

UW- Madison Global Health Impact 14/15



Global health is all of us. Researchers. Educators. Health care providers. Students. Communities. Friends. In 2014-2015, the University of Wisconsin-Madison Global Health Institute (GHI) brought together health care and agricultural leaders, environmentalists, advocates for women's health, engineers, policy makers, public health practitioners, and others to tackle the complex causes of health and disease.

GHI helped launch the 4W Initiative (For Women, For Well-being, In Wisconsin and the World) and watched it bloom. The links between climate change and health moved to center stage with worldwide calls for mitigation. Ebola illustrated that maintaining health includes everything from good roads to functional hazmat suits. The GHI community worked in Wisconsin and across the world to improve health and well-being for today and for the future. **Here are our stories.**



Global Health Institute
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

To read more, visit ghi.wisc.edu.

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.



Christopher W. Olsen

*GHI Acting Director
Christopher Olsen*

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.

Educating World Citizens
Expanding horizons

Students learn, help alleviate health disparities

GHI collaborates with the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and the Department of Population Health Sciences to introduce hundreds of students each year to the complexities of health challenges through Undergraduate and Graduate/Professional/Capstone Certificates in Global Health. From Austria to Ecuador to Ethiopia to Ashland County, Wisconsin, students learn, participate in service projects, and collaborate with communities. Here are perspectives from two of this year’s Graduate/Professional/Capstone certificate graduates:

Kyana Young (‘14 PhD ENG) combined her interests in environmental engineering and health, focusing on water projects to improve global health. **“Completing the certificate was the motivator and confidence-builder for me to explore and pursue opportunities where the two disciplines are merged,”** said Young, now a post-doctoral research associate at Michigan State University working on a Global Water Pathogen Project.

During her field work with Kenyan girls, UW nurse **Abby Roepke** helped increase school attendance through better nutrition and the use of reusable sanitary pads. **“The (certificate) program helped confirm my passion for public health and for bridging the gap between the care I provide to patients and the world in which they live,”** said Roepke, now pursuing masters degrees in nursing and public health at the University of Pennsylvania.



Water projects, top, took Kyana Young to Port-au-Prince, Haiti. In Kenya, bottom, Abby Roepke helped increase girls’ school attendance by promoting the use of reusable sanitary pads.

450	656	88	146
undergraduates pursuing a Global Health Certificate in May 2015.	undergraduates earned Global Health Certificates since 2011.	students pursuing Graduate/ Professional/ Capstone Global Health Certificate in May 2015.	students have earned Graduate/ Professional/ Capstone certificates.

GHI grants

Global health spans campus

Advancing emergency medicine, women's health, palliative care, and more



A Mozambiquan farmer tends her field.

“Once we get results from an initial study, we can go to more ambitious projects and look for federal funding. ... (The Seed Grant) gives UW a competitive edge.”

—Janet Hyde,
Seed Grant recipient

Consider this scenario: A patient arrives in a South African emergency room burning up with fever. The symptoms could mean malaria, but the physician needs to know more.

With a 2015 GHI Seed Grant, Janis Tupesis from the UW School of Medicine and Public Health and Mohammed Dalwai from the University of Cape Town are developing a mobile phone application to give sub-Saharan physicians critical information as it's needed.

Up-to-date, local information is vital for good patient care, said Tupesis, director of Global Health Programs, Department of Emergency Medicine, and the GHI-Graduate Medical Education liaison. “How do we get practical clinical guidelines to real people in real time?” Those guidelines tell physicians how each hospital and region manages emergencies such as heart attacks, strokes, or injured children.

Tupesis' proposal for “Mobile Emergency Guidelines Solution: Sub-Saharan Africa” was among four projects that received GHI 2015 Seed Grant Awards.

[Read more.](#)

Awards improve health

GHI Seed Grants advance the health of humans, animals, and ecosystems, and provide start-up funding for projects that likely will later qualify for federal grants. In addition to Tupesis, here are the recipients:

- By expanding access to long-acting, reversible contraception, **Cynthia Anderson**, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, will help improve family health in Ethiopia.
- Using electronic data, **James Cleary**, Carbone Cancer Center, will help ensure

Rwandans receive medicines to relieve severe pain and suffering.

- **Janet Hyde**, Center for Research on Gender and Women, will refine how women's contributions to agriculture are measured.

GHI also awarded four Graduate Student Research Awards, three Visiting Scholar Awards, and five Faculty and Staff Travel Awards. Grant recipients represent fields as diverse as medicine, political science, and forest and wildlife ecology.

4W: For Women, For Well-Being, In Wisconsin and the World

Forging new paradigms

Making life better for women; making the world better for all



Ghana 4-H members, above, plant gardens. A UW-Madison team will help introduce new education programs to empower girls and connect animal and human health.

4W, 4-H, One Health

4-H has been part of **Mary Crave's** life since she was a 9-year-old Wisconsin farm girl. Now a program development and evaluation specialist with the University of Wisconsin-Extension and a director of UW-Madison's 4W Initiative, she's paying her 4-H experience forward to empower girls in Ghana.

Crave joins GHI Acting Director **Christopher Olsen**, 4W post-doctoral fellow **Sophia Friedson-Ridenour**, and Agri- Corps to develop curricula and train 4-H leaders to connect human and animal health, promote girls' self-esteem and life skills, and prevent gender-based violence. The project received a 2015 Ira and Ineva Reilly Baldwin Wisconsin Idea Endowment Grant. [Read more.](#)

Convened by GHI, the School of Human Ecology, and the Department of Gender and Women's Studies, the 4W Initiative (For Women. For Well-being, In Wisconsin and the World) has blossomed with projects that span campus and the world. GHI Associate Director **Lori DiPrete Brown** leads the initiative. Projects include:

- STREETS (Social Transformations to End Exploitation and Trafficking for Sex) with projects in Madison, Wisconsin, and Asia; a service learning program in Spain; and a global policy initiative. Leaders: **Araceli Alonso** and **Jean Geran**.
- Applying forgiveness therapy in a women-centered, culturally appropriate way to aid victims of sexual violence. Leaders: **Jean Geran** and **Robert Enright**.
- MORE (Money, Relationships, and Equality) teaches women to value themselves and their work and to strengthen the partnerships they form. Leader: **Christine Whelan**. [Read more.](#)



In April, 4W and Wisconsin Without Borders hosted **Ines Bonilla**, **Monica Morales**, and **Flora Yopez**, key participants in the UW/LaCalera, Ecuador, microenterprise project. The women connected with campus collaborators, shared experiences with the Bad River and Centro Hispano communities, and sold products on Library Mall. The jewelry-making project shows they can be successful small business owners, the women said. And that motivates other women. **Janet Niewold** leads the Microenterprise and Health field course.

Collaborating for One Health

Tackling Ebola

GHI community confronts deadly disease

With a bi-weekly radio program that told people in his home village in Sierra Leone how to protect themselves and their families, UW-Madison's Alhaji N'jai, a research fellow in the School of Veterinary Medicine who has led Undergraduate Field Courses, made his stand against Ebola.

Fear and grief were never far away, as the Ebola outbreak spread and deaths mounted in the small country where it's easy to know someone who's infected or has died. Faced with the loss of friends and family, N'jai used his radio show to dispell myths and offer practical advice to stop the spread of the disease. "What I want to give them is hope," N'jai said. "Yes, it's a deadly disease, but it's not hopeless."

[Read more.](#)



Students in Sierra Leone make community health maps.

“Ebola very powerfully points out that we live in an integrated world of animals, humans, ecosystems, and infectious agents.”

—GHI Acting Director
Christopher Olsen

Trusting science

“My experience taught me, you have to trust science,” said **Hannah Kirking**, a UW-Madison alumna, Global Health Graduate Certificate holder, and Epidemic Intelligence Service officer with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She shared her experiences in Liberia during a Global Health Seminar in Madison. Kirking worked with village colleagues to improve local disease surveillance and better understand where Ebola was occurring. Although she knew villagers who died, she trusted that science-based safety rules would keep her safe.

[Read more.](#)



An Ebola burial team works cautiously in Liberia.

“Ebola changed everything”

After nine years, **Janis Tupesis**, director of the Department of Emergency Medicine’s Academic Affairs and Global Health Programs and GHI-Graduate Medical Education liaison, watched Ebola decimate the emergency medicine education training program he helped establish in Liberia.

“Ebola changed everything,” Tupesis said. He is among those returning to Liberia to rebuild medical education. “In a well-trained, well-run infrastructure, it only takes one doctor you trained to say, ‘I think this is Ebola,’ and quarantine that person, and it’s over,” he said. [Read more.](#)

In April, Tupesis and GHI Acting Director **Christopher Olsen** helped brief the Madison (Wisconsin) Committee on Foreign Relations on the long-term implications of Ebola.

“What Ebola makes visible are the fault lines,” said GHI Advisory member **Gregg Mitman**, professor in the Department of Medical History and Bioethics. Those fault lines—of economic, social and health inequities—are clear in Mitman’s film, “In the Shadow of Ebola.”

The film portrays the epidemic through the story of a UW-Madison graduate student’s struggle to bring his family to Wisconsin. GHI provided partial funding for the film.

“Disease is never just about biology,” Mitman says. “This movie offers a personal look inside the Ebola crisis, putting a face on the outbreak and showing how Liberians mobilized to engage and educate communities, and build trust.”

You can [stream the film online at PBS/Independent Lens.](#)

[Read more.](#)

Preventing epidemics

GHI Associate Director **Tony Goldberg**, professor of epidemiology in the School of Veterinary Medicine, looks at the impact of human/animal interactions in the spread of diseases like Ebola. Through a series of presentations, Goldberg was key to helping Wisconsinites understand Ebola. He also co-authored a paper in the *Journal of Virology* showing possible benefits of GB-virus-C in survivors.

GHI Advisory member **Yoshihiro Kawaoka**, virologist in the School of Veterinary Medicine, led a team that developed an Ebola whole virus vaccine that effectively protected monkeys.

Connecting Health and Climate Change

Defining challenges; finding solutions

GHI sparks conversation, action on climate/health issues

With “Climate Change: Challenges and Opportunities for Global Health,” published September 22, 2014, in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, GHI Director and lead author **Jonathan Patz** brought international attention to the immediate health dangers of climate change and the health benefits of mitigation.

“Health is inextricably linked to climate change,” the study reports. “It is important for clinicians to understand this relationship in order to discuss associated health risks with their patients and to inform public policy.” The risks range from increased heat stress to decreased crop yields. The benefits of reducing fossil fuel consumption include better air quality, increased physical activity, and less chronic disease.

[Read more.](#)



Countries such as Ethiopia produce little carbon dioxide yet are among those most vulnerable to climate change.

The year of the bicycle

Monona (Wisconsin) Mayor Bob Miller credited **Maggie Grabow**, GHI post-doctoral researcher, for inspiring that city’s Year of the Bike. “She really got me excited about the value, from a health standpoint, of biking within a five-mile radius of your home,” he said. Grabow works with Jonathan Patz on issues of the built environment and health, including research showing the environmental and health benefits of active commutes by biking and walking. [Read more.](#)

Exceeding world’s capacity

Humanity has moved beyond a “safe operating space,” according to a report co-authored by GHI Advisory member **Steve Carpenter**, Center for Limnology director. Climate and land-system change, the loss of biodiversity, and nutrient pollution have pushed past four of nine natural boundaries that allow human civilization to exist. The markers define conditions in which modern society evolved. “It might be possible for human civilization to live outside (those) conditions, but it’s never been tried before,” Carpenter said.

[Read more.](#)



GHI Director Jonathan Patz, left, and philanthropist John Holton at the U.N. Summit on Climate Change in 2014.

Linking climate and health

World experts—including then Acting Surgeon General Boris Lushniak, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy, and former UW Chancellor and U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala—discussed how addressing climate change will benefit health at the “Civil Society Event on Action in Climate Change and Health.” The September 2014 event in New York City, co-hosted by UW’s GHI, Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, Office of Sustainability, and Wisconsin Energy Institute, and national and international partners, considered food security, sustainable communities, and the health and climate benefits of cleaner energy. The event was designed to build momentum toward the 2015 Paris Conference of the Parties, where nations will convene in December to forge a new international climate agreement. [Read more.](#)

The John P. Holton Chair in Health and the Environment advances GHI Director Jonathan Patz’s international work to understand and address the health impacts of climate change. Established by entrepreneur John Holton, the chair provides an annual stipend that Patz will use to begin cutting-edge projects and hire staff and students to work on them.

“Good individual health care requires us to direct our attention to the many areas beyond diagnostic medicine, including the environment, food and water, physical activity, vaccinations, and security,” Holton said. He looks to Patz and GHI to find solutions to mitigate the climate crisis and improve health worldwide.

During his 2014-2015 sabbatical year, Patz led climate and health sessions for the African Academies of Science, the World Parks Congress, the first International Council for Science meeting on urban health in Xiamen, China, and the University of Geneva.

[Read more.](#)

“(Sustainability) means reevaluating ... recognizing the future is as important as the present, and the lives of the future are as important as the lives of the present.”

—Lancet editor Richard Horton, opening remarks at the Civil Society Event on Action in Climate Change and Health

Strengthening Health Care Systems/ Global Health Education

Building capacity and leadership

“Quality is possible here”



During the QI Institute, leaders from nine countries and Wisconsin developed action plans to improve health for men, women, and children.

“How can you get everybody believing that quality care is possible in low-resource settings? That may seem like a low bar, but it is not easy to achieve. How can you lead in a way that moves people from thinking ‘I’m not sure quality care is possible with the constraints I face’ to ‘I’m part of a team and we can do this?’”

—**Lori DiPrete Brown**
GHI associate director

Improving communication with mothers in labor, reducing breast cancer, empowering girls, managing medical equipment, and educating volunteer health workers were among the challenges addressed by medical and public health leaders from nine countries and Wisconsin at the 2014 Quality Improvement Leadership Institute.

Participants worked with UW faculty, staff, students, and each other, learning quality improvement (QI) basics to strengthen health care systems through measurable steps. They took home practical plans for change.

“Everyone has the right to the highest attainable standard of health,” said Lori DiPrete Brown, GHI associate director for education and engagement and QI Institute director. “QI is a tool for realizing those rights.”

[Read more.](#)

Improving education

GHI Acting Director **Christopher Olsen** co-chaired “Envisioning the Future of Health Professional Education,” a workshop of the Institute of Medicine Global Forum on Innovation in Health Profession Education, and described opportunities in global health education.

Lori DiPrete Brown discussed global health education, effective collaboration, and interdisciplinary teamwork in an article for the *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*.

Designing Livable Cities

Knowledge is a two-way street

Connecting cities and the wealth of campus

More than 100 UW-Madison faculty, staff, and graduate students shared university-community connections at the Livable Cities Symposium, co-sponsored by GHI in May. The symposium recognized that cities face pressing challenges—aging infrastructures, growing populations, shifting demographics, and a changing climate— that will impact health.

“The design of a built environment can require use of ‘a gallon of gas to get a gallon of milk,’ or it can offer choices for improving health and the environment,” said GHI/Nelson Institute Assistant Scientist Jason Vargo. “Design is one of the most effective ... and equitable approaches for promoting healthy behaviors.” UW researchers are helping cities clean up their water, reduce air pollution, build microgrids, and more. Vargo is a key Livable Cities organizer.

[Read more.](#)



Cities and nature

Eduardo Santana-Castellon (PhD '00 CALS) is building collaboration between UW-Madison and the Universidad de Guadalajara to establish an environmental science museum in Mexico. The museum will show how cities depend on nature to survive. Santana, an adjunct professor in the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology, professor in Guadalajara, and long-time collaborator with GHI Associate Director Lori DiPrete Brown, hopes to connect students, teachers, researchers, and citizens in environmental awareness through water, land, climate, and urban issues.

“To make it on this planet, we’re going to have to adopt urbanism to help us minimize our environmental impact ... You can’t have everyone living on a single plot of land with a yard and a tree. You need some sort of denser organization.”

— Jason Vargo,
GHI assistant scientist
on Smithsonian.com

2014-2015 at the Global Health Institute

Expanding knowledge; building community

GHI connects colleagues locally and globally

Building community to connect colleagues, share experiences, and spark new solutions is central to GHI's mission. In 2014-2015, the Institute reached across disciplines to encourage new collaborations.



80 dairy leaders, including World Dairy Expo participants, Chancellor Rebecca Blank, and the UW community, shared ideas and experiences at September's "UW-Madison Leading the Way: Advancing Dairy Cattle and Human Health, Well-being, and Economic Prosperity Around the World." UW's GHI, School of Veterinary Medicine, and College of Agricultural and Life Sciences co-hosted the consultative meeting.

125 international speakers and guests joined then Acting Surgeon General Boris Lushniak, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy, former UW-Madison Chancellor Donna Shalala, *Lancet* editor Richard Horton, and GHI Director Jonathan Patz for September's "A Civil Society Event on Action in Climate Change and Health" in New York City. UW's GHI, Office of Sustainability, Nelson Institute, and Wisconsin Energy Institute were among the co-hosts.



300 students, faculty, staff, and friends gathered for April's "Global Health Symposium 2015: Advancing Health in an Interconnected World." Keith Martin, executive director of the Consortium of Universities for Global Health, keynoted an evening that included talks and posters from more than 50 presenters representing 10 campus units and work in more than 20 countries.

20 rural Wisconsin high school students attended the second annual High School Global Health Day. They were introduced to the determinants of health in a global context and learned how global issues may affect their lives and communities.



26 events hosted and co-hosted by GHI brought UW-Madison alumni and world experts to campus to share their experiences with global health topics, including communities displaced by rising seas, girls' empowerment, e-learning for sustainable health, rabies, dying with dignity, Ebola, polio eradication, and the future of global health.

Working for you

The Global Health Institute is pleased to welcome **Maggie Kratz** as its new director of development. Kratz, who works through the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association, will connect GHI to friends and donors passionate about contributing personally and financially to ensure health for all today and tomorrow. She worked most recently for Habitat for Humanity in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Assistant scientist and grant writer **Sarah Paige** will look to foundations to generate financial support for the Institute and its projects. She worked most recently with Associate Director Tony Goldberg on projects in Uganda.

GHI also welcomes

- Administrative Program Specialist **Monet Haskins**, who will manage the office and work on grant programs;
- Accountant **Denise Roberts**, who will manage finances.

GHI leaders continued this year to actively promote global health. Highlights include:

- Special Advisor **James Cleary** was a panelist for “The Case for Investment in Palliative Care” at the World Cancer Leaders Summit.
- Associate Director **James Conway** shared immunization information internationally, including at the Advanced Life Support & Infectious Diseases program in Ethiopia, at the Global Immunization Advocacy Training in Nepal, and to the U.S. Congress.
- Special Advisor **Cynthia Haq** received the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism in Medicine Award.
- Program Associate **Sweta Shrestha** was honored by Wisconsin Without Borders with Recognition in Service Learning for her work in Nepal.
- Special Advisor **Sherry Tanumihardjo** showed orange maize will improve the body’s vitamin A storage in her article published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*.
- **Janis Tupesis** was on the 2015 African Federation of Emergency Medicine Conference executive committee.

70

faculty and staff on GHI’s Advisory Committee, representing schools, colleges, and institutes across the UW-Madison campus.



Photos from the Global Health Seminar Series

Above: Carlos Arenas illustrated how rising sea levels are displacing indigenous island communities in Panama.

Opposite page, from top: Victoria Gammino, from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), worked with desert nomads to eradicate polio; UW’s Adrienne White helped empower girls in The Gambia; UW alumna Hannah Kirking, also with CDC, was in Liberia to fight Ebola.

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Global Health Institute
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

OUR VISION:

**Equitable and sustainable health for people, animals, and ecosystems—
across Wisconsin and the world.**

OUR MISSION

We embrace a new global health ethic that fosters deeper understanding of the complex determinants of health and disease for people, animals, and ecosystems. In working locally and globally, we uniquely apply research and education, both within and across disciplines, advancing health today and ensuring well-being for tomorrow.



MAKE A GIFT

Are you interested in joining our work? Your support can give students the opportunity to participate in an international field course, fund innovative graduate projects, and support collaborations that span disciplines and communities.

Your gift is vital to making the global health ethic come alive, ensuring health and well-being for humans, animals, and ecosystems today and tomorrow.

To learn how you can support global health research, outreach, and education, please contact Director of Development **Maggie Kratz** at 608-440-0117 or maggie.kratz@supportuw.org.

You can also make a gift online at <http://supportuw.org/giveto/ghi>.

**Learn more about the Global Health Institute at
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