

## Previous Visiting Scholar Awards

The Global Health Institute gave Visiting Scholar Awards to qualified recipients to support their collaboration with UW-Madison faculty and staff. In the 2013 round of awards, six visiting scholars received up to \$10,000 each, and preference was given to faculty and postdoctoral scholars engaged in research that addresses critical issues in global population health and disease prevention.

### **School of Veterinary Medicine**

**Carlos Dib, MD, M.P.H., Ph.D.. School of Medicine, Universidad Cooperativa de Colombia & Fundacion Salud para el Tropico, Santa Marta, Magdalena, Colombia**

**Hosts:** Jorge E. Osorio, SVM, Department of Pathobiological Sciences; Bruce M. Christensen, SVM, Department of Pathobiological Sciences

During the past two years Osorio and Christensen have been working closely with Dr. Juan Carlos Dib to develop a field site in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (SNSM) in Colombia with the ultimate goal of studying and characterizing emerging arboviruses. Dr. Dib's visit provides an opportunity to expand the connection already established between the University of Wisconsin-Madison and academic institutions in Colombia.

Dr Dib is the Director of the Tropical Health Foundation and Dean of the Medical School at the Universidad Cooperativa. He has extensive experience in the study of tropical and vector-borne diseases in urban and rural areas of Colombia. The SNSM offers a unique setting for a field site, as it is an isolated mountain range apart from the Andes chain that runs through Colombia. In this region, they have conducted preliminary studies that indicate dengue and yellow fever as clinically common illnesses, but lack of appropriate laboratory diagnosis has hampered its accurate differentiation from other common tropical febrile illnesses.

During the visit, Dr. Dib will work closely with Dr. Osorio and Christensen's groups. Specific goals for the visit include:

- 1) Laboratory training on the multiplex PCR for emerging arbovirus panel. Dr. Dib will receive training at the Osorio lab with the ultimate goal of transferring the assay to his lab in Colombia. In addition, they will conduct preliminary testing of field samples.
- 2) Dr. Dib will also receive training in how mosquito competence studies for dengue are conducted using artificial membrane feeding techniques.
- 3) Grant submission: the group is currently generating important data on the burden of dengue in tropical areas, the clinical presentation, molecular characterization of circulating viruses and the virus-mosquito vector interactions. These results will be used as preliminary information for grant applications.

## **School of Human Ecology**

**Professor Maria de la Luz Perez Padilla, Ph.D., Art and Foreign Cultures Department, Universidad de Guadalajara, San Juan de los Lagos, Mexico**

**Host:** Lynet Uttal, Ph.D., School of Human Ecology

[Article](#) about Padilla's visit to UW-Madison

Professor Maria de la Luz Perez Padilla shares a common interest with Professor Lynet Uttal (UW-Madison) in Mexican families who have family member(s) who has immigrated. The purpose of the time spent in the U.S. by Prof. Perez Padilla working with Prof. Uttal from August 19th to December 16th of 2013 will be to establish a research partnership. For both, the goal is to learn in more detail about each other's work on immigrant families, health, and well-being. Professor Perez-Padilla will share her research from the Mexican side of the border and Professor Uttal will share her research from the U.S. of the border for Mexican immigrant families in order to create a more holistic research project about the impact of health on binational families. They will also explore the possibilities of collaborating on a research study on migration and health and how binational households impact the health and well-being of its family members and the communities they reside in order to create a better understanding of this social phenomenon, changes in the family households, its impacts on health, and identify factors that mediate the effects of migration on health. They aim to better understand the objective levels of health as well as the subjective stresses and adaptations of members of families in Mexico and in the US.

During this time, they will work in Madison analyzing and discussing a database collected in Jalisco state, Mexico, during 2012 related to "Psychological Resources, Coping Styles, And Family Relationships of People that Have Migrated And that Have Migrants Family Members". This will result in a manuscript by Prof. Perez Padilla.

Professor Perez-Padilla will participate in some of the academic activities the Global Health Community has underway at the UW-Madison while she is doing her academic stay. She will present a talk on the findings of her thesis project, which are related to Mexican "Migration, Health and Psychological Resources". She will also explore with the Global Health Community the possibility of future collaborative research work between the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolas de Hidalgo (where she is a doctoral student), and Universidad de Guadalajara (where she is a professor). A collaborative research effort could lead us to a better understanding of the impact migration has on the health of the people in both sides of the borderland, hopefully, to the development psychosocial interventions to be used in both countries.

## **Department of Anesthesiology**

**Rahel Tilahun Melaku, MD, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**Host:** Martha Wynn, MD, Department of Anesthesiology

In 2012 the Federal Ministry of Health of Ethiopia designated the initiation of adult cardiac surgery services in Addis Ababa, the capital, a clinical priority and charged Addis Ababa

University (AAU) Faculty of medicine to develop the program. In response to AAU's request for educational support, cardiac anesthesia faculty in the UW Department of Anesthesiology have formulated a cardiothoracic curriculum and sent this, along with other electronic educational materials and textbooks to the Anesthesia Department in Addis. AAU has now identified Rahel Tilahun Melaku, a consultant who will be the first cardiac anesthesia specialist. Ms. Melaku will require additional training in order to be able to safely and effectively provide this care and to assume the leadership role required for the cardiac surgery program to succeed at their medical school. The long-term goal is to eventually train at least one other anesthesia consultant in cardiothoracic and vascular anesthesia and these two together will establish the cardiac anesthesia service and going forward integrate this service into the residency training program. To begin to accomplish the additional education and training required we propose having the consultant spend time at UW and learn the cognitive and technical information required to do cardiothoracic and vascular anesthesia.

Ms. Melaku will be here for several 2 to 3 month blocks of education and training, While here, she will observe cardiac, thoracic, and vascular anesthesia in the operating room, attend seminars and lectures on cardiac and thoracic anesthesia, and participate in simulator guided teaching sessions where both cognitive concepts and technical skills can be taught.

In addition to learning cardiothoracic anesthesia she will collaborate on cardiothoracic and vascular surgery outcomes research at UW as a preparation for doing similar outcomes research as part of the cardiac program established at AAU. This research effort will serve three purposes: to identify appropriate outcome measures at AAU and gain the skills necessary to setup an outcomes database, then use information to evaluate surgical results to improve patient care and perform collaborative research activities with the Department of Anesthesia at UW.

### **Sarvodaya USA/ Global Health Institute**

**Vinya Ariyaratne, MD, M.P.H., General Secretary, Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement, Sri Lanka**

**Host:** Sarvodaya USA/ Global Health Institute

Dr. Vinya Ariyarante is a medical doctor and a leading expert in Sri Lanka in the field of community health. His extensive experience in community health and public health in low resource and highly unstable settings transcends crucial areas that need to work together to bring forth a comprehensive understanding of the burden of diseases and establish effective interventions.

Dr. Ariyaratne works directly on the ground in war-torn areas, overseeing IDP (Internally Displaced People) resettlement, aid programs for war-affected people, as well as peace and reconciliation programs. In addition to his extensive experience with health and conflict he has unique knowledge of communicable and tropical diseases, environmental health, social impact on health determinants as well as peace and reconciliation. His expertise in health during times of conflict fills a gap in educational offerings on the topic at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dr. Ariyaratne is also General Secretary of the Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement. The movement, founded by Ariyaratne's father more than 50 years ago, is the largest people's organization in Sri Lanka with more than 15,000 villages taking part in holistic, sustainable development, village-level empowerment and conflict resolution programs. Under Ariyaratne's direction, the movement was recognized by the United Nations World Habitat Award for its massive 2004 tsunami relief efforts. He has facilitated and hosted scores of student and professional groups in field experiences related to Sarvodaya's holistic approach to development, including six student study-service programs from the UW-Madison, two of which were sponsored the Global Health Institute in 2011 and 2012.

#### Proposed Activities:

1. Conduct a one-credit graduate seminar related to health and conflict. 10-14 days of lectures(This course can be open to undergraduates), and
2. Present one or more public events related to wellness, peacemaking, poverty alleviation, community health and sustainable development, and/or
3. Present at least one non-credit master class, workshop or public discussion for medical students, community health and development professionals, and personnel in fields ranging from environmental health, and holistic approaches to individual, family, community, nationwide and global issues; and/or
4. Host at least one public speaking event to raise awareness about Sri Lanka and Global Health issues (funded by Sarvodaya USA).

### **Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies**

**Eduardo Santana Castellón, PhD, University of Guadalajara, México**

**Host:** Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies Program (LACIS)

LACIS, in collaboration with other units on campus will bring Dr. Eduardo Santana Castellón, professor at the Universidad de Guadalajara (UdG), México to UW-Madison for one week in October 2014 to conduct research on environmental awareness and health linkages in central México and to solidify a new collaborative agenda between UW-Madison and Universidad de Guadalajara. This visit builds upon a long and proven collaboration between UW and UdG.

Dr. Santana has been recognized for "institution building" as part of the founding group, in collaboration with UW researchers, that promoted the creation of the Sierra de Manantlán Biosphere Reserve and also for consolidating the Las Joyas Research Station. Now, Santana is working on an ambitious project to design and promote an "agent of social change" in Central Mexico through an environmental awareness living museum to connect high school students, teachers, researchers and the general public in a learning environment that brings together water, land, climate and urban issues.

Santana recently visited UW Madison (March 15, 2013) to make a presentation about this learning living museum to key potential partners at UW including representatives of the Gaylord

Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery, Division of International Studies, UW System, Department of Forestry and Wildlife Ecology, and LACIS. Out of this visit, a need was identified to bring Dr. Santana for a longer period (10 days to 2 weeks) in the Fall of 2013 to define parameters of collaboration with UW colleagues in a variety of areas including: environmental design, health, biodiversity conservation and civil society engagement.

The objectives of his visit in October 2013 are:

- a) to conduct research on the linkages of environmental awareness and health issues in a region in central Mexico that ought to be included in the living museum;
- b) to consolidate an agenda and specific goals for a collaboration between UW and Universidad de Guadalajara in the implementation of the living environmental museum through the creation of “working groups” at UW involving faculty and students. Efforts will be made to identify research and internships opportunities for UW students at UdG.
- c) to incorporate lessons from Santana’s research into modules or units in UW courses, such as the course ENV 900: Sustainable Development, offered by collaborator Alberto Vargas, Associate Director of LACIS.

One product of the visit will be a white paper on the collaborative agenda between UW and UdG, outlining the contributions of diverse “working groups” from UW in the living museum project.

### **Department of Nutritional Sciences**

**Chisela Kaliwile, M.P.H., National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC), Lusaka, Zambia**

**Host:** Sherry Tanumihardjo, Ph.D., Nutritional Sciences

Ms. Kaliwile is an extremely talented individual who is currently working with the National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC) in Lusaka, Zambia. In September, she will be eligible for release time to pursue her PhD at the University of Zambia under the mentorship of Dr. Charles Michelo and Dr. Sherry Tanumihardjo. Ms. Kaliwile will return to Madison to analyze her samples that contribute to a project assessing the diets and vitamin A status of lactating and non-lactating women in Zambia. Ms. Kaliwile will also give guest lectures on campus during her stay.