From the acting director

Thank you for your interest in the UW-Madison Global Health Institute! I hope you will find this 2014-2015 annual report informative and that you will join me in celebrating the passionate work and exciting impacts of the GHI team and our many partners across campus.

It has been my pleasure to serve as Acting Director of GHI during the 2014-2015 academic year while Director Jonathan Patz pursued his sabbatical, further exploring the vitally important connections between climate change and health. During the past year, GHI has strengthened its functionality with new team members in accounting, development, grant submission and management, and program administration. We refined our vision and mission and defined the areas in global health where UW-Madison has particular strengths and promise. We supported cutting-edge research and global engagement through our competitive internal grants programs for faculty, staff, graduate students, and visiting scholars. The new 4W project has generated tremendous interest.

Our foundational activities in global health education have flourished beyond what anyone could have imagined ten years ago when the GHI’s predecessor, the Center for Global Health, was formed. With over 800 undergraduate and graduate/professional global health certificates earned to date, we ensure that UW-Madison alums are prepared to make important contributions to the future of health and well-being around the world. We know they do because we hear from them regularly, and we welcome alums back to campus to showcase the next generation of leaders. With our sponsorship and support of campus events, we continue to engage anyone from the campus and local communities who wants to learn with us.

We will continue to focus on the complex determinants of well-being for all, and the intersection of human, animal, and ecosystem health through our unique strengths in cross-disciplinary thinking and action. For truly, “global health is all of us.”

Above: GHI Acting Director Christopher Olsen, right, greets Barney Easterday, professor and dean emeritus of the School of Veterinary Medicine, at a GHI co-sponsored evening celebrating university contributions to the global dairy industry.

Front cover: UW-Madison students and members of the Nepalese community work together to gather mud that will be used to make plaster for the school walls during a UW-Madison Undergraduate Field Course.

Back cover: UW-Madison global health students participate in a midwife workshop in Ecuador.