

Hubert-Yeargan Center Happenings

Fall 2020

Our mission is...

To develop the next generation of globally educated, socially responsible healthcare professionals dedicated to improving the health of disadvantaged populations.

Sustaining Our Efforts

Our efforts are sustained by support from our donors and long-lasting friendships with colleagues around the US and in Australia, Brazil, China, Kenya, Nicaragua, Rwanda, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tanzania, and at the Indian Health Service in New Mexico.

On behalf of our trainees, and everyone whose lives their work has touched, thank you for supporting our programs!



Executive Director of the HYC,
Dr. Chris Woods, in Liberia

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Dr. Chris Woods Reflects
on Dr. Ralph Corey's
Global Health Legacy

As we shared with many of you, Dr. Ralph Corey, a champion of Global Health education for post-graduate medical trainees long before it acquired broad appeal, retired at the end of June this year. Since 1985, he was responsible for facilitating and supporting nearly 500 clinical elective residents on rotations in over 20 diverse global sites. Understanding the importance of bidirectional opportunities, he also hosted approximately 200 international trainees from 15 global partners at Duke. His visionary leadership led to the creation of the Global Health Pathway for Residents and Fellows (GHP). A unique program as compared with our peer institutions, the GHP accepts individuals from all sub-specialties, provides extended protected time to conduct research overseas, and provides masters level training in Global Health through the Duke MSc-GH. Graduates of this program have been academically prolific, producing over 250 global health related publications since its launch in 2008, landing either faculty appointments at academic institutions or appointments at the NIH, CDC, NGO sector, or advanced training programs.

Throughout, Dr. Corey assured that the HYC remained true to its service mission and commitment to improve the health of the communities in which we work. For example, the HYC has built a robust cardiovascular service in Western Kenya, including a ten-bed cardiac care unit and a Kenyan led Cardiovascular Fellowship Training Program. Under Dr. Corey's leadership, HYC also provided significant operational, research, and laboratory funding to build health system capacity at other global partner sites, particularly Sri Lanka and Tanzania, in order to provide a stable and robust care and research infrastructure.

As we carry on Dr. Corey's Global Health legacy, we intend to remain true to our mission: "to develop the next generation of globally educated, socially responsible, healthcare professionals dedicated to improving the health of disadvantaged populations", yet we also recognize that these turbulent times require intentional change in how we deliver on that mission. The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, though it limits fieldwork, encourages us to adapt new approaches to engage with our partners and facilitate the research of both our Duke and international trainees. I am comfortable that we can do that through creative technical approaches. However, the health disparities highlighted by the epidemic combined with the social unrest raging in the wake of ongoing disregard for black life and other forms of systemic racism also heightens a need for additional engagement in our own community under the banner of "local is global".



Drs. Corey and Woods share a lighthearted moment in early 2020.

Generosity in Action: HYC and Seamstress Team Up in Kenya



MTRH staff show off new MTRH MOYO masks, made locally in Eldoret with support from Duke Faculty and the HYC.

Through the efforts and generous support of Dr. Peter Kussin, Mike Foster, and our donors, the Hubert-Yeargan Center provided much needed masks to our colleagues at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) in Eldoret, Kenya in April 2020.

We teamed up with Mary, a local seamstress in Eldoret, who sewed the masks and added the words "MTRH MOYO" to them. Moyo means "heart" in Swahili and we are grateful to our donors whose hearts make partnerships like this possible.

Global Health Pathway Spotlight: LCDR Colin Smith, MD, US Public Health Service

In March 2020, I was deployed to assist in standing up a federal alternative care site for patients with COVID-19 in the Javits Convention Center in New York City (NYC). As a commissioned officer in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and fifth year Medicine-Psychiatry resident at Duke, I felt morally obligated to respond to the call to provide clinical care to people and communities at the epicenter of our country's crisis. Beyond that, as a Global Health Pathway (GHP) resident at the Duke Global Health Institute / Hubert-Yeargan Center for Global Health, the call appealed to the connection that I see between local and global health disparities. During the greater than one month-long deployment, our team cared for more than 1,000 people infected with COVID-19.

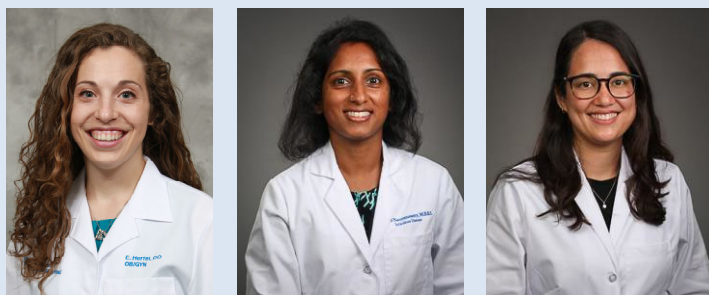


Lieutenant Commander Colin Smith, Javits Center, New York City, April 2020

Indeed, those individuals most impacted by the epidemic in NYC were the socially and medically vulnerable.

Since returning from NYC with a reinvigorated interest in local health disparities, I have immersed myself in the local Duke global health community. I have worked with multi-disciplinary groups investigating the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations, including people experiencing homelessness in Durham. My hope is that our work prevents the socially vulnerable from bearing an unjust burden of COVID-19 as has been the case thus far. To reduce local racial disparities in health outcomes, I am also investigating racial disparities in psychiatric triage, disposition and diagnosis at Duke University Hospital.

The GHP Program has given me access to a team of skilled researchers and clinicians with expertise in designing and conducting this meaningful local global health work. After graduating from Duke, I will join the Indian Health Service, where I hope to use the skills developed from the GHP to reduce health inequities faced by American Indian/Alaska Native communities.



Emily Herfel (OB/GYN), Shanti Narayanasamy (ID) and Sofia Zavala Monzon (ID) make up the 13th class of the GHP.

Many Global Health Pathway Trainees were caught abroad when COVID took hold forcing them to return to the US prematurely. Despite this disruption, our trainees rapidly pivoted their research efforts, many shifting the focus to reducing health disparities here in North Carolina. As one of our GHP Fellows stated, "The COVID-19 crisis has further underscored how crucial our global health work is, especially in regard to infrastructure and human resources."

In July, the GHP welcomed its 13th class of fellows: Emily Herfel (Obstetrics and Gynecology), Shanti Narayanasamy, and Sofia Zavala Monzon (both Infectious Diseases). Instead of spending six weeks at their international partner sites, they began the academic year connecting remotely with their mentors and global health research teams. They are enrolled fulltime in the Master of Science in Global Health program.

GHP by the Numbers

- 13 years of enrollment
- 42 graduates / 8 currently enrolled
- 16 subspecialties participating from 7 departments
- 29 MPH / MSc-GH awarded
- 11 months overseas, on average
- 31 Fogarty Global Health Training Fellowships
- 6 Early Career Development Awards
- 3 Duke CFAR Grants and 2 Fulbright Awards
- 22 graduates with academic appointments
- 2 graduates at CDC; 2 at NIH; 2 Graduates in public health / NGO sector

Moi Medical Officer Matches at Duke

By Dr. Peter Kussin

The Duke Internal Medicine residency program welcomed Dr. Chris Mwaniki to our program in July 2020. Over the past four years, it has been my privilege to work with this exceptionally talented and passionate physician as part of my global health work at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) in Eldoret, Kenya. Chris' rather mundane title, "medical officer in hematology and oncology", vastly understates the importance of his role at MTRH, which serves a catchment area of 22 million people. He was the glue which held the hematology and oncology service together and consistently made great things happen for his patients. Available 24/7, he always had a solution to even the most daunting diagnostic and treatment dilemmas. His cheerful and amazingly positive attitude was a source of inspiration to every Kenyan and North American colleague and especially to his grateful patients.

All of these attributes were most evident during a three month Kenyan physician strike. Chris continued to work tirelessly and was the face of oncology on the wards at MTRH. His work during this time was heroic which is a description this modest young man would eschew but clearly deserves. During this difficult period, nothing would deter him from organizing care and follow-up for the many patients with new and existing malignancies admitted to the wards during the strike.

In addition to his responsibilities at MTRH, Chris traveled to several outlying clinics in Western Kenya to run solo sickle cell and hemophilia clinics. In addition to carrying the burden of large outpatient clinics in these settings, he also found the time to organize a smartphone/social media based process to assist and educate his hemophilia patients and to complete important research projects which he presented at international hematology meetings. Dr. Mwaniki is a superstar and Duke is fortunate to have him in our family.



Dr. Chris Mwaniki (second from left) as a visiting observer at Duke with Dr. Peter Kussin (third from left); November 2019

Educational Exchange 2019-20

This year, the HYC supported a total of 18 trainees as part of our educational exchange program. We hosted 3 international scholars from Kenya. We sent 15 Duke residents from medicine, pediatrics, med/peds, and med/psych on rotations in Australia, China, Kenya, New Mexico, Tanzania, and Thailand. Unfortunately, COVID-19 cut short the 2020 spring rotations and prevented us from hosting our colleagues in spring and summer. We are looking forward to being able to resume our educational exchanges in the future.

I had the rare opportunity to gain first-hand experience tackling chronic diseases in an Asian population, a demographic I hope to serve. I learned unforgettable lessons on the complexity and diversity of cultural norms, health care policy, and how together, they impact health and healthcare. Most importantly, I saw how empathetic patient care and friendships transcend language, culture and class.

-Nancy Yang, Internal Medicine, China



I was able to see the tremendous strides being made in diagnostics, especially imaging studies such as cardiac catheterization in interventional cardiology and bronchoscopy in interventional pulmonology. I appreciate the opportunity the Hubert-Yeargan Center has provided us here at Duke. It is life changing and one to cherish. Thank you.

-Ruby Mudeny (right), with fellow Moi student Brian Aberi (left) and Dr. Ralph Corey



Being abroad at the onset of a truly unprecedented global event has given me a lens I think few of my colleagues have about the COVID crisis. The entire Bugando Medical Center catchment area (over 17 million people) has fewer than 20 ventilators and only 2 pediatric ventilators. There was the discussion of whether shipping restrictions would leave the hospital entirely without chemotherapy for months. I can viscerally understand the consequences of what this pandemic means beyond our borders. I'll be thinking of the physicians, residents and nurses there daily until we are through this and will remember what they are facing when it comes time to build preparedness in the future, especially in my job as part of the Epidemic Intelligence Service at the CDC.

-Amadea Britton, Med/Peds, Tanzania



Awards and Accomplishments

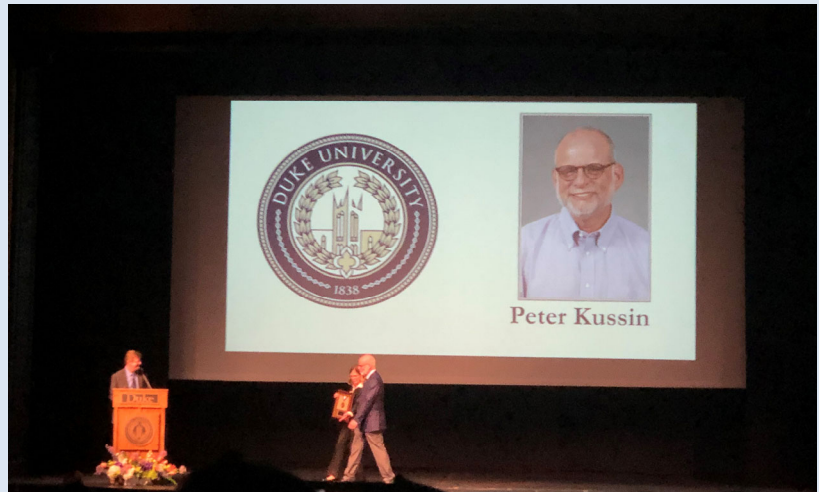


Dr. Thielman, pictured with wife Margaret, won the Palumbo Award in March 2020

We wish to congratulate **Dr. Nathan Thielman** for receiving the Palumbo Award in recognition of his dedication to compassionate patient care and excellence in teaching and mentorship of young physicians.

We also extend congratulations to **Dr. Peter Kussin** who was honored with Duke's Presidential Award for consistently personifying the values that define and shape Duke as an institution: respect, trust, inclusion, discovery, and excellence.

Well done!



Dr. Peter Kussin receives the President's Award from Duke President, Vincent Price, in February 2020.

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Founding Director, HYC

Ralph Corey, MD

Donations

The Hubert-Yeargan Center for Global Health is sustained by generous donations from and collaborations with individuals, organizations, and other academic medical centers dedicated to dramatically improving the healthcare and lives of people around the world.

If you would like to support the Hubert-Yeargan Center financially, please visit <http://dukeglobalhealth.org/givingback> to make an online donation.

If you would like to mail a donation, please contact us at Hubert-Yeargan@duke.edu for more information on how to do so.



Thank You!