

UW-Madison
Global
Health
Impact
Report
2013/14



It takes a village to advance health today and ensure equitable, sustainable health for tomorrow. The Global Health Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is building bridges between researchers, health care professionals, staff, students, fellows and communities to tackle the complex, interlinked causes of disease.

In 2013-2014, GHI supported research from across campus with a series of awards. Our events showcased the diversity of people engaged in addressing global health challenges, and our education programs helped prepare a new generation of students to become world citizens.

Here you'll find stories that provide a snapshot of our work and successes.



Global Health Institute
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

From the director



A handwritten signature of Jonathan Patz in black ink.

Jonathan Patz

Director, Global Health Institute

As the Global Health Institute (GHI) begins its fourth year, the need for a holistic approach to well-being in Wisconsin and across the world has never been greater. Evidence mounts daily that the future of humans, animals and the environment are deeply intertwined and facing unprecedented challenges. That is why GHI works to engage all of UW-Madison and local and international partners toward a comprehensive approach to health.

The Institute is articulating and practicing a new global health ethic, which invites us to pursue health for today while ensuring natural and other resources are available for health tomorrow. It extends the forward-thinking tradition of the Wisconsin Idea and builds on Professor Aldo Leopold's land ethic that called for recognizing the entire ecosystem as part of our community. The ethic also meshes with the UW-Madison's pioneering work in disease prevention and biotechnology.

Our efforts in 2013-2014 have exemplified a multi-sector response to global health. GHI supported new, interdisciplinary research and our events and visiting scholars program brought those on global health's front lines to UW-Madison. We also are at the forefront of new campus initiatives to improve well-being for women and promote livable cities.

Provost Paul DeLuca has been an unfailing supporter and valued partner for GHI, and we offer our thanks as he transitions back to teaching and research. Paul turned the conclusions of UW's Reaccreditation Report into reality by advancing global health as a full campus enterprise.

I am also happy to announce that Christopher Olsen, a professor of Public Health in the School of Veterinary Medicine, will serve as acting GHI director during my sabbatical during the coming academic year. My work and a Fulbright Scholar Award take me to Geneva, Switzerland, and Ethiopia to work on climate change/public health policy. Chris has been a pioneering force for global health on this campus since its inception and brings a special focus on "One Health."

I am grateful to so many of you for your engagement and support of UW-Madison's global health efforts to date. We are well-positioned as we embrace the next academic year with clear purpose to promote this new global health ethic.

On the cover: Eighty-two percent of Ethiopia's more than 90 million people live in rural areas. UW-Madison faculty, staff and students are collaborating with in-country colleagues to address health challenges in the face of explosive population growth and urbanization in a land with limited resources. (Photo by Jonathan Patz.)

Above: Jonathan Patz (Photo by Sarah Rose Smiley.)

Educating world citizens

Global Health Certificates

Students learn from diverse communities

“It’s one thing to read about health problems in literature, but another entirely to see them on the ground. (The field experience in Uganda) is what set it in stone. I want to be part of this.”

—DeMarco Bowen, graduate certificate student with undergraduate field experience working with HIV in Uganda

Field courses take UW-Madison students around the world and into Wisconsin’s rural and urban neighborhoods. They introduce students to the world’s cultures and give them opportunities to participate in projects that improve health. Students have helped in a variety of ways, including supporting youth leadership programs, building safe paths to schools and working with veterinarians to improve the health of domestic animals.

The Undergraduate Certificate in Global Health is a collaborative offering from GHI and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences with support from the Madison Initiative for Undergraduates. The curriculum introduces undergraduates to global health issues and connects them to programs across campus. The Professional/Graduate and Capstone Certificate is based in the Department of Population Health Sciences in the School of Medicine and Public Health and administered by GHI.

Medical student DeMarco Bowen (‘12) sees the graduate certificate as a supplement to his medical and public health education. His passion is working with diverse communities, and his projects have studied the prevalence of HIV in Uganda, South Africa and Uganda. Global health electives introduce students to health care in diverse communities, he said. “They really understand that local is part of global, under the right context.”

[Read more.](#)

Right: Student Andrea Keapproth (‘13), a participant in the 2013 global health field course in Nepal, visits with school children in the village of Shikarpha. UW-Madison students plastered the school walls as a service-learning project. (Photo by Sweta Shrestha.)



By the numbers:

206

undergraduate and graduate students participated in 19 field courses in 2013, working in 13 countries and Wisconsin.

350

students declared Undergraduate Certificate in Global Health.

88

students enrolled in Capstone/Graduate/Professional Global Health Certificate Program.

4W Women Well-being Wisconsin World

Celebrating our potential

For Women and Well-being in Wisconsin and the World
GHI at forefront of new campus-wide women's initiative

GHI and the School of Human Ecology are drawing on strengths from across campus and in government and civic organizations to make life better for women and make the world better for all. The 4W Initiative will include courses, action research, internships and community engagement. Faculty-led projects will address topics from ending human trafficking and supporting well-being through microenterprise to fostering equality in relationships, finances and fulfillment.

"4W will establish UW-Madison as a convener and academic leader in relation to women and well-being," said Lori DiPrete Brown, GHI associate director and director of the 4W initiative. "We will be known for a holistic approach, and a local to global perspective, as we address urgent topics related to women and well-being." An annual summit and an online learning community will engage leaders from around the world.

Change Your Mind. Change The World.

Dalai Lama: Treat the world as one community



"Change Your Mind. Change the World." brought international thought leaders to Madison in 2013 to discuss environment, healthy societies and compassion. From left, Richard Davidson, director of the Center for Investigating Healthy Minds; Jonathan Patz, GHI director; the Dalai Lama, and Interim Chancellor David Ward. (Photo by Narayan Mahon.)

Ethics education grounded in altruism and compassion is key to moving forward, whether the discussion is environmental degradation or building a healthy society, His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama told Madison, Wisconsin, audiences in May 2013.

GHI and the Center for Investigating Healthy Minds at the Waisman Center co-sponsored the day long "Change your Mind. Change the World." event that brought together noted thought leaders, including

journalist Arianna Huffington, health care leader Dr. Don Berwick, economist Lord Richard Layard and global health innovator Ilona Kickbusch. Two panel discussions filled Madison's nearly 2,000-seat Overture Center.

Educate people if you want to inspire them to take action and change their behavior, the Dalai Lama said. He looked for awareness and a sense of responsibility among people. Treat the earth's 7 billion human beings as one human community, linked by ecology, global warming and the global economy, he said. "So now no longer can you say my nation, my continent. We must look at the entire world."

[Read panel transcripts.](#)

Engaging world scholars

Visiting Scholar Awards

Partnership eases migrants' lives

Picking up your whole life and moving is hard. Despite the challenges, Mexican men and women migrate to work in the United States and later return home, changing themselves, their families and communities.

Professor Maria de la Luz Perez-Padilla, a GHI visiting scholar from Universidad de Guadalajara, spent a semester working with UW-Madison Professor Lynet Uttal exploring how to ease the transition from Mexico to the United States and back again. "It's an amazing thing when you can find an intellectual buddy," Uttal said. "Researchers are so specialized. There may be only two to three people in the world who study the same thing."

"Two strains come together, and we are able to work so much more productively." — **Maria de la Luz Perez-Padilla**

Perez-Padilla described the partnership as two rivers combining into one large, powerful river that can lead to many different places. She was one of a cohort of GHI visiting scholars from Colombia, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, Mexico and Zambia who visited campus in 2013-2014.

[Read more.](#)

Quality improvement

International fellows practice leadership

During the August 2013 GHI Quality Improvement Institute, participants led by Lori DiPrete Brown, GHI associate director for Education and Engagement, worked with students, faculty and staff from UW-Madison, UW Hospitals and Clinics and UW Medical Foundation as they developed plans to tackle health challenges.

The process began with a single question: What do you want to change? Fellows' plans included using room heaters to reduce hypothermia among Ethiopian newborns and improving life skills to reduce teenage pregnancies in The Gambia. The QI Institute also gave UW-Madison students a context for information they learned in the classroom and an opportunity to engage with the visitors as partners and learners.

[Read more.](#)

By the numbers:

\$47,324

awarded to support six
visiting scholars who
collaborated with
UW-Madison colleagues
in four schools and
colleges.



Above: Global health fellows and project representatives from Africa and eastern Asia developed plans to reduce unwanted pregnancies, improve health care and save lives during the third annual GHI Quality Improvement Institute in August 2013.



Investing in the future

Graduate Research Awards Fellows pursue 'one health'

GHI's Graduate Research Awards helped seven students tackle health challenges, from the spread of dengue fever in Colombia to the impact of health care changes in the highlands of Thailand. Students represented academic programs in Pharmacy, Veterinary Medicine, Journalism & Mass Communication, Letters & Science, Medicine and Public Health, and the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies. Their work furthers the concept of One Health, an integrated

approach to well-being for humans, animals and the environment.

Ephrem Aboneh, graduate student in Social and Administrative Sciences, School of Pharmacy, looked at medical safety in Ethiopia, his homeland. "I am hoping to use this as an opportunity to jump-start discussion in the area as well as broaden future work," he said.

"I have found that hospitals in the United States have successfully implemented strategies that may be leveraged to support patient safety in hospitals in developing countries." — **Ephrem Aboneh**

Stephanie Koning, doctoral student in the Department of Population Health, School of Medicine and Public Health, studied how Thailand's rural health care expansion impacted maternal and infant mortality. "We need to see the broader impacts of health system reform and the protection of human rights through health promotion," she said.

"This research has important implications for global health research and utilizes an interdisciplinary approach to study the social and political motivations behind changing health behaviors."

— **Stephanie Koning**

[Read more.](#)

By the numbers:

\$34,715

in Graduate Fellowship Awards to seven graduate researchers in the Schools of Pharmacy, Veterinary Medicine and Medicine and Public Health, and the College of Letters & Science.

Above: Doctoral student Jinho Kim from the Department of Sociology meets with Malawi teens, explaining a survey that will help determine how social networks influence sexual behavior and the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Encouraging conversation

10th annual Global Health Symposium
Participants explore One Health

The Global Health Symposium celebrated its 10th anniversary April 1, 2014, with “One Health: Making the Connections.” More than 70 students and faculty and staff members participated in panel discussions and presented posters that showcased global health projects on campus.

Their investigations delved into medical, policy and environmental factors that influence health and illness, from introducing orange-fleshed sweet potatoes to rural Ethiopian farmers to understanding the health impacts of climate change in eastern United States.

One Health, which recognizes human, animal and ecosystem health are interdependent, is a way to solve issues at a global scale through interdisciplinary collaboration, said Dr. Christopher Olsen, interim vice provost for teaching and learning and professor of public health in the School of Veterinary Medicine. “UW-Madison is uniquely poised to contribute to these big global issues from a One Health perspective because of the breadth of world-class units we have on this campus.”

“No one person can be broadly trained enough in today’s world to address these major problems alone.”

— Christopher Olsen, keynote speaker

[Read more.](#)

High school workshop

Students learn how global health happens here and abroad

Seventeen students from small towns in south central Wisconsin attended the first Global Health Institute Training Workshop in March 2014. Co-sponsored by the GHI, Globe Med and the Area Health Education Center, the workshop exposed students interested in health and health care as a career to the broader field of global public health.

“It made me realize what’s really going on and how I can help.”

— Kayla Dittberner, Watertown High School senior

[Read more.](#)

By the numbers:

72

students, faculty and staff presented posters and participated in panel discussions.

300

attended the 10th annual Global Health Symposium.





Targeting the roots of disease

Ethiopian collaborations
*Catalyzing a multidisciplinary
force for health*

A desire to help his homeland prompted Dr. Girma Tefera, professor of vascular surgery, to volunteer for surgery duty in Ethiopia and invite his UW-Madison colleagues to get involved. Fourteen years later, UW-Madison faculty, staff and students increasingly collaborate with Ethiopian partners to address issues from providing adequate medical care to building sustainable cities and curbing air pollution.

“I’d like to bring the whole university to Ethiopia,” said Jonathan Patz, GHI director. “UW-Madison is an incredible one-stop shop with expertise across all fields on one campus. If we’re truly going to take meaningful steps toward solving root problems, we need to pursue a concerted, multi-perspective approach.”

Tefera built a strong foundation for expanding UW-Madison’s engagement and developing a global health care model that can be used in other countries with few resources, Patz said. The model is rooted in collaboration with local partners who understand the challenges and the opportunities of working in their country.

When UW-Madison researchers involved in Ethiopia met on campus in December and shared their interests, the discussion included faculty, staff and fellows from the School of Medicine and Public Health, the Colleges of Agricultural and Life Sciences and Engineering, and the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies.

Water projects take Paul Block, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering, to northwestern Ethiopia. Dr. Cynthia Anderson, clinical professor of obstetrics, is working with Hawassa University to establish an obstetrics/gynecology program. Jeremy Foltz, professor of agricultural and applied economics, studies how mountain farmers will respond to climate change. Heidi Busse, an associate researcher in the School of Medicine and Public Health, manages a partnership to introduce orange-fleshed sweet potatoes to small farmers.

[Read more.](#)

“Everything is health. Health is not only giving medicines and vaccines; people also need to be able to eat right. You need clean water and clean air to breathe. The list is fairly long. ... That’s why everybody needs to chip in.”

— **Dr. Girma Tefera,**
professor of vascular
surgery, whose early
work led to multiple
Ethiopian collabora-
tions

Above: Located mostly in the horn of East Africa, Ethiopia is home to more than 90 million people who live mostly in rural areas. The country encompasses the complex, interconnected challenges that face many resource-challenged nations. UW-Madison faculty, staff and students collaborate with Ethiopian partners to chart a course for sustainable health. (Photo by Jonathan Patz.)

Supporting researchers

Seed Grants

Mangoes and monitoring wildlife deaths among roads to better health

GHI awarded its first two-year Seed Grants in 2012. Eight interdisciplinary research teams each received about \$40,000 to pursue projects examining everything from hypertension in Latin America and controlling brucellosis in Ecuador to disseminating health information via mobile phones in Malawi and the benefits of mango production in Haiti. In 2014, the groups are reporting their results.

Gergens Polynice, a fellow in Agricultural and Applied Economics in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, interviewed 800 Haitian farmers to determine how best to encourage more mango production. Mangoes represent a widespread economic opportunity that will also improve health, even for families that grow only a few trees, he said. Social networks are key to more production.

UW-Madison collaborators and the U.S. Geological Survey National Wildlife Health Center used seed grant funds to encourage citizens to pay attention to wildlife disease and help create a more complete and immediate picture of wildlife health. The Wildlife Data Integration Network looks at Tweets and news stories to monitor wildlife deaths.

“We’re all interconnected and share the risk of disease. How we manage wildlife health impacts how we manage human health.”

— Megan Hines,
Wildlife Data Integration Network

Read more
[about WDIN,](#)
[about mangoes.](#)

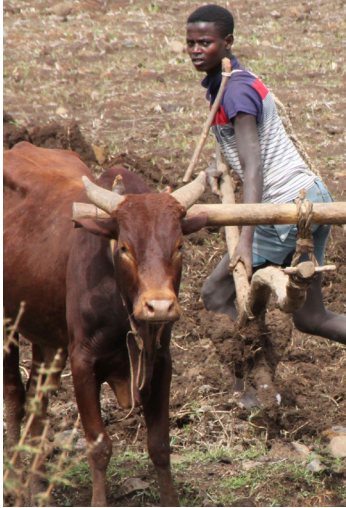
Right: Mango sellers are a familiar site along Haitian roadways. Postdoctoral fellow Gergens Polynice, from the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, is exploring how to increase mango production among small farmers to improve well-being. (Photo by Gergens Polynice.)

By the numbers:

\$320,000

funded eight interdisciplinary seed grants to pursue global health projects.





Research snapshot

Power Africa

Developing microgrids to electrify rural villages

Large power plants and vast distribution grids cannot efficiently provide power to Ethiopia's widely scattered rural villages, says Giri Venkataraman, a professor of electrical and computer engineering at the Wisconsin Energy Institute who sits on the GHI Advisory Committee.

Instead, he looks to microgrids that use local power sources, especially renewable resources, to supply electricity for local needs. Venkataraman, working on behalf of colleagues at Bahir Dar University (BDU), won a **Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research** grant to develop an Ethiopian Microgrid Research Center. Funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, the BDU-led project will improve access to electricity, giving families the ability to read at night, refrigerate food, treat water in new ways and better process meat and dairy products.

WEI and UW-Madison's Global Health Institute and Office of Sustainability also are supporting the project that complements President Barack Obama's Power Africa initiative.

Health and Human Services grant

QI pioneer collaborates to strengthen African care

A five-year grant from the **Department of Health and Human Services** will allow Lori DiPrete Brown, a GHI associate director, to continue her work with Twinning Programs in Africa to improve the quality of health care even when few resources are available.

DiPrete Brown and local health care providers will collaborate with the American International Health Alliance to build an African hub for quality improvement (QI). QI tools will strengthen health and social services programs, so more people, especially women and vulnerable children, will have access to care. The program will especially focus on prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and address how the disease impacts people and communities.

The work will engage a broad range of UW health experts and should lead to dramatic changes in quality at partner sites, DiPrete Brown says. The shared work with African leaders will lead to innovations and improvement in health care for Wisconsin residents as well.

[Read more.](#)

Gates Foundation grant

Only one percent of rural Ethiopians have access to power, and they live mostly in small villages. Through a grant from U.S. Agency for International Development, Professor Giri Venkataraman will work with Bahir Dar University to establish a Microgrid Research Center to power rural areas.

Holo-flops use images to combat soil-born disease

In America, candy-colored flip-flops herald summer. In rural Uganda, kids and adults wear them bopping around the compound, working in the fields or getting water. For GHI Associate Director Dr. Tony Goldberg, professor in the School of Veterinary Medicine and director of the Kibale EcoHealth Project, and postdoctoral scholar Sarah Paige, flip-flops present an opportunity to overcome illiteracy and better combat helminths, the parasitic worms that can burrow into bare feet and cause illness. With a **Grand Challenges Exploration** grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, they're developing the holoflop™ — a flip-flop with a hologram attached that shows the benefits of wearing sandals to people who cannot read.

[Read more.](#)

National Cancer Center grant

Training in-country champions for pain care

A grant from the **National Cancer Center** will allow Dr. James Cleary, director of the Pain and Policy Studies Group at the University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center and a GHI special advisor, to collaborate with the African Palliative Care Association to train in-country champions who will improve access to medications needed to relieve cancer pain. The project is designed to allow health care practitioners in low and middle income countries to have better access to cancer pain medicine.

[Read more.](#)

National Agricultural Innovation Prize

Raising meal worms for food security

Valerie Stull, a doctoral student in the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies who also works with GHI, is sold on the benefits of raising mealworms to improve food security in parts of sub-Saharan Africa. She and doctoral student Rachel Bergmans developed MIGHTY MEALworm, a finalist for the **National Agricultural Innovation Prize** sponsored by the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, that allows them to work with rural women's cooperatives to introduce mealworm farming that will result in edible, high quality, sustainable protein powder.

[Read more](#)



Top: Ugandan children wear holoflops™ designed to show them that wearing the sandals protects their feet from soil-born worms.

Opening doors

GHI expands presence on campus

New offices open in Medical Sciences Center



With new offices in the west wing of the Medical Sciences Center, the Global Health Institute has expanded to the heart of the UW-Madison campus. The central location reflects GHI's interdisciplinary focus and cross-campus relationships with its neighbors, the Wisconsin Institutes of Discovery and Wisconsin Energy Institute.

With offices, a conference room and a Fellows room, the new center invites the UW-Madison community to meet for spontaneous conversations and problem-solving meetings.

GHI continues to maintain offices in Room 4256 in the Health Sciences Learning Center to serve the west end of campus.

[Read more.](#)

Welcoming new voices

Speakers explore breadth of global health challenges



From zoonotic disease to the role of feminism in sustainable well-being, an international cadre of scientists and practitioners engaged faculty, staff, students and friends in the complexity of addressing global health issues. In 2013 and early 2014, GHI hosted and co-sponsored 40 seminars, panels and conferences to expand the global health conversation. Speakers included:

- Gary Tabor, executive director of the Center for Large Landscape Conservation, describing how healthy ecosystems benefit human and animal welfare;
- Biraj Karmacharya, from Dhulikhel Hospital-Kathmandu University School of Medical Sciences, Nepal, introducing a successful program to bring medicine to rural communities;
- Danna Hering showing girls' leadership potential and lessons learned from a youth leadership camp in southern Ethiopia, and
- Keren Riley discussing her work with Reunite, an organization dedicated to resettling children who have been trafficked and/or lost in the orphanage system

Top: GHI's new central campus location includes a Fellows space for meetings, research and spontaneous discussions.

Bottom: Co-hosted by GHI, Zainab Hawa Bangura, the United Nations Special Envoy on Sexual Violence in Conflict gave three UW-Madison talks in November 2013 on combatting sexual violence in areas of conflict.

Listen: [on Vimeo, from the seminar series, from the symposiums.](#)

Building Community

Ensuring a healthy future requires the talent and energy of faculty, staff and students from across campus. GHI is working with a community of interdisciplinary partners who will shape the global health conversation for years to come.

GHI's newly elected executive committee convened in April 2014. Maureen Durkin, vice chair of the Department of Population Health Sciences, was elected chair. Charged with overseeing GHI operations, the committee represents the diverse nature of GHI's work. The members are Karen Solheim, School of Nursing; John Ferrick and Sherry Tanumihardjo, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences; Christopher Olsen, School of Veterinary Medicine, and Claire Wendland, College of Letters & Science.

GHI also has expanded its staff to better engage various communities in its work.

- Development Director Julie Beroukas Snyder works with friends and donors through the University of Wisconsin Foundation.
- International Alumni and Development specialist Kim Santiago engages international donors, alumni and friends.
- Communications specialist Ann Grauvogl develops print and electronic strategies to tell GHI's stories.
- Assistant scientist Jason Vargo works on a new livable cities initiative.
- Postdoctoral research fellow Maggie Grabow studies how a built environment affects health.

By the numbers;

74

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

Engaging Donors and Friends

I'm honored to join the UW Global Health Institute and its collaborative community by serving as the first Director of Development. Through a combination of both public and private support, we are training responsible global citizens and effective global leaders through academic preparation, reflection and action to foster sustained, intergenerational well-being in the world.

At the same time, we honor the university's long-standing tradition of public service. GHI

catalyzes the UW-Madison community to connect with others, share expertise and collaborate to improve health, quality of life and the environment for all citizens in Wisconsin and across the globe. This Wisconsin Idea has immeasurably improved life beyond our campus boundaries. With your help, the Global Health Institute, with a strong belief in the people of this university, aims to pursue sustainable health for all citizens of the world.

Julie Beroukas Snyder

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Global Health Institute

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Our Mission

To advance health today and ensure health for tomorrow.

Support Global Health

You can play a vital role in the future of healthy people, healthy places and healthy systems. Your investment in the Global Health Institute will yield rewards that will ensure a healthy future for all of us.

For more information or to make a gift:

Contact Julie Beroukas Snyder at
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to learn how you can support global health research, outreach and education.

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