  
Joanne Turner, PhD  
Abhay Satoskar, MD, PhD

