



SUPPORTING GLOBAL HEALTH EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

EMILY KRUEGER – HEALTH BUILDERS– RWANDA- 2023

Master of Science in Global Health Equity

DR. RACHEL THOMPSON GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY FUND

Emily partnered with Health Builders whose mission is to strengthen primary care in Rwanda. Health Builders is committed to closing gaps in Rwandan health care by working together with communities, local governments and organizations, and Rwanda’s Ministry of Health. Emily collaborated with Health Builders to launch a pilot screening program for Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD).

Health Builders has a non-communicable disease initiative with which they have been partnering with the Ministry of Health. Current areas of focus have included hypertension and diabetes which are risk factors for PAD. Incorporating training and resources to screen for PAD was timely and beneficial to the Health Builder’s clinics and initiatives. Emily used a train the trainer approach and provided training to Health Builders staff and physicians and nurses from rural health centers and the district hospital on reading ankle-brachial index and identifying risk factors and management strategies for PAD. The training included didactic instruction and practical demonstration. Following the training, healthcare workers began screening patients and recording the data. Implementing the PAD screening for patients who come to the healthcare centers will allow for early detection and provision of management strategies and education for those who screen positive.

“This internship put a very real human perspective to healthcare and research. It puts people behind the papers that we read for class, I feel really lucky to have gotten to know the partners, they provided a great experience.”

Emily gained firsthand experience partnering with Rwandan communities to improve the quality of their healthcare. She collaborated with and provided training to Rwandan healthcare workers to improve the health of the community. This internship provided an opportunity for the practical application of the knowledge she has learned in the MS Global Health Equity program and the skills she has learned as a medical student at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Key takeaways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trained healthcare professionals in Rwanda in the identification and management of PAD • Training resulted in a significant increase in knowledge among healthcare workers on risk factors, symptoms, treatment, and Ankle-Brachial Index • Facilitated the process to begin screening patients to estimate PAD and its presence in Rwanda
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Emily and the Health Builders staff that worked on the PAD project.



Emily facilitating the practical portion of calculating ankle brachial indices with healthcare workers in Rulindo.