

In This Issue

January 2015

[Global Health Fair](#)

[Education](#)

[Development](#)

[Steering Committee](#)

[Housing](#)

Dear Colleague,

We are proud to launch the first issue of the Global Health newsletter to keep the Rutgers community informed about events, initiatives, projects and other international activities of the Office of Global Health and by the faculty and students at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. We hope that you enjoy reading the highlights and will keep us informed about global health initiatives in your area.

Javier I. Escobar, MD,
Associate Dean for Global Health
Professor of Psychiatry, and
Family Medicine and Community Health

Global Health Fair Held December 3

The 2014 Global Health Fair was held on December 3 in the Arline and Henry Schwartzman Courtyard at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, in New Brunswick. The event featured keynote speaker Mafudia Suaray, MD, a physician in Family Medicine and Community Health at the medical school, who spoke on Ebola and efforts to eradicate the virus in the affected areas of Africa.





All Robert Wood Johnson medical students returning from summer rotations or global health electives presented posters at the event. Faculty and students from throughout the Rutgers community also displayed posters highlighting work related to the university's global health initiatives.

The Global Health Fair is jointly sponsored by our Office of Global Health at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and the The Centers for Global

Advancement and International Affairs.

International Initiatives

Chronic, Severe Mental Disorders in Rural Areas of the Dominican Republic: Team-building and Discussion Groups' Project

In July, an interdisciplinary team from Rutgers traveled to the Dominican Republic through a GAIA funded grant. Susan Caplan, PhD, RN, from nursing, Javier Escobar, MD, from global health and psychiatry at the medical school, Karen Lin, MD, from family medicine and community health at the medical school, and Luis Facundo from urban planning were accompanied by medical students, Kaila Queen, Ritu Nahaar and Jonathan Tsui, and nursing students, Grismer Gonzalez and Erica Clerjuste.

As a result of focus groups conducted with community and healthcare leaders in five communities, as well as with international aid workers, the team will provide advice and technical assistance for health services identified as "in need." These include mental health services focused on communities, addressing stigma about mental illness, cultural issues that create barriers to care for people with severe mental illness, and other issues such as domestic violence, recognized by the focus groups as a substantial concern in the country.

The team's visit to Padre Billini Hospital, the country's major, public psychiatric in-patient facility, was highlighted in local news media and Dr. Caplan joined local healthcare providers on a television program to discuss interfamilial violence and the initiatives of "Escuelas de Familias." The Rutgers team also met with the Minister of Mental Health, the Taiwanese Ambassador to the Dominican Republic and members of the Office of the First Lady, all of whom expressed support for the initiative.

In Collaboration with...Tanzania

Dr. Escobar and other steering group members attended a reception for the delegation of Tanzania organized by GAIA, during which the President of Tanzania and Dr. Richard Edwards, vice president for Academic Affairs at Rutgers, signed a collaboration agreement with the University of



Dodoma.

The group also met Dr. Neema Rusibamayila, an officer from the Ministry of Health, Republic of Tanzania, and briefly discussed potential collaborations in the areas of global health between universities in the Republic of Tanzania and Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

Education News in Global Health

Thought-evoking Lunchtime Seminars on Ethics

Francis Barchi, PhD, has hosted monthly lunchtime Ethics Seminars for medical students interested in global health. During the hour-long class, Dr. Barchi introduces case studies relevant to ethical research and medical practices that help students see beyond their immediate horizon. The seminars are thought evoking, interactive and well-liked by the students. Check the [Lecture Schedule](#) for future seminars.

Welcome International Students

Our program continues to attract students from around the globe for global health rotations at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. This year, two students each from Tzu-Chi University, Taiwan, and from Hyogo Medical College, Japan, completed rotations with us. In addition, two students from the Medical University of Graz in Austria, completed a four-week rotation with us under the supervision of Dr. Karen Lin: Marie Luise Zwolfer in the department of Anesthesia and Tanja Villits in Family Medicine, Endocrinology, Radiology, and Obstetrics and Gynecology.



We are expecting five new students from Taiwan, Japan and Guatemala in 2015, along with additional students who may be selected for elective rotations at the medical school through the AAMC's GHLO program.

Studying Abroad

In 2014, we have placed and supported (with partial scholarships ranging from \$350 to \$450 each) 35 medical students in rotations abroad, including 13 third- and fourth-year medical students who completed global health electives in Bangladesh, San Salvador de Jujuy, Argentina; Kottayam District Hospital in Kerela, India; Cambodia; Center for Public Health, Indonesia; Hyogo College of Medicine in Japan; Coptic Medical Association; National Taiwan University; Ghana; and Singapore.

Of the first-year students, seven went to our collaborative program at Universidad San Francisco de Quito, in Quito, Ecuador, with emphasis on Medical Spanish; seven went to the Himalayan Health Exchange program in India; three went to our close

affiliate, the CES Medical School in Medellin, Colombia; two went to the "Promise to Peru" program, a collaboration with Stony Brook University in the sacred valley of Peru; and one student went to the culture and community health program in Oaxaca, Mexico, a collaborative program with Peter Guarnaccia, PhD, from the Institute for Health at Rutgers.

Under the direction of Vicente Gracias, MD, dean (interim) and Gregory Peck, MD, from the Trauma Unit at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, fellows from the school's surgical trauma program went to Universidad del Valle and Hospital Universitario in Cali, Colombia, to do a six-week rotation. Highlighted in local Colombian media, the successful experience provided the host institution with technical and academic assistance, while the visiting team from Rutgers gained access to a unique patient population, as The University Hospital in Cali treats more than 8,500 patients with closed and penetrating injuries, each year.

New Collaborative Agreements

The Office of Global Health is developing new Memos of Understanding (MOU) with the following institutions: East-West Medical College & Hospital, Bangladesh; Universidad del Valle, Fundacion Cardio Infantil, CES Medical School, Colombia; University of Limerick, Ireland; and Universidad de la Plata and Universidad Austral, Argentina.

Global Health Elective

The Office of Global Health is again offering an elective course entitled "A Primer on Global Health" as part of the Masters of Biomedical Sciences program. This year, we have 18 students participating, the highest number in our three-year history.

The instructors for the course include our dedicated and gifted interdisciplinary global health steering group members who generously contribute their time to this effort (Dr. Escobar, Ms. Rozario, Dr. Debbarma, Dr. Jayabose, Dr. Bachman, Dr. Guarnaccia, Dr. Barchi, Dr. Gaur, Dr. Ayers, Dr. Lin, Dr. Caplan, Dr. Fiedler) representing several departments at Rutgers and the medical school. Also, several faculty members (Dr. Like, Dr. Jayabose, Dr. Ayers, Dr. Bachhman and Dr. Gaur) are also serving as "capstone mentors" for the students. The course directors for the "Primer on Global Health" elective course are Dr. Escobar and Dr. Debbarma.

Development News in Global Health

Chancellor's Global Health Scholarships

As a result of Chancellor Strom's gracious financial support, Carol Terregino, MD, the Dean for Education, together with Dr. Escobar are working on the development of a distinction program to attract top medical school applicants to the school. There will be five Chancellor's scholarships, \$2,500 each, to support global activities (lectures, seminars, international rotations, and global health research).

Appreciation for Support of Global Health Programs

This year, we are particularly grateful to the Friends & Family Association at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School for its continuous support of the international rotations for our students. We also are grateful to the Retired Faculty Association at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School for creating a special fund to support international rotations for several students. Appreciation also is extended to the Center for Global Advancement and International Affairs (GAIA) for grant support for student rotations and other health activities.

Rutgers University has been awarded a three-year Research and Innovations Fellowship Grant by USAID. Rutgers is one of six universities in the nation to receive this award, which will provide funding, matched by participating Rutgers schools, to support 30 to 35 fellowships. Medical students at Robert Wood Johnson will work in trauma-related program in Colombia, South America.

Updates from Global Health Steering Members

2014 World Psychiatric Association

The Presidential Session of the 2014 World Psychiatric Association took place in Madrid on Tuesday, September 16, 2014. Dr. Javier Escobar, associate dean of Global Health at the medical school, served as one of the representatives from the United States and delivered a lecture in the Presidential Symposium on DSM-5 (Somatic Symptom Disorders). He also was a member of the task force of the American Psychiatric Association that developed DSM-5, the new diagnostic system in psychiatry. The Presidential Session provided clinicians with an excellent overview of the major conceptual and content changes in the new manual (DSM-5) from an international group of major contributors.

New Jersey Statewide Network for Cultural Competence

The New Jersey Statewide Network for Cultural Competence (NJSNCC) held its very successful third annual conference: "Improving the Quality of Care & Services for Diverse Communities: New Directions of New Jersey and the Nation," at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Monroe Township, NJ, on September 12, 2014. The conference, chaired by Dr. Robert Like, professor and director, Center for Healthy Families and Cultural Diversity, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, was attended by more than 200 participants from many different arenas including non-profit, governmental, clinical care, academic, and the private sector, both in NJ and from other states. Health care, behavioral health, public health, social work, law, health education, interpretation, autism and other developmental disabilities, immigration, and other service delivery systems also were represented.

2014 Academic Annual Meeting of Cardiovascular Medicine in China

Dr. Abel Moreyra, professor of medicine, was a guest professor at the 2014 Academic Annual Meeting of Cardiovascular Medicine, President of Zhongshan People's Hospital in China. He delivered two lectures for young doctors of Zhongshan city: "The Management of Patients with Chronic Congestive Heart Failure" and "The Latest Progress of Cardiovascular Interventions."

Projects Updates from the South Asian Total Health Initiative

Infectious Disease Outreach Project (SATHI-IDO)

The project, led by Dr. Sneha Jacob, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, consists of two surveys about the knowledge and attitudes of South Asians toward HIV/AIDS. One survey is for South Asian community members and the others for healthcare providers of South Asian origin. Drs. Sunanda Gaur, Sunpreet Singh, Shreedevi Shukla, Devangi Shukla, and Robert Wood Johnson medical students from the American Association of Physicians of India chapter, are also contributors to the project.



Project SAHAS (South Asian Health Awareness about Stroke)

From November 2013-June 2014, the South Asian Total Health Initiative (SATHI) developed and implemented a culturally tailored stroke prevention program for the South Asian community residing in Central New Jersey. Led by Dr. Sheenu Chandwani, Rutgers School of Public Health, the program is funded by the NJ Office of Minority and Multicultural Health.

Based on the results of the project, a revised curriculum was developed and named South Asian Health Awareness about Stroke or SAHAS. The SAHAS curriculum will be evaluated through community education sessions conducted from October 2014-May 2015.

Housing Needed for International Students

There is a shortage of resources in New Brunswick to house short-term students. While we work with GAIA's office to address this issue we are kindly requesting suggestions from steering group members and other interested Rutgers faculty members about in this regard. If you are interested in providing "subsidized" short-term housing for foreign visiting students, please contact the Office of Global Health.

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