

STRENGTH IN COMMUNITY

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
GLOBAL HEALTH INSTITUTE**

**2019-2020
IMPACT REPORT**

September 2020

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 the future.

VISION

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



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Pandemic. Institutional racism. Climate change. As the world faces three simultaneous crises, global health provides an essential framework for moving toward a just, sustainable and healthy world. Global health makes connections between sectors, looking at upstream determinants of health and illness and working across disciplines for new solutions. We also embrace the concept of planetary health—recognizing even more the links between the health of the planet and the health of humans.

Thank you all for being part of the University of Wisconsin-Madison [Global Health Institute](#) (GHI). Together, we are making inroads against threats against all life. In this report, we celebrate our successes.

Professor [Jonathan Patz](#), M.D., MPH
Director, Global Health Institute
John P. Holton Chair of Health and the Environment

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

356

Undergraduates earned the Certificate in Global Health in 2019-2020

2,282

Undergraduate Certificates in Global Health awarded, 2012-2019

145

Grants to faculty, staff, graduate students, and visiting scholars, 2011-2020

14

Students earned Graduate • Professional • Capstone Certificates in Global Health 2019-2020

232

Graduate • Professional • Capstone Certificates in Global Health awarded, 2007-2020

5

Online classes designed and approved for new online Graduate • Professional • Capstone Certificates

60

Rural Wisconsin students and teachers attended the 2019 High School Global Health Day

500

Students enrolled in Undergraduate Certificate in Global Health, Fall 2020

164

Students from 12 classes worked on 25 Pepin County projects for UniverCity Year

13

Planetary Health Graduate Scholars and their advisors inaugurated the research program.

39

Advisory Committee members represent 13 schools/colleges

266

Average attendance at GHI's four-part COVID & Equity Webinar series

EDUCATION

GHI HAS BEEN KEY to global health education, helping to establish and working with the global health certificate programs as well as international global health field experiences, including field courses and clerkships.

IMPACT 2019-2020

- **356** students earned the [Undergraduate Certificate in Global Health](#)
- **14** students earned the [Graduate • Professional • Capstone Certificates in Global Health](#)
- **64** students worked with UniverCity Year to address challenges in Pepin County. [Read the report.](#)
- **160** Wisconsin students and teachers attended High School Global Health Day.

IN THE FACE OF the coronavirus, GHI's **Lori DiPrete Brown** and **Maria Moreno** quickly pivoted to make local summer student field experiences virtual, including for 10 students involved in the COVID response. **Araceli Alonso**, an Advisory Committee member, converted her international field course to virtual. Plans are underway to design meaningful, safe field experiences to fulfill certificate requirements for graduating students.

WHAT'S NEXT?

THE UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR IN **Global Health** launched this fall, led by Susan Paskewitz, a professor of entomology and GHI Advisory Committee.

FIVE NEW TWO-CREDIT COURSES have been designed and approved for the fully online **Graduate • Professional and Capstone Certificates in Global Health**, part of the work needed toward a fall 2021 launch. The new program will allow greater flexibility for on-campus graduate and professional students and access for capstone students from across the world, says **Christopher Olsen**, program director.

OLSEN, GHI ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR **James Conway** and UW's **Ronald Machoian** looked at [key issues facing international travel](#) post COVID. "The immense opportunities of education abroad remain," they wrote. "But the world in which we seek those opportunities has changed." [Read more.](#)

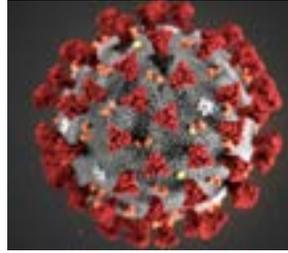


INSPIRING
FUTURE
LEADERS

“The undergraduate certificate team is being creative about global health learning means. It is a challenging time, and some things will never be the same. We are already discovering innovative ways to engage with learning opportunities around the world and preparing students for a deeply interconnected global future.”—GHI Associate Director **Lori DiPrete Brown** on the pivot to online field courses

Field course students traveled to Ecuador before the pandemic and attended a natural dye workshop with women from La Calera in Cotacachi. Above, a student grinds cochineal.

ADDRESSING COVID-19



THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC UNDERLINES the importance of global health, locally and globally. Beginning in March, GHI activities focused on COVID, working with community, university and government partners to address the pandemic. From front-line care to policy recommendations, GHI has shared the science of this disease and turned it into action. Here are a few examples:

- Associate Director **Lori DiPrete Brown** and Advisory Committee member **Dominique Brossard** helped lead the campus-wide “[Do Your Part](#)” Communication Collaborative for COVID-19 Response. The group developed COVID messages for Wisconsin communities and offered

art projects for children and adults.

- Advisory Committee member **Yoshi Kawaoka** joined an international collaboration with Board of Visitors member **Krishna Ella**, chairman of Bharat Biotech, to develop a [coronavirus vaccine](#).
- Advisory member **Ajay Sethi** helped shed light on COVID-19 in a [Discovery Channel documentary](#).
- GHI Director **Jonathan Patz** and **Sethi** were among leaders in the campus-wide [COVID-19 Data Science Research Group](#).
- GHI Associate Directors **Janis Tupesis**, **James Conway** and several Advisory members have been on the front lines of COVID care in the clinic and hospital.

“We’re terrified of the possibility of a ‘twindemic,’ as travel picks up again and as we see loosening of restrictions around the country. That’s the recipe for having disease that then starts to be transferred and reintroduced or introduced into different areas.”—GHI Associate Director **James Conway** on the convergence of flu season with COVID-19

- **Conway** and **Christopher Olsen**, director of the Graduate Professional and Capstone Certificates in Global Health, were tapped early in the pandemic to work with the UW System’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) response to the pandemic; **Patz** and Executive Assistant **Valerie Peterson** worked with the EOC’s Plan Ahead team to safely reopen campuses.
- In partnership with the United Nations Development Programme Crisis Bureau, a UW-Madison team led by **Tupesis** and Advisory

Committee member **Paul Block** is working with low- and middle-income country stakeholders to strengthen the COVID-19 response by providing customized technical assistance and personal protective equipment (PPE). The working group includes **Conway** and Advisory Committee members **Brossard**, **Nancy Kendall** and **Girma Tefera**.

- Advisory member **James Schauer** is leading [COVID-19 testing](#) at the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene.

“I know how strange and scary of a change everything has been for me. How would it be to a five- or six-year-old who’s been told: ‘You can’t see your friends.’ ‘You can’t visit your grandparents.’ ‘You have to stay inside all the time.’”—Artist **Will Santino**, who created [COVID coloring pages](#) for children with the UW “Do Your Part” Consortium



Artist Will Santino drew coloring pages to help children cope with COVID-19.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

COVID & EQUITY: WHAT WE'VE LEARNED; WHERE WE GO FROM HERE

COVID-19 illuminated fractures in health care that leave behind communities impacted by inequities. The disparities were amplified by the deaths of **George Floyd, Ahmaud Aubrey and Breonna Taylor** and too many more people of color at the hands of police and the ensuing protests against institutional racism. Looking locally and globally, GHI called together diverse voices for its four-part webinar

series, COVID & Equity: What We've Learned; Where We Go From Here that drew an average of 266 participants for each webinar in July and August. Experts from the Ho-Chunk Nation and African American policy makers, emergency medicine physicians and Liberian health workers, representatives from GHI, the World Health Organization and World Bank were among those who joined forces to look at how we can strive toward equitable, sustainable health for all. [Watch the videos.](#)

What we heard:

Webinar 4

“If we want to create a more equitable future, we must understand our past, the systemic structures of oppression, and build restorative justice into our institutions, into our policies, into our academic programs.”—Moderator **Dekila Chungyalpa**, director, UW-Madison Loka Initiative

Webinar 1

“The key thing is talking to communities and figuring out what their needs are. They know better than any of us could ever say.”—Panelist **Lakita Maulson**, UW Medical Student

Webinar 2

“The bottom line with any virus: None of us are safe until all of us are safe.”—Panelist **Stewart Simonson**, WHO assistant director general

Webinar 1

“Going back to ‘normal’ is not necessarily the desired state for those who want to advance health equity. Our pre-COVID life included structures that reproduced inequity. ... (We want to) really think about opportunities to seed policies that will sustain just recoveries for communities.”—Panelist **Paula Tran Inzeo**, director, UW Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health (MATCH)

Webinar 2

“The question is not ‘what are we doing’ but ‘are we doing all that we can?’”— Panelist **Lori DiPrete Brown**, GHI associate director

Webinar 3

“In a pandemic, political will is very important. A very early lockdown, shutting the airport, putting out messages to the communities ... strengthening community services (and) core capacity.”— Panelist **Heounohu Hessou**, clinical coordinator, National COVID-19 Isolation and Treatment Center, Liberia

RESEARCH

EACH YEAR [GHI GRANTS](#) and awards support innovative global health projects across campus that lead to further funding, scholarly papers, research, and action. This year, GHI awarded:

- 9 Seed Grants
- 6 Graduate Student Research Awards
- 1 Henry Anderson III Graduate Student Award
- 3 Visiting Scholar Awards
- 6 Faculty & Staff Travel Awards

The grants covered a gamut of topics, from resilient food systems to vitamins for children and racial discrimination.

Justin Boutilier from Industrial and Systems Engineering seeks to optimize the schedules of community health workers in India. **Sean Duffy** from Family Medicine and Community Health will tackle cervical cancer in Guatemala. **Sean Schoville** and **Susan Paskewitz**

from Entomology look to understand factors that influence the spread of tick-borne disease. [Read more.](#)

MORE IMPACT

FUNDS FROM A \$20,000 grant from the **Evjue Foundation** helped develop and translate COVID resources for local Spanish and Hmong communities and supply PPE

equipment to Ethiopia.

GHI ALSO FUNDED TWO of the African Studies Program Racial Justice Grants, one on the emergence of constitutional courts in common law; the other on free universal basic education in Sierra Leone.

**FUNDING
INGENUITY**

25
TO STAFF,
FACULTY,
STUDENTS
in 2020

NINE STUDENTS RECEIVED HEALTH-ORIENTED Transportation scholarships to look for solutions to transportation challenges, from aging buses in Madison to cleaner air and biking. [Read more.](#)



“While much progress has been made to address the global food crisis; people do not have enough food to eat and no region of the world is safe from malnutrition and obesity. ... Indigenous peoples’ traditional ecological knowledge frames Indigenous ecologies of well-being, which play a vital role in advancing social, economic and cultural development around the world.”—**Mariaelena Huambachano**, School of Human Ecology, in her successful GHI Seed Grant application

Mariaelena Huambachano champions Indigenous food systems.

ONE HEALTH

GLOBAL HEALTH SPANS THE spectrum from people to planet, and ongoing research shows how the health of animals affects the health of humans and vice versa.

IMPACT

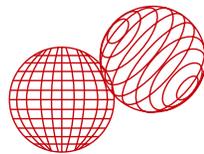
ZOOLOSES, OR THE TRANSFER of disease between animals and humans, has become a familiar topic as scientists explore the roots of COVID-19. **Tony Goldberg**, former GHI associate director now Advisory Committee member, has been on the front lines of the human-animal interface, noting the [revolving door of disease](#) between humans and animals.

GHI BOARD OF VISITORS member **Mary Wilson**, an infectious disease expert, explored the [rise of emerging infectious diseases](#) due to human activity.

CHRISTOPHER OLSEN, DIRECTOR OF the Graduate • Professional and Capstone Certificates in Global Health, helped everyone understand the [science behind coronaviruses](#).

HEALTHY STREAMS ARE ESSENTIAL to the identity, economy and landscape of Wisconsin's southwestern Driftless region and northeastern Marinette County. **Emma**

Lundberg, a doctoral student in the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, used GHI funding to look at trout seasonal migration and freshwater management programs, and how they influence stream health and river restoration practices. Lundberg, who presented her work at a [GHI Tuesday seminar](#), blends training and expertise from fisheries and social sciences to understand why certain species, management policies and practices, and human preferences become controversial. "I use critical theory to put biological and social understandings of the world into conversation," she said. [Read more.](#)



CONNECTING ALL HEALTH



Graduate student Emma Lundberg inspects trout in her study of stream health.

“Infectious diseases don’t care which direction they go in. We’re concerned about human health because we’re humans, but they’re just as happy to go in the other direction. And they’re just as happy to go other places, like Wisconsin.”—**Tony Goldberg**, GHI Advisory Committee member and former associate director, on the movement of illness between animals and humans

PLANETARY HEALTH

CONNECTING THE HEALTH OF humans and the health of the planet. Knowing that one impacts the other, and humans put a heavy thumb on the scale. Exploring the links and the challenges so we can change course. This is [planetary health](#). Led by Director **Jonathan Patz**, GHI opens doors for research and scholarship that point toward a healthy future.

IMPACT

WITH THE [PLANETARY HEALTH Graduate Scholarship](#) program, co-designed by GHI postdoctoral research associate **Valerie Stull**, UW-Madison brings together graduate and professional students and their faculty advisors from across disciplines who study how the health of the planet and humans are interdependent. Together, they will lead us toward resilience and a healthier, sustainable future. GHI Board of Visitors members **David and Sarah Epstein** funded the program that is co-administered with the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies. Six spring 2020 scholars and 10

for the 2020-2021 academic year represent six schools and colleges. “Nurses worry about context, and planetary health is about context—the social, economic, political and ecological environments in which we live—that has implications for our health,” said scholar **Jessica**

LeClair from Nursing. [Watch the first cohort’s mini research lectures.](#)

GHI WAS AMONG KEY supporters of the [Global Climate and Health Summit](#) at United Nations Conference of the Parties (CoP25) climate change conference in Madrid. Wisconsin Lieutenant Governor **Mandela Barnes** and **Jonathan Patz** joined an international slate of presenters.

UW-MADISON SIGNED THE [SECOND Nature Resilience Commitment](#) in November. Chancellor **Rebecca Blank** called it a holistic approach to sustainability, encompassing everything from environmental stewardship to public health.

PROTECTING PEOPLE & PLANET



“The human health rationale for rapid climate action continues to rise in priority, at the same time as prices for clean renewable energy are dropping like a stone. There’s absolutely no reason whatsoever to delay broad scale adoption of clean energy solutions to both promote global health and stabilize the earth’s climate.”—GHI Director **Jonathan Patz** on the global climate and health

OUTREACH

CONNECTING FACULTY, STAFF, STUDENTS, and communities to learn and share information is one of GHI's strengths. Events allow the GHI community to explore the challenges of ensuring health for all.

BRINGING US TOGETHER

improve global health programming for undergraduate and graduate students and to advance health across disciplines

and the world.

UW-Madison Provost

Karl Scholz

welcomed participants with a celebration

IMPROVING ACADEMIC GLOBAL HEALTH

MORE THAN 160 STUDENTS, faculty, staff and community members from 20 Midwest universities and organizations met for the sixth annual **Midwest Universities for Global Health** Conference in September 2019. Hosted by GHI, participants at the two-day event wrestled with how to

of global health as an extension of the Wisconsin Idea, a “commitment to outreach and public engagement activities that partner with communities to extend and apply our research, education and practice-based knowledge to help solve problems and foster learning.”

[Read more.](#)

“To combat (antimicrobial resistance), health care professionals are encouraged to practice antibiotic stewardship, which refers to the judicious use of antibiotics.”—**Nasia Safdar**, Global Health Tuesday seminar speaker on her GHI Seed Grant Project and partnership with the Amitra Institute of Medical Sciences

GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

THE 4W (WOMEN AND Well-being in Wisconsin and the World) Initiative and GHI, hosted an International Consultative Meeting on Gender and Climate Change co-chaired by GHI's **Lori DiPrete Brown** and **Valerie Stull**. The ideas shared and experiences from 10 countries inform a forthcoming article in a special issue of *Sustainability* edited by **Sumudu Atapattu**, a GHI Advisory Committee member.

4W also hosted a well-attended International Women's Day event and

awarded gender-oriented grants to three faculty members and five graduate students.

EXPLORING GLOBAL HEALTH CHALLENGES

PRE-COVID-19, FOUR GLOBAL HEALTH Tuesday monthly seminars covered a wide range of topics from curbing HIV to teaching children about mosquitoes to healthy streams and antibiotic resistance. Three [Health-Oriented Transportation](#) seminars looked at opportunities to improve health by making infrastructure changes to encourage walking and bicycling.



UW-Madison Provost Karl Scholz, right, and GHI Director Jonathan Patz, left, greet participants at the Midwest Universities for Global Health conference in September 2019 at Union South.

WHO IS GHI?

WE ARE PHYSICIANS AND veterinarians. Engineers and economists. Pharmacists, nurses, political scientists, and historians. We are teachers, researchers, and students. Leaders in law, public health, agriculture, ecology and many other professions—working to nurture sustainable, equitable global health for today and tomorrow.

LEADERSHIP

Jonathan Patz, Director
patz@wisc.edu

Lori DiPrete Brown,
Associate Director
dipretebrown@wisc.edu

James Conway,
Associate Director
jhconway@wisc.edu

Christopher Olsen,
Director, Graduate •
Professional • Capstone
Certificates
chris.olsen@wisc.edu

Janis Tupesis,
Associate Director
jtupesis@medicine.wisc.edu

Monet Hutchins,
Administrative Director
monet.hutchins@wisc.edu

Calyn Ostrowski,
Director of Advancement
calyn.ostrowski@wisc.edu

Learn more:
ghi.wisc.edu



Global Health Institute
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Araceli Alonso, Gender & Women's
Studies

Sumudu Atapattu, Law

Lyric Bartholomay, Upper Midwestern
Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne
Diseases, Pathobiological Sciences

Paul Block, Civil & Environmental
Engineering

Dominique Brossard, Life Sciences
Communication

Sabrina Butteris, Pediatrics

Maureen Durkin, Population Health
Sciences

Kevin Eliceiri, Medical Physics

Ann Evensen, Family Medicine &
Community Health

Daniel Gold, International Academic
Programs

Tony Goldberg, Pathobiological
Sciences

Sundaram Gunasekaran, Materials
Science & Engineering; Biological
Systems Engineering

Jeff Hartman, Physical Therapy

Joel Hill, Physician Assistant Program

Li-Ching Ho, Curriculum & Instruction,
Southeast Asian Studies

Tracey Holloway, Atmospheric and
Oceanic Sciences, Nelson Institute for
Environmental Studies

Mariaelena Huambachano, Civil Society
& Community Studies

Yoshihiro Kawaoka, Pathobiological
Sciences

Richard Keller, International Division,
History & Bioethics

Nancy Kendall, Educational Policy
Studies

Karen Kopacek, Pharmacy

Jessica LeClair, Nursing

Laurel Legenza, Pharmacy

Carey McAndrews, Planning &
Architecture

Gregory Nemet, La Follete School of
Public Affairs

Susan Paskewitz, Entomology; Upper
Midwestern Center of Excellence for
Vector-Borne Diseases

Eduardo Santana-Castellón, Forest &
Wildlife Ecology

James Schauer, Wisconsin State
Laboratory of Hygiene, Civil &
Environmental Engineering

Ajay Sethi, Population Health Sciences

Sweta Shrestha, Population Health
Institute

Kurt Sladky, Surgical Sciences

Karen Solheim, Nursing

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Sciences

Girma Tefera, Surgery

Alberto Vargas, Latin American,
Caribbean & Iberian Studies

Giri Venkataramanan, Electrical &
Computer Engineering

Michel Wattiaux, Dairy Science, Center
for Integrated Agricultural Systems

Claire Wendland, Anthropology

CONTACT US

Websites:

ghi.wisc.edu

education.ghi.wisc.edu

Note: Staff is working remotely and the physical offices are closed due to coronavirus safety precautions.

Central Campus Office

1050 Medical Sciences Center
1300 University Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Email: globalhealth@ghi.wisc.edu

Phone: (608) 265-9299

FAX: (608) 265-9961

School of Medicine and Public Health Office of Global Health

1191F Health Sciences Learning Center
750 Highland Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53705-2221

Email: smphglobalhealth@hslc.wisc.edu

Phone: (608) 262-3862

MAKE A GIFT

Your gift to GHI will help support research, outreach and educational initiatives leading toward a more just, sustainable, and healthy world. To learn about giving opportunities, contact **Calyn Ostrowski** at 608-265-9608 or calyn.ostrowski@wisc.edu.



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