

IMMERSIONS

UCONN HEALTH
Global Health & International Programs

THE GLOBAL HEALTH NEWSLETTER

Virunga Mountains, Kisoro, Uganda

January, 2023

FEATURED STORY

"Cool the Kids"

Therapeutic hypothermia for infants with hypoxic-ischemic brain injury at the NICE institute in Hyderabad, India. Connecticut Children's has an established relationship with the NICE institute and trained the team in a hands-on small group model in the local Telugu language regarding therapeutic hypothermia, led by Neonatologist Dr. Hussain (see below). The program was modeled on Western protocols adapted for use in India. There were more numbers treated within a year than those treated at Connecticut Children's within 5 years. Outcomes were comparable to those in the West.



Dr. Hussain providing hands -on training at the NICE institute.

WELCOME TO UCONN GLOBAL HEALTH

WELCOME to the first edition of ***Immersions***, the UConn Health Global Health Newsletter. As we emerge from the global COVID-19 pandemic and struggle to find our 'new normal', interest in resuming global health training experiences have rebounded. UConn Health has a long tradition of international and intercultural immersive experiences that have helped resident physicians and medical/public health students gain valuable skills and perspective as they prepare for their careers.

Although the pandemic may have necessitated changes in the structure of our programs, the goal remains to offer a breadth of opportunities for clinical training, research training, language skills, and cultural immersion to learners at UConn Health. We encourage you to avail yourself of the rich opportunities for global health–related training at UConn. We continue to develop and evolve our relationships with partners in Uganda, Guam, Peru, Dominican Republic, Vietnam, India, Haiti, Sri Lanka, and others.

Over the ensuing issues of ***Immersions***, we will highlight unique Global Health programs at UConn, as well as faculty and trainee experiences. Many opportunities exist to interact with our global health faculty, collaborating partners, and Connecticut-based "global is local" programs right here in our immediate area. Global Health & International Studies also sponsors an extracurricular Global Health educational series including evening programs, mentorship program, global health skills building, boot camp, careers night, and annual spring symposium. We hope to see you at all of these events!

~ *Kevin Dieckhaus, MD CTropMed*

History of Global Immersions at UConn Health

SINCE 1985, UCONN TRAINEES HAVE TRAVELED TO 6 CONTINENTS, REPRESENTING OVER 80 COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES.

How has the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the global health program? Besides the curtailing of travel during the pandemic, it has required new safety processes for learners and faculty including verification of immunization status and registration at UConn Travel Abroad. Many of our international collaborating partners have restructured, and linkages have broken, which will require rebuilding of relationships for years to come.

Prepared by: Moe Uddin, M.D., PGY2, and Meher Singha, M.D., PGY3

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT – DR. NAVEED HUSSAIN, MD



Dr. Naveed Hussain, Neonatologist at UConn Health NICU

Q: How did you get involved with global health?

A: "I got involved with global health after my neonatal fellowship training. The opportunity presented itself with local and international colleagues who wanted to work for a common cause. So I started working with my friend at the NICE institute in Hyderabad, India, in 2006, and one project led to another. Our first project was "Cool the Kids," which established a Therapeutic Hypothermia program for asphyxiated newborns. Our subsequent projects were "Train and Tool" and "PRATIBIMB," which focused on preventing birth asphyxia by training local health workers and providing them with the practical skills and essential equipment for doing so. "

Q: What is a major challenge you experienced with global health?

A: "*Time- and financial constraints. There is a major challenge with being a physician in the United States and working with a community on the other side of the planet and the time difference associated with that. A good working relationship with colleagues in the other institute continuing the project is paramount. Financial constraints include funding for the project, which we have historically fundraised for."*

Q: What would you recommend for those wanting to get involved with global health?

A: "*Get started early. However, be mindful of your position in life. Global health can take you away from your friends and family, often for extended periods, so it may not be the right choice depending on the phase of your life."*



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MEDICAL STUDENT HIGHLIGHT – CYRENA ABBASI, MS2



Cyrena Abbasi, UConn Medical Student at a mission trip in Peru.

Please contact us if you have any questions or ideas that may pertain to global health.

Kristen Gauvin: kgauvin@uchc.edu
Jillian Goldsmith: jgoldsmith@uchc.edu

Q: Can you tell us about your global health trip to Peru in 2022?

A: *"For two weeks this summer, I joined doctors and medical/pharmacy/PT/OT students on a humanitarian medical brigade trip to the rural district of Zana, Peru. During this time, we traveled around to different communities in the Zana district, providing patients with integrative care in our community clinics throughout the day and home-visits in the evenings. Through the collaboration efforts of organizations such as FNE International, VCU Hombre, Latidos, and the local Peruvian medical students and healthcare system, we were able to provide care to over 500 patients! As a rising M2, I felt that UCONN prepared me very well to take histories, perform physical exams, determine differential diagnoses, and ultimately treat patients (under an attending's supervision, of course), even under conditions of limited resources. I loved that I got to experience medicine from a different perspective and look forward to hopefully participating in future global health adventures!"*



Global Health Calendar

-come join us for the following events-

Point of Care Ultrasound Workshop for Global Health, March 1st 2023, 6-7:30 pm, Academic Rotunda

Global Health Symposium Series: *The Price of Life*

This symposium series will focus on the concept of medical ethics at a global level and how different industries and professions in health care address Global Health, highlighting programs, invesigators and facutly that are addressing disparities in the Global Health context

Wednesday March 29, 2023 @ Connecticut Children's, 9 am – 4:30 pm

Friday March 31, 2023 @ UConn Health (virtual format), 1 – 4:30 pm

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GLOBAL HEALTH IN REAL TIME

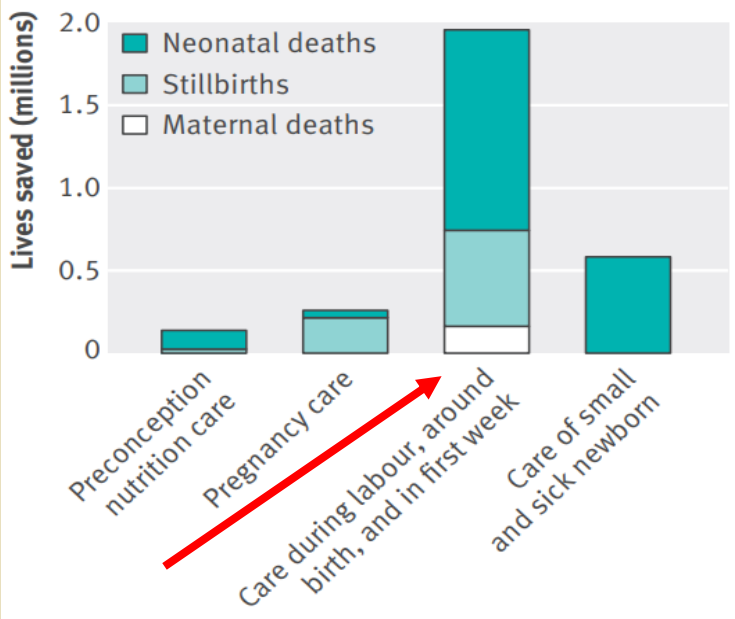


Tribal birth attendant training in India.
Courtesy of Dr. Hussain.



Humanitarian medical brigade in Zana, Peru.
Courtesy of Cyrena Abbasi.

GLOBAL HEALTH FACT OF THE MONTH



The arrow above demonstrates that an intervention in the peri-labor period is a large opportunity to improve global mortality. Graph courtesy of Dr. Hussain.

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2023 Global Health Scholarship Awardees

We are delighted to announce the 2023 recipients of the **Maria and Edward P. Hargus, M.D.: Professor Judy Lewis Global Health Education Scholarships.** We were able to fund two awards for this cycle. These $1000 scholarships are given to support the efforts of students conducting research, language study, and/or clinical or community health in an international setting.

Sarah Fuller, MS 4 will assist with Emergency Medicine ultrasound training in Santo Dominguo, Dominican Republic.

Haris Qureshi, MS4 will be pursuing a global health/tropical medicine clinical experience in Kokofu, Ghana.

Congratulations to both!



Appeal for Assistance



Your help is needed!

Dr. Sherlyne Dormevil is a pediatric physician in Haiti who graduated from the St. Damian/Bernard-Mevs Residency Program, a residency program that has been supported by CT Children's. She gave birth to her first son in early December. Her course has been complicated by severe sepsis and she remains critically ill at Hospital University Mirebalais. The team in Haiti has secured funding to air lift her to a hospital in the United States and are seeking a hospital to receive her.

Medical Education Resources Unlimited (MERUnlimited.com) is collecting funds that we will be transferred either to the hospital that accepts Sherlyne, or directly to her family to pay the hospital bills.

Donations may be directed to:
https://gofundme.com/f/lets-help-save-sherlynes-life



Dr. Dormevil

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The ***Focus* on *Culture* Project**: Based on the book "Humans of New York" by Brandon Stanton, we are collecting thought-provoking images on Global Health and Cultural Diversity that underscore the importance of culture within not only the global healthcare environment, but also our individual lives and global community.

UConn learners and faculty are encouraged to share a photograph from their global health experience that in some way highlights our unity across cultures, and then describe what the image represents and how it impacted them. Please send submissions for publication to dieckhaus@uchc.edu or kgauvin@uchc.edu. Images will be posted to newsletters and collated in the (future) global health website.

BaTwa Children at the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, Southwestern Uganda



Although the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest is best known for the endangered mountain gorilla, the region is home to the BaTwa people, who struggle to retain their cultural identity and deep roots to their past as forest hunter-gatherers. Marginalized by mainstream society, the BaTwa are largely ignored by economic development initiatives and struggle for their everyday existence, in stark contrast to an outpouring of international efforts focusing on gorilla preservation.

Submission by Kevin Dieckhaus

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