



knowledge changing life

The Medical College of Wisconsin's History of International and Global Health Engagement

The Mid-1980s. EVOLVING INSTITUTIONAL EFFORTS

In 1981, the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW), in collaboration with community leader Elmer Winters, (Founder of Manpower), established the *Wisconsin Indochinese Refugee Relief Fund*, (WICCR). The fund raised over \$500,000 to address the healthcare needs of Hmong refugees seeking medical care at the Tom Dooley Heritage Foundation Hospital in Nan, northern Thailand. The patients were refugees from the mountain tribes of northern Laos, the Meo,



Image 2. Elmer Winters at the opening of the Wisconsin Indo-China Refugee Relief Clinic

the Yao, and the Black Thai. At the time, there were over 25,000 refugees in that area of Southeast Asia. The hospital was their only medical service in the area.¹ Dr. Stephen

Hargarten (Professor of Emergency Medicine) was the first volunteer physician from the Milwaukee area to provide clinical care at this hospital in 1981 and 82. The fund operated in collaboration with Tom Dooley Heritage Foundation and in 1985 transferred its remaining assets to the Foundation.



Image 1. Dr. Thomas A. Dooley

In 1985, Milwaukee County's supervisors wanted to leverage the local world-class medical and educational facilities to address health, nutrition and sanitation needs in developing countries. For over thirty years it has expanded, grown, and adapted to face the pressing global health challenges of its time. The Milwaukee International Health Training Center, (MIHTC), was started from the collaborative efforts of Milwaukee County Executive William O'Donnell and County Supervisor



Image 1. William F. O'Donnell *Image 4. Terrance L. Pitts*

Terrance Pitts with seed money from Milwaukee County and an United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Institutional Development Grant.² Dr. John R. Peterson (MCW Associate Dean and Professor of Medicine) served as Vice Chair and became instrumental in implementing initial MIHTC plans. At that time, he was the long-term (1967-1985) Director of Medical Services for Milwaukee County.³ He made the recommendation to appoint Dr. Frederick Tavill (MCW Associate Dean for Ambulatory Care) as its initial Program/Medical Director. Dr. Tavill was key to securing the first federal funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) with the assistance from Senator Robert Kasten³. In 1987 MCW became a member to foster cooperative relationships for programming impact.

The Training Center was later renamed the *Center for International Health* in 2005 under the leadership of Mark Anderson, former Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Director.³ Over the last three decades, MCW faculty were critically engaged with its international training programs that advanced healthcare and strengthened systems of care worldwide. The following training programs had notable MCW contribution: the retraining of primary care physicians and nurses from rural health centers in family medicine and primary care nursing; training of trainers and the establishment of a rural primary care training center in the Republic of Albania; Emergency Medical Services training and demonstration project in three cities, restructuring existing Soviet model ambulance service to provide improved care for major trauma and critical medical conditions in Poland (Drs. Stephen Hargarten, Ronald Pirrallo, Emergency Medicine and Dr. Thomas Rice, Pediatrics/Critical Care); training of family physicians, family health nurses, and dentists in the Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Shida Kartli-Gori Regions, restructuring of existing Soviet model polyclinic multi-specialty system of primary care; development of community hypertension services and the establishment of family medicine clinics and regional family medicine and primary care nursing training centers in the Republic of Georgia (Dr. James Sanders, Family and Community Medicine); and HIV/AIDS training workshop for health professionals and allied health workers in Kenya sponsored by the Miller Coors Foundation and led to the establishment of an international policy statement and endorsed by 19 international pediatric organizations involved in HIV/AIDS diseases, regarding increasing antiretroviral drug access for children infected with HIV (Dr. Peter Havens, Pediatrics/Infectious Disease).³ Dr. John Raymond (President, CEO, Professor) and Ms. Kathy Kuhn (Vice President of Government and Community Relations) served as longtime board members.



Image 5. Center for International Health logo 2002-2017

In 2017, it became the *Milwaukee Global Health Consortium* (MGHC) when MCW became its fiscal home and Dr. Stephen Hargarten (Professor of Emergency Medicine) became its part-time Chief Executive Officer. During his tenure, the consortium members grew to include civil society: the Rotary Club of Milwaukee, The International Institute of Wisconsin, and the federally qualified health center, the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center. It also joined the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition as well as a network of other global health alliances from Atlanta, Georgia, Melbourne, Australia, Research Triangle, North Carolina, The San Francisco Bay Area, and Seattle, Washington. Among its later signature programs, MGHC was an active partner to the development of



Image 6. Milwaukee Global Health Consortium Logo 2017-2020

Milwaukee-based conferences as the *Sustainability Summit*, *Healthy People on a Healthy Planet*, and the multi-year *Our City of Nations* refugee health and wellness multidisciplinary conference. Other notable efforts included the *Global Health Scholars* program to further connect and facilitate networking among the various students of the MGHC academic consortium members, a video series to provide health education for Rohingya refugees resettled to Milwaukee, and a nursing education project in Tanzania with the Touch Foundation to increase cultural humility in the workforce. Before dissolving in 2020, the Consortium commissioned Research Triangle International to conduct the inaugural *Greater Milwaukee Global Health Landscape Study*.



Image 7. Members over the years

The 1990s. MCW DEPARTMENTAL AND CENTER INITIATIVES

Dr. Sidney Shindell (Department of Preventive Medicine) was Director of the inaugural *Office of International Medicine* and in 1993, transferred leadership to Dr. Leslie F. Martin (Department of Preventive Medicine). Under Dr. Martin's leadership, he changed the name to reflect a broadening vision and established the *Office of International Affairs*. Dean and Executive Vice President, Dr. Michael Dunn, requested an assessment and inventory of its faculty's international collaborations in 1996. When this department was reorganized and rolled into the new *Health Policy Institute* by Dr. Buzz Cooper (Former Dean and inaugural Institute Director) in 2002, the *Office of International Affairs* was dissolved and no formal administrative structure to capture MCW's international engagement, replaced it. But faculty's international efforts continued in the form of consultancies, education, patient care, research, and training which endured over the next two decades. Notable long-term efforts gained momentum in the Department of Plastic Surgery with surgical services and training occurring in Bucaramanga, Colombia (Drs. Arlen Denny, William Dzwierzynski, Hani Matloub, and James Sanger) starting in 1986 with the Milwaukee Medical Mission. The Department of Orthopaedic Surgery's efforts under the leadership of Dr. Donald Hackbarth (Missionary Ventures International) was also established during this timeframe to build the capacity of providers and surgeons in Haiti and Nicaragua.

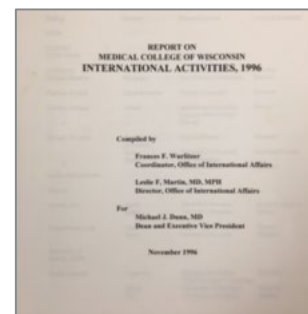


Image 8. Inaugural Report of MCW International Activities

The Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR)

The Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR) within the MCW Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine has a long history of conducting research and providing training in HIV prevention research to professionals from countries around the world. Established in 1990 by Jeffrey A. Kelly, PhD, and four colleagues, the Center secured Federal P30 Center funding in 1993 and quickly grew to establish a large portfolio of international activities. Between the mid-1990s and 2021, CAIR behavioral and social science faculty investigators and their research teams have been awarded nearly \$30 million in NIH funding for international HIV prevention research. Most of this funding has been dedicated to projects undertaken in countries of the former Soviet Union, as well as in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa. CAIR's international research projects have resulted in more than 100 scholarly publications in the HIV prevention literature.

Disseminating HIV Prevention Research Models to Frontline Service Providers Throughout the World

In 1999, the National Institute for Mental Health (NIMH) awarded a U10 Collaborative Trial award to CAIR and the four other NIMH-funded P30 centers to test and disseminate Dr. Kelly's Popular Opinion Leader (POL) intervention at sites in Russia, Peru, China, India, and Zimbabwe, with CAIR being responsible for the Russia site. CAIR faculty and staff, led by Dr. Kelly and Anton M. Somlai, EdD, worked with Russian collaborators to recruit young Russian students housed in technical university dormitories in St. Petersburg into the intervention, which used popular and trusted individuals to endorse HIV prevention messages throughout the community. The U10 was funded for seven years, resulting in 32 separate scholarly publications by the Collaborative Team.

Building on experience gained through the U10, Dr. Kelly wrote and received an R01 award in early 2001 to determine whether active online and offline technologies can assist non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in resource-poor countries to implement a research-based community-level

HIV prevention intervention. The project worked with 86 NGOs in 78 countries throughout Africa, Central Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America and showed that dissemination of intervention manuals (translated into Russian, French, and Spanish language) plus active post-curricular Internet and telephone consultation resulted in a higher rate of intervention adoption and fidelity. This successful project was followed by a five-year grant seeking improved methods to disseminate HIV prevention interventions to NGOs located throughout Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia.

CAIR's HIV Prevention Research Projects in Eastern Europe, Latin America, and Africa

CAIR continued its international efforts in 2003 with two important milestones: the first was the inception of an International Core within the P30 Center structure; the second, and more important, was the beginning of a collaboration between CAIR and researchers based at Botkin Hospital for Infectious Diseases in St. Petersburg, Russia. The collaboration was led by Dr. Kelly and fellow MCW faculty member Yuri A. Amirkhanian, PhD. Using a social network approach first conceived by Dr. Amirkhanian, the collaboration has led to more than ten federal grant awards resulting in several significant contributions to HIV prevention research. Lessons learned in St. Petersburg have also been successfully transferred to Milwaukee and other US cities. The Kelly/Amirkhanian collaboration eventually extended to Sofia, Bulgaria, where the team has worked in conjunction with Bulgarian researchers at the Health and Social Development Foundation to adapt and test HIV prevention interventions with Roma (Gypsy) men who have sex with men, a minority group highly stigmatized throughout Eastern Europe.



Image 9. Founding Director, Dr. Jeff Kelly with CAIR staff

In 2007, CAIR's international scope expanded to include HIV prevention research in San Salvador, El Salvador under the direction of Julia B. Dickson-Gomez, PhD. Through a series of NIDA-funded grants, Dr. Dickson-Gomez's research—undertaken in collaboration with the Salvadoran NGO FUNDASALVA—developed a multi-level, community-based intervention named *Encuentro*. *Encuentro* uses three components (community HIV testing; social network HIV testing; and small group meetings with crack smokers and their peers) to increase the number of crack users who receive HIV testing as well as to increase the rate of safer sex acts among those community members directly exposed to the intervention. *Encuentro* has also been tested with communities along the Texas-Mexico border.

At the same time, CAIR investigator Lance S. Weinhardt, PhD, was developing a research agenda in southern Africa. Collaborating with researchers at Stellenbosch University in the Republic of South Africa, Weinhardt investigated the effectiveness of science-based HIV prevention interventions when they are implemented by community-based NGOs. Weinhardt also became interested in food security as an underlying social determinant of HIV infection among Malawian women and received an R01 award in 2008 to study the effects of a multi-level intervention involving microfinance, sustainable agricultural training, and food securing planning on the HIV vulnerability of rural-dwelling women.

International Training in HIV Prevention

With the support of CAIR's International Core, in 2007 Dr. Amirkhanian received funding to create an ICART (International Center for AIDS Research and Training) based at Botkin Hospital in St.

Petersburg. The ICART extended MCW's educational reach to Russia with the training of six post-doctoral students during the late 2000s and early 2010s. Later, this reach was extended even further as CAIR developed biennial Ethics Seminars to train researchers from former Soviet-bloc countries in Western-style ethics. These seminars featured a curriculum delivered in both English and Russian, prominent speakers from the region, and interactive discussions that allowed trainees to apply Western-style ethics to their everyday activities. Seminars were held in both Warsaw, Poland, and St. Petersburg, Russia, and trained more than 200 researchers.

Fogarty HIV Prevention Research Fellowship

CAIR's initial efforts in training international scholars began in 1998 with a Fogarty HIV Prevention Research Fellowship. Six Russian post-doctoral students each spent six months at CAIR, developing and conducting a small research study during their stay. These students later became faculty members at MCW and at St. Petersburg State University (Russia).

The 2000s. PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT FOR MEDICAL STUDENT GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Initially, MCW **medical students** self-led initiatives in global health through their student organizations and the **Global Health Organization** started in 2005. They fundraised for the Wisconsin/Nicaraguan Partners of America for nutrition projects, local refugee social service organizations, and have brought awareness of timely health disparities through an annual *Global Health Fair* (2009-2020).

During this time interest in senior year medical student global electives was also gaining momentum. Although these electives were not organized nor facilitated by the institution, Dr. Martin secured the



Image 10. Ms. Sue Ewens, philanthropist, with MCW medical student scholarship awardees

College's first extramural gift to offset the travel costs of global educational experiences with the organization, WiCare lead by local philanthropist, Ms. Sue Ewens. Her generosity was a decade long commitment to medical education (2008-2018). Dr. Martin and Ms. Ewens secured additional donor gifts. The John M. Kohler Foundation, led by local philanthropist and developer, Ms. Julilly Kohler, JD (2008-present) was the first named gift. Dr. Elaine Kohler, a MCW alumna (Pediatrics Fellowship 1968) and former Associate Professor of Pediatrics (1968-1981) is remembered by her medical colleagues

and within the community she served with deep respect for her advocacy in the fields of diabetes, obesity, heavy metal toxicity, and mental health. She believed in a call to service and worked with passionate dedication to improving the health of children in Milwaukee and Africa. The Dr. Elaine Kohler Global Health Scholarship fund is for any MCW trainee who seeks to recognize Dr. Kohler's legacy long after her untimely death in 1981.



Image 11. Dr. Elaine Kohler Scholars with board members of the Wm. Collins Kohler Foundation

Additionally, medical humanitarian, Greg Von Roenn, MD, secured the St. Joseph's Hospital Professional Emergency Services (PES) Fund. The PES Fund was started in the 1970s by surgical residents who worked in Emergency Medicine at St. Joseph's Hospital. The fund supports their belief that international experiences broaden a medical student's horizon and education to recognize the vast discrepancies in care provided in low-resource countries and encourage them to address health inequities in the future (2007-present).

These donor gifts focus on giving students the financial resources to experience cultures around the world, in a variety of resource settings. The donors' goal was for students to return to the U.S. more open-minded and culturally aware of the world in which they live and of their responsibility to decrease health inequities from neighborhoods to nations. Now, trainees' competency, caring, and character are self-reflected upon return from educational and research experiences to show a personal and professional impact of the exchange.

INTEGRATING GLOBAL HEALTH INTO RESIDENT EDUCATION

Driven by resident interest, the development of global health focused **Graduate Medical Education** curriculum was introduced first for the Family and Community Medicine residency training program under the direction of Dr. James Sanders, (Professor of Family and Community Medicine and founding director) in 2002. Supported by the Department of Pediatrics, its residency training program developed a formal *Global Health Track* in 2008 (Dr. Nicole St Clair, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and founding director and Dr. Jackie Kuzminski, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and founding assistant director). Under their leadership, the Midwestern Consortium of Global Child Health Educators was established in 2010 with a mission to “*Advance the science and implementation of global child health training in graduate medical education through regional multi-institutional collaboration and scholarly output.*” To achieve this, they meet annually and collaborate remotely to create and disseminate resources for



Image 12. Dr. Nicole St Clair, Founding Director Pediatrics Global Health Track



Image 13. MCW Pediatrics is a founding and current member of this regional consortium

residency programs to offer comprehensive global health training programs at their respective institutions. MCW Department of Pediatrics hosted this Consortium in 2012 and 2013. Projects have included simulation- and procedural-based training for clinical care in low resource settings; preparation curriculum packages for global health electives; and multi-institutional research collaborations.⁴ These materials are freely available and have been broadly disseminated through workshops, presentations, and publications ranging from SUGAR (Simulation-based training), PEARLS (procedural-based training), and a comprehensive preparation curriculum entitled S-PACK.⁴ Under the

direction of Dr. Caitlin Kaeppler (Associate Professor of Pediatrics), the Pediatrics' and Medicine/Pediatrics' track was later renamed *Community and Global Health Track* in 2019 along with its other co-directors, Dr. Megan Schultz (Assistant Professor of Pediatrics/Emergency Medicine) and Dr. Constance Gundacker (Assistant Professor of Pediatrics).

In 2020, a two-year joint and multi-disciplinary training program across all residencies and fellowships initiated to offer trainees a broad-based curriculum of global health principles and concepts, regardless of specialty, important to developing global physicians. With a cohort of dedicated faculty representing over 10 specialties, the cross cutting global health curriculum advances global health knowledge, skills, and experience to advance trainees' leadership attributes. The **GME Global Health Scholars** program initiated with 37 residents and fellows from 14 subspecialties. Faculty leadership includes Curriculum Co-Leads, Drs. Mac Longo (Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology) and Ashley Pavlic (Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine), Evaluation Lead, Dr. Stephen Humphrey (Assistant Professor of Dermatology), and Professional Development Lead, Dr. Stephen Hargarten (Associate Dean for Global Health).



Image 14. GME Global Health Scholars started in 2020 with 37 residents, fellows from 13 subspecialties

EXPANDED MEDICAL STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Driven by the ever-changing demographics of greater Milwaukee's patient population, a gap in medical education emerged in language acquisition and cultural humility. In 2008, a **Medical Spanish Elective** was offered for medical students to facilitate improved understanding and rapport in cross-linguistic and cross-cultural encounters. Since its initiation, over 400 students have completed the course to improve their Medical Spanish vocabulary and grammar. Its founding director was Dr. Brett Bordini (Assistant Professor of Pediatrics/Hospitalist) and has been led by Dr. Michael Levas (Assistant Professor of Pediatrics/Emergency Medicine) since 2018 to the present.

Formal undergraduate medical education followed with the development of the Pathways. The **Global Health Pathway** was one of five founding pathways for the School of Medicine in 2009 under direction of the former Dean of the School of Medicine, Dr. Jonathan Ravdin (Professor of Medicine/Infectious Disease). This Pathway was designed for students interested in understanding the healthcare needs of patients, families, and communities around the world. It prepares students for the challenges of working in areas of the world with limited health care resources. Core curriculum topics are consistent with those proposed by the Consortium of Universities for Global Health competencies and other professional schools that have long been on the forefront of global health education and research. Dr. Ravdin named Dr. Michael Kron (Professor of Medicine/Infectious Disease) as its founding Pathway Director through 2014 when he was succeeded by Dr. Stephen Hargarten (2014-2017), then in 2018-2019, Dr. Bruce Campbell (Professor of Otolaryngology and Communication Sciences) led, until Drs. Kirsten Beyer (Associate Professor of Institute for Health and Equity/Epidemiology) and Megan Schultz (Assistant Professor of Pediatrics/Emergency Medicine) were selected to serve as associate co-directors from 2019 - present.



Image 15. Founding Global Health Pathway Director, Dr. Michael Kron

Senior year global health rotations grew from three to 21 options over the decade. Developed by MCW faculty's global health partners, they offer medical students a month-long immersive educational experience to observe diverse resourced healthcare delivery systems around the world and build their own character, medical competency, and skillset to care for patient population.

THE OFFICE OF GLOBAL HEALTH: A VISIBLE, PERMANENT, AND EFFECTIVE CATALYST TO FACILITATE GLOBAL HEALTH EFFORTS AT MCW

In 2010, the Department of Population Health was restructured to become the Institute for Health and Society in recognition of its prominent role in MCW's expanded work in community health, as well



Image 16. Founding Associate Dean for Global Health, Dr. Stephen Hargarten

as clinical and translational sciences. An expert in *Entamoeba histolytica*, Dr. Ravdin also envisioned and funded the College's first, **Global Health Program** and named Dr. Stephen Hargarten (Professor and Chair of Emergency Medicine, Director of the Injury Research Center), its founding Associate Dean. In 2010, this *Program* was initially housed as a division within the former Institute for Health and Society then led by Dr. Cheryl Maurana (Professor). Its goal is to develop a sustainable platform of local and global health partnerships. Its vision is to train the next generation of global health leaders and address local and global health inequities across neighborhoods and nations. Its mission is to reduce global health inequities through local and global multi-institutional collaborative partnerships in education, research, patient care and community engagement.

Also in 2010, MCW became a member of the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH), the largest consortium of academic institutions in the world involved in global health. With over 19,000 individual members and 145 institutions worldwide, MCW is part of this interdisciplinary network whose mission is to facilitate the sharing of knowledge to address global health challenges by creating equity and reducing health disparities. In line with MCW's four missions, CUGH promotes mutually beneficial, long-term partnerships dedicated to building human capital across education, research, and service.



Image 17. Membership to International Consortium of Globally Engaged Universities

In 2015, the Dean of the Medical School, Dr. Joseph Kerschner (Provost, Executive Vice President, Professor) strengthened the institution's commitment to global health and established a stand-alone administrative department of Global Health where the **Office of Global Health** is currently housed. Since its original inception in 2010, the Office of Global Health has facilitated over 40 international, faculty-led affiliation agreements that have led to an increase of global health rotation locations for students, residents, and fellows.⁴ It has increased extramural funding for both trainees and faculty's global health education and research efforts by 125%.⁵ It has been integral to the development of over 28 new global research studies in 13 countries, and established signature research programming as the *MCW Annual Global Health Week* (2011 – present), the *Dr. Elaine Kohler Summer Academy of Global Health Research* (2011 – present).⁵ The Office of Global Health has strengthened community engagement efforts through the *Milwaukee Refugee Research Collaborative* and *Our City of Nations* multidisciplinary conference. Regionally, it has convened the over 30 academic institutions with global engagement with the *Midwestern Universities for Global Health* annual meeting (2013 - present). The Medical College of Wisconsin joined the ranks of other notable and established academics advancing global health community engagement, education, and research and was accepted as a member of the *Consortium of Universities for Global Health* in 2011 through present.



Image 18. First administrative department established 2015 - present

TRAILBLAZING FACULTY, DEPARTMENTS, AND ORGANIZATIONS

MCW's **hospital affiliates** gained momentum in their global engagement and in 2013, Froedtert Hospital and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin initiated an International Patient Program in solid organ transplant and cardiac care. Nursing leadership followed with Froedtert Hospital enacting a Global Health Nursing Committee in 2014 to support nurses in their global engagement.

In 2017, MCW's vision statement was changed to, "**Pioneering pathways to a healthier world.**" It succinctly expresses how MCW aspires to change the world. This was the first in its history that the institution established an outward facing impact statement that included a global lens. The vision statement challenges the MCW community to be "pioneering" because new knowledge is a prerequisite to advancing health. MCW faculty have been advancing global health efforts in community engagement, education, patient care and research for decades. They believe the only way to build a healthier world is to build it together and our trainees are the next generation of globally minded health professionals who will continue to secure a safer, healthier and more equitable world from neighborhoods to nations.

Notable faculty global contributions include Dr. James Sanders' (Professor Family and Community Medicine) one-year Fulbright Scholarship in 2013 when he lived and worked in Zambia to contribute to the development of the country's first family medicine residency training program. Dr. Theodore MacKinney (Professor Medicine) was the first to maintain his full-time faculty member status while serving medical education and patient care efforts in Nepal, 10 months annually in Kathmandu. The impact of his genuine collaborations in Nepal has been leveraged to create MCW medical student summer research opportunities, publish the country's first quality improvement studies, engage MCW emergency medicine and surgery faculty, strengthen global health electives with over 100 students and residents having completed away rotations, and global institutional agreements.



Image 19. Dr. James Sanders, MCW global health champion



Image 20. Dr. Ted MacKinney, MCW global health champion

Faculty and alumni giving have increased global health efforts as well. In 2017, Drs. Susan P. Taylor (Associate Professor of Anesthesiology) and James H. Taylor initiated the *Scudder Scholarship Fund* to address the global burden of cancer by building the capacity of radiation oncology providers. Distributions from the Fund support MCW radiation oncology resident/faculty and senior medical student global health rotations in Christian Medical College Vellore (CMCV) in India. This fund supports the travel expenses of CMCV faculty/trainees for educational opportunities through the MCW Department of Radiation Oncology *International Scholars in Radiation Oncology* training program at the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center. In 2019, Drs. Joyce Sanchez (Assistant Professor Medicine, Infectious Disease) and David Joyce (Associate Professor of Surgery, Cardiothoracic) instated the *Joyce Global Health Scholarship Fund* for a medical student global health rotation to Tenwek Hospital in Kenya.

Global health education in the MCW **Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences** began in 2015 with a modular course entitled: *Introduction to Global Health*, (course number 18219), for the College's Master of Public Health degree program. This course was primarily developed by Dr. James Sanders (Professor Family and Community Medicine). In 2019, the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences approved the Institute for Health and Equity's new master's degree, the **Master of Science in Global Health Equity**. Under the direction of Dr. Laura Cassidy (Professor Institute for Health and Equity), in the fall of 2020, the program matriculated its first four students. The degree's initiation was integrated within her the *Hedwig van Ameringen* Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) fellowship project. This master's degree leverages research programs and MCW global partnerships to provide a transformative learning experience focused on genuine community engagement and capacity building. Thesis work engages culturally diverse populations with established partnerships that provide the opportunity to participate in research with our Wisconsin American Indian/Alaskan Native tribal collaborators, community members, foundations, and global researchers. Students learn to identify, leverage, and influence opportunities with key stakeholders for improved, cost-effective healthcare as well as public health service in Wisconsin and beyond.



Image 21. Founding Director of the MS in Global Health Equity, Dr. Laura Cassidy

Centers and departments have integrated a global health focus into their efforts. In 2016, the **Department of Orthopaedic Surgery**, the *Schwab Endowed Global Health Fund* was initiated during the chair leadership transition of Dr. Jeffrey Schwab to Dr. David King with \$500k of departmental funding augmented by residency alumni and faculty contributions. This fund honored its decades long efforts in Nicaragua with Dr. Schwab's Milwaukee Orthopedics Overseas. In 2017, the **Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology** started *The Kathryn Sarnoski, MD Global Health Resident Travel Fund* by this alumna to inspire residents to participate in global health opportunities thereby enriching the value of the residency program.

In 2018, under the direction of Dr. Leonard Egede (Inaugural Milwaukee Community Chair in Health Equity Research, Professor of Medicine & Eminent Scholar Chief, Division of General Internal Medicine), as Director, instated a *Global Health Unit* within his new **Center for Advancing**



Image 22. Dr. Leonard Egede founded the Department of Medicine's Center for Advancing Population Science and its Global Health Unit

Population Science. This Unit provides scientific leadership to expand the work of healthcare transformation from the United States and abroad; members collaborate across institutions and countries through collaborative relationships and ongoing projects. Efforts focus on increasing the use of evidence-based medicine, conducting epidemiological studies in diverse countries, informing public health policy through rigorous research projects, improving outcomes for communicable and non-communicable diseases, and engaging communities in health and health research. In addition, unit faculty mentor medical and doctoral students interested in global health research, adding to the body of literature on addressing health concerns in global communities and providing experiences to gain an appreciation for the ethical responsibilities that come with conducting global health research.⁶

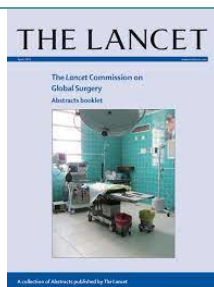


Image 23. Department of Surgery dedicated 5 years to train general surgeons in Ethiopia



Image 24. Working to build safe and effective surgical care for all of the world's

For the Department of Surgery, in 2013, Drs. Keith Oldham (Professor and Chief, Pediatric Surgery) and Sarah Greenberg (General Surgery Resident) served as a Commissioner and a Bellagio Commissioner for *The Lancet Commission on Global Surgery*. Along with Dr. Sabina Siddique (Assistant Professor of Pediatric Surgery), they all served as board members for the *Global Initiative for Children's Surgery*, a movement to ensure every child has access to surgical care and led many programs to improve access to and quality of children's surgical care across the world.

In 2019, the Department of Surgery joined 12 other U.S. academic medical centers that committed to a five-year surgical training collaborative for a *train the trainers* program facilitated by the American College of Surgery's Operation Giving Back at Hawassa University in Ethiopia led by Dr. Marc de Moya (Professor of Surgery/Trauma and Acute Care). The goal of the collaborative is to strengthen the surgical care system in Hawassa through research, quality, education, and service activities, and ultimately to establish a regional surgical training hub. Focused on building a research infrastructure that includes training as well as resources to become a Research Center of Excellence. Drs. Chris Dodgion and Libby Schroeder (Assistant Professor Surgery/Trauma and Acute Care) Lead its Research Work Group and developed a 7-week research basics virtual training for Ethiopian surgeon trainees. In return, they are strengthening their role as global surgery educators and community engagement efforts to improve global surgical care. During their general surgery training, residents, Drs. Sarah Greenberg and Alexis Bowder completed the two-year long, *Paul Farmer Global Surgery Fellowship* whose purpose is to train leaders to promote universal access to surgical, anesthesia, and obstetrics and gynecology care through education, research, and policy development.



Image 25. Department of Surgery dedicated 5 years to train general surgeons in Ethiopia

In 2019, under the direction of Dr. Ian B.K. Martin (Professor and Chair Emergency Medicine), the Department of Emergency Medicine initiated a new Division of Global and Population Health. Drs. Taylor Sonnenberg (Assistant Professor) and Ashley Pavlic (Assistant Professor) were named the inaugural Co-Chiefs. These are just a few notable examples of the growth of global health at MCW.



Image 26. First department to initiate a division of global and population health

In 2022, a nationwide search identified MCW Professor and Director of Epidemiology and Social Sciences, Dr. Laura Cassidy, as the second Associate Dean for Global Health and its 3rd Strategic Plan was developed outlining steps for continued growth and enhanced visibility.

SHARING WITH AND LEARNING FROM THE MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY

For the past three decades, the greater Milwaukee metropolitan area has been an advocate for and leader in global health research, education, training, and technology commercialization. In 2020, the inaugural **Greater Milwaukee Global Health Landscape Study** was released to measure the breadth and depth of greater Milwaukee's global health activities and to communicate the sector's impacts on the regional economy. Commissioned by the Milwaukee Global Health Consortium and conducted by Research Triangle International, it illustrates that Greater Milwaukee's companies, universities, nonprofits, civil society organizations, and government agencies have worked together to strengthen health and safety locally and globally, with the goal of reducing disparities and inequities, for the world's diverse populations.⁶ Greater Milwaukee's global health ecosystem comprises institutions of higher education, hospitals and community health centers, global bio-health companies, nonprofit research institutes, philanthropic and civic organizations, and local government agencies.⁶ In 2019, the greatest share (55%) of greater Milwaukee global health organizations were engaged in "education, outreach, and training" for students, healthcare workers, and refugees and recent immigrants. "Clinical or professional services" is second (40%), followed by "research and feasibility studies" (30%), and "data collection and evaluation" (15%).⁷



Image 27. Inaugural Global Health Economic Impact Study released in 2020



Image 28. First program to convene students across Milwaukee interested in global health

The Milwaukee Global Health Scholars program was initiated by members of the Milwaukee Global Health Consortium in 2019. After the organization sun-setted, its academic members continued the program and expanded it to include any student, in any degree program, at any metro Milwaukee institution of higher learning. Participants gain experience in competencies drawn from American Schools of Public Health and Consortium of Universities of Global Health: 1) Understand the roles, relationships, and resources of the entities influencing global health; 2) Discuss ethical approaches in global health research and practice; 3) Practice critical self-reflection, cultural humility, and ongoing learning in global health; and 4) Apply project management techniques throughout program planning, implementation and evaluation. Scholars are enrolled at MSOE, Marquette University, Alverno College, Carroll University, UW Milwaukee, Medical College of Wisconsin, and Concordia University.

MCW's IMPACT DURING THE SARS-CoV-2 GLOBAL PANDEMIC

From the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States and its arrival to Wisconsin, MCW became a transformative, trusted, and valued leader for credible and valued information. A new website of resources validated by MCW physicians, scientists, and other credible partners was developed. Globally engaged faculty leaders were central to bringing science and population health data to a diversity of communities through webinars, web-based materials, social media, and emergency response.⁷ Faculty cared for Children's Wisconsin and Froedtert Hospital's COVID-19 hospital patients. And MCW pathologists were instrumental in developing screening tools. The

Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment awarded nearly \$4.8 million in funding to 17 projects designed to support health care and community agencies in the fight to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus COVID-19 across Wisconsin. Led by Dr. John Raymond, a partnership with the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce (MMAC) was developed to provide expert advice through webinars and various resources to its business community and the general public. A toolkit was co-developed to help the business community identify COVID-19 risks and implement health and safety procedures. The toolkit provided information, guidance and resources to assist businesses to restart operations safely.⁶ The College inoculated over 19,000 COVID-19 vaccinations to its faculty, students, staff, and community members including teachers and frontline workers.⁸

The Medical College of Wisconsin, its leaders, faculty, and staff have been and continue to be essential leaders. MCW is integral partner in the local and world community to advance important collaborative work to help make our communities, states, and nations healthy and safe and to be impactful as a credible and trustworthy source of global health efforts.

GME GLOBAL HEALTH SCHOLARS

We recognized, with palpable resident growing interest in global health, that a broad-based curriculum of global health principles and concepts, regardless of specialty, was timely and important to developing global physicians.

With a cohort of dedicated faculty representing over 10 specialties, a cross cutting global health curriculum to advance global health knowledge, skills, and experience is available for all interested residents, the GME Global Health Scholars academic enrichment program was endorsed by the GME Committee and established in 2020. This leadership development program was rooted in ACGME competencies and [Consortium of Universities for Global Health Education Competencies](#).

Curricular components include:

- Multi-disciplinary interactive didactics; [view seminar information](#) (PDF)
- Emphasis on leadership skills and development in global health will be underlining focus of curriculum including emotional intelligence, resilience, leading from the middle, collaborative problem solving, with one on one mentoring with globally engaged faculty
- Networking with fellow residents and globally engaged faculty

With a 70% or higher participation rate, trainees receive a certificate of completion awarded by the Medical College of Wisconsin Office of Global Health. All interested residents are accepted into the leadership development program, but they must apply. To apply, they complete the online form that will ask for your motivation to participate and an updated resume or curriculum vitae. Faculty leads are Associate Professors, Drs. Mac Longo, Radiation Oncology and Stephen Humphrey, Dermatology and the Office of Global Health provides administrative support.

MCW NAMES ASSOCIATE DEAN OF GLOBAL HEALTH SUCCESSOR



Image 29. Starting in 2022, Dr. Laura Cassidy named Dean of Global Health

After 12 years as serving as Dean, Dr. Stephen Hargarten stepped down and was succeeded by the appointment of Laura D. Cassidy, MS, PhD, Professor with Tenure in the Institute for Health & Equity, as MCW's next Associate Dean of Global Health, effective July 15, 2022. Dr. Cassidy also serves as Director of the Division of Epidemiology & Social Sciences, Director of the MS Program in Global Health Equity, and Research Director within the Institute for Health & Equity. Dr. Cassidy was identified as the top candidate for this role after a comprehensive national search and Marc de Moya, MD, served as the Chair of the search committee.

Dr. Cassidy joined the Medical College of Wisconsin in 2006 as Associate Professor of Surgery, leading the pediatric research team. In 2007, she received a secondary appointment in the Institute for Health and Society (now known as the Institute for Health & Equity) and became Assistant Director of Outcomes at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin (now Children's Wisconsin). In 2011, Dr. Cassidy was named Director of the PhD Program in Public and Community Health, and established the Division of Epidemiology within the Institute for Health and Society. She was promoted to Professor with Tenure in 2014. Dr. Cassidy was a Fellow in the Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program in 2017-2018.

Dr. Cassidy is an experienced epidemiologist and population science researcher. Her team in the Division of Epidemiology focuses on spatial epidemiology, infectious disease, global health, sampling and survey methods, clinical research, environmental science, Native American partnerships, rural partnerships, cancer screening, community engagement, violence prevention and a crosscutting focus on reducing health disparities.

Dr. Cassidy has held numerous professional positions. She has been an elected Board member and Research Committee Chair of the Pediatric Trauma Society, and Co-Chair of the National Advisory Council for Data Identification and Planning Committee for the National Trauma Registry for Children. She chaired the WHO Global Initiative for Emergency & Essential Surgical Care Workgroup on Data Collection, Analysis and Sharing.

She has served as Principal Investigator of multiple federal grants including an NIH NICHD grant to evaluate the Impact of Pediatric Trauma Centers on the Outcome of Injured Children in Ohio, the Great Lakes Native American Research Center for Health, the Menominee Resilience Model and a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant to evaluate local public health leadership under economic constraints. She has devoted considerable time and energy to global health endeavors such as building a Nigerian Trauma Registry and collaborating with the group Surgeons Overseas. She also has helped to build a trauma registry in Haiti and has participated as faculty in multiple Research Methods Workshops in collaboration with the West African College of Surgeons. Additionally, since 2017, Dr. Cassidy has served as an Examiner for the Makerere University School of Public Health in Kampala, Uganda.

Dr. Cassidy has been significantly involved in undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral mentoring and education, including participating in a Mentor Training Program for Community Engaged Researchers and leading a series of mentorship training programs for MCW faculty; she also

participated in the MCW-University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Leadership Academy. She has been an advisor to 21 PhD students, seven Master degree students, and mentor to seven faculty and six post-doctoral fellows. In 2016, Dr. Cassidy was selected by students of MCW's Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences as "Mentor of the Year."

Dr. Cassidy has participated in over 55 invited lectures, workshops and presentations – both nationally and internationally. Her bibliography includes more than 170 articles, book chapters, publications and abstracts. Her research has been published in high-impact journals such as Lancet and JAMA Surgery.

Dr. Cassidy graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1987 and received her Master of Science in Biostatistics in 1993 and her PhD in Epidemiology from that institution in 2000. From 2001-2006, she was a Research Assistant Professor of Biostatistics at the University of Pittsburgh.

Appendix I. Timeline of Key Dates of International and Global Health Engagement at the Medical College of Wisconsin

Year	Key Dates of International and Global Health Engagement at the Medical College of Wisconsin
1981	MCW establishes the <i>Indochinese Refugee Relief Fund</i>
1986	MCW becomes consortium member of new <i>Milwaukee International Health Training Center</i> renamed <i>Center for International Health</i> [2004]
1990	<i>Center of AIDS Intervention Research</i> established
1993	<i>Office of International Medicine</i> established
1996	Renamed <i>Office of International Affairs</i> instated
2002	Family Medicine initiates an <i>International Health training track</i> for residency
2008	Pediatrics initiates a <i>Global Health training track</i> for residency
2009	Medical Student Pathways established – <i>Global Health</i> one of five
2010	Inaugural Associate Dean for Global Health Dr. Stephen Hargarten named, <i>Global Health Program</i> established within Institute for Health & Society
2011	MCW becomes member of <i>Consortium of Universities for Global Health</i>
2013	FH/CHW initiates <i>International Patient Program</i> (solid organ transplant, cardiac cases)
2014	FH <i>Global Health Nursing Committee</i> established
2015	MCW <i>Global Health Program</i> becomes stand-alone Administrative Department directly reporting to Dean/Provost and referred to as the <i>Office of Global Health</i> Master of Public Health degree program created first focused course <i>Introduction to Global Health</i>
2017	Center for International Health renamed the <i>Milwaukee Global Health Consortium</i>
2020	<i>Greater Milwaukee Global Health Impact Study</i> released Master of Global Health Equity matriculates first cohort MCW became a transformative, trusted, and valued leader for credible and valued information during COVID-19 global pandemic
2021	<i>GME Global Health Scholars</i> initiates with 37 residents/fellows from 13 subspecialty programs
2022	Second <i>Associate Dean for Global Health</i> named, Dr. Laura Cassidy

Appendix II. MCW Alumni Humanitarian Awardees

2024 J. Luis Bautista, MD '84
2023 Roland H. Winter, MD '83
2022 Stephen Hargarten, MD '75
2021 Mark L. Harlow, MD '86, GME '91
2020 Steven E. Larson, MD '75, GME '78, FEL '80
2019 Marc H. Erickson, MD '89
2018 Sister Alegria, MD '78
2017 Donald A. Hackbarth, MD '77, GME '82
2016 Anne T. Martinelli, MD '01
2015 Frank T. Pilney, MD '59
2015 John P. Zimmermann, MD '70
2014 Laurel M. Bear, MD '84, GME '87
2013 Gloria M. Halverson, MD '73
2012 Clifford H. Starr, MD '56, GME '63, MS '63
2011 Sister Mary V. Annel, MD '71
2010 Thomas P. Chisholm, MD '59
2009 Wendelin W. Schaefer, MD '64
2008 Carol A. Ritter, MD '83
2007 Theodore G. MacKinney, MD '85
2007 Julianne R. Newcomer, MD '87, GME '97
2006 Stuart E. Adair, MD '64
2005 Brother Jerry J. Galloway, MD '65, GME '70
2005 George R. Schneider, MD '70

Appendix III. References

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5. Medical College of Wisconsin Office of Global Health. Programming Portfolio. April 12, 2021
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