

# Hubert-Yeargan Center Happenings

November 2019

## Founded by Dr. Ralph Corey, the HYC's 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!*



Dr. Ralph Corey with visiting scholars from Moi University, Kenya

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## Moi University Launches Cardiology Fellowship Training Program



Left to Right: Drs. David Lagat, John Lawrence & Joan Kiyeng

On September 1, 2019, Moi University (Moi) launched a curriculum based cardiology fellowship program to train specialists in heart disease. One of only two programs in the country, the curriculum was developed after many years of collaboration between Duke Faculty, Mt. Sinai and our Kenyan partners at Moi and Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH). Drs. Joan Kiyeng and David Lagat joined the inaugural class. Dr. John Lawrence, who has been leading the clinical cardiovascular training activities at MTRH since 2010, was especially enthusiastic about their selection. "I cannot imagine anyone more qualified multidimensionally than they are. They bring so much to the table with their personal and professional gifts."

Dr. Kiyeng worked as an internist at MTRH before joining the cardiology fellowship. Her medical training started about two decades ago when she won a scholarship to study medicine in Poland. Upon graduating in 2008, she returned to Kenya and eventually became a registrar in Internal Medicine. She states that she was inspired to study cardiology after rotating in the cardiac care unit in 2014 with Drs. Lawrence and Jerry Bloomfield.

In 2009, Dr. Lagat joined the Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Diseases Center of Excellence funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (<https://dukeglobalhealth.org/programs/cardiovascular-center>). He has been a faculty member in the department of medicine practicing general internal medicine at MTRH and running the pulmonary services since 2013. Lagat says he is especially interested in the intersection between cardiac disease and pulmonary vascular disease, which is a significant problem in Eldoret.

While the fellowship is a Moi University led program, our goal is to provide continuous North American faculty coverage during the first couple of years of the program. Faculty interested in participating should contact Cynthia Binanay at [Cynthia.binanay@duke.edu](mailto:Cynthia.binanay@duke.edu).

## Duke-Ruhuna Team Supports Educational Advancement

Ruvini Kurukulasooriya has served as Coordinator for the Duke-Ruhuna Collaborative Research Centre in Sri Lanka since 2011. In addition to overseeing administrative and trainee activities, Ruvini has served as a key investigator within the group's Infectious Diseases Research Program. This program includes multiple studies related to the epidemiology and treatment of febrile illnesses such as dengue, acute respiratory illness, and antimicrobial resistant-infections. (Continued on page 3)



Ruvini Kurukulasooriya at the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists Annual Sessions 2019

## Global Health Pathway Graduate Spotlight: Dr. Kristin Schroeder

Often times, prospective candidates know that they are interested in a career in global health, yet they are unsure as to what that might look like. Career paths take many divergent directions. Dr. Kristin Schroeder exemplifies how one person can make a huge difference in the lives of others.

Schroeder had significant global health research experience prior to enrolling in the Global Health Pathway (GHP) in 2014. However, her GHP fellowship gave her support and protected time to evaluate the pediatric oncology burden and resources available at Bugando Medical Center, a tertiary referral center in Mwanza, Tanzania. During the course of that research, she learned that survival rates for pediatric cancer were only 20% and abandonment rates, meaning patients who started treatment but never finished, were over 50 percent. Thinking initially that patients abandoned treatment due to high costs, Schroeder and her faculty mentor, Dr. Nelson Chao, launched the International Cancer Care and Research Excellence Foundation (iCCARE), a nonprofit to help families with healthcare costs. However, rates did not improve. Schroeder did additional research that subsequently revealed lack of patient education and long and costly hospital stays prior to diagnosis as key factors. With iCCARE support, she hired a patient navigator to guide patients through their hospital experience, and ultimately opened a hostel where families can stay while their child is undergoing treatment. Because of Schroeder's innovative interventions, survival rates have increased to 45% and abandonment rate has decreased to 22 percent.



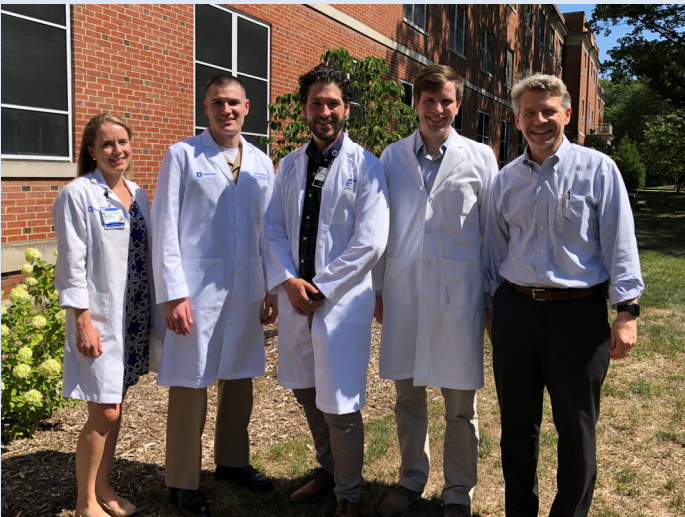
Dr. Schroeder (second from right) with colleagues from East Africa

Now an assistant professor of pediatrics and global health at Duke University, Schroeder spends six months a year in Bugando and six months at Duke. But even when in Durham, thoughts of her patients back in Tanzania are never far from her mind. She often starts her day in the wee hours of the morning to review charts and test results from her colleagues on the other side of the world. Now that's a career in global health!

To read more about Kristin's work, check out "Curing Pediatric Cancer in Tanzania" in Magnify Magazine at [www.medschool.duke.edu](http://www.medschool.duke.edu)

### GHP by the Numbers

- 12 years of enrollment
- 37 graduates / 10 currently enrolled
- 16 subspecialties participating from 7 departments
- 25 MPH / MSc-GH awarded
- 11 months overseas, on average
- 33 Fogarty Global Health Training Fellowships
- 6 Early Career Development Awards
- 3 Duke CFAR Grants and 2 Fulbright Awards
- 20 graduates with academic appointments
- 2 graduates at CDC; 2 at NIH; 2 Graduates in public health / NGO sector



This year the Global Health Pathway welcomed its 12th class of trainees. Pictured above from left to right—Sarah Norton (Internal Medicine Resident), Colin Smith (Internal Medicine and Psychiatry Resident), Matthew Weingard (Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellow), and Robert Rolfe (Infectious Diseases Fellow) with Dr. Nathan Thielman, Program Director. Their international partner locations include Myanmar, IHS Phoenix, Arizona, South Africa, and Peru.

## Screening Kenyan Kids for Heart Disease

In collaboration with the American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) Foundation, Mike Foster, Echo sonographer from Duke, spearheaded an echo-screening project for children in Western Kenya. Before it started, a one-day symposium on Pediatric Echo for the Kenyan Cardiac Society, sponsored by General Electric (GE), Kenya, took place in Nairobi. Sonographers and physicians from the screening team gave lectures including Brittany Byrd, former Duke Pediatric technologist and Dr. Greg Tatum, from the Duke Pediatrics lab. Dr. Titus Ng'eno, former Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) Medical Officer and current Duke Cardiology Fellow, also participated in the event. The team scanned over 1200 kids at three schools in four days. Eighty kids were identified with either rheumatic or congenital abnormalities and were either referred to the Pediatric Cardiac Clinic at MTRH or to a facility for an invasive intervention.

Thanks to Hitachi, USA and GE, Kenya for loaning equipment for this event.

Mike recently took a leave of absence from Duke to work with Moi University and MTRH to train the new Cardiology Fellows in noninvasive echocardiography techniques and to improve MTRH's diagnostic clinic workflow, digital reporting and archiving system.



Dr. Greg Ensing from Michigan and Jill Inafuku from Hawaii

## New Faces

We are pleased to welcome Corrie Walston, who took over as Program Coordinator for Elective Rotations and International Scholars after Madi Smith left in the spring. Corrie previously worked in autism research at UNC Chapel Hill and joined us in July. We're excited to welcome her to Duke and to the HYC.



*(Ruvini, continued from page 1)*

Under the mentorship of key faculty members from the collaboration (Drs. Ajith Nagahawatte and Champica Bodinayake from Ruhuna University, and Drs. Christopher Woods, Gayani Tillekeratne, and Truls Ostbye from Duke University), Ruvini is working on her PhD in Microbiology, funded by a grant successfully obtained from the Sri Lanka National Research Council. Since beginning her PhD, Ruvini has transitioned to the role of Senior Project Coordinator. She continues to supervise local administrative staff, conduct research activities related to *S. aureus* and other infectious diseases, and perform testing in the molecular laboratory developed by the Duke-Ruhuna Collaboration. She will be the first Sri Lankan trainee to obtain an advanced degree from Ruhuna University under the joint mentorship of the Duke-Ruhuna team.

## Educational Exchange 2018-19

**This year, the HYC supported a total of 25 trainees as part of our educational exchange program. We hosted 6 international scholars from Kenya and Thailand. We sent 19 Duke residents from medicine, pediatrics, med/peds, and med/psych on rotations in Australia, China, Kenya, New Mexico, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Thailand.**

*"I brought ... the "Rainbow Food Challenge" which challenges children to choose a color of the week, accompany a caregiver to the grocery store, and select a new fruit or vegetable of that color that they take home and try at least twice in the upcoming week. Because of the extended time I was able to spend in the clinic, I had the pleasure of seeing children back in the clinic after starting this "challenge" and the feedback was extremely positive."*

- Julie Childers, New Mexico, Summer 2018



*"Understanding different types of health care delivery enables one to view problems and inefficiencies in a different way, and potentially to solve these issues from novel angles as well. -- Kent Feng, Beijing, Spring 2019"*



*"Working within a different health system was an enlightening experience. ... I was struck by how all Australian citizens can access the public system of health care including reduced price medications and the effect this had on the health of Australians. Another thing that I was impressed by was the emphasis on early discussion of palliative care with very ill patients, something I hope to add to my practice."*

- Lauren Ranard, Australia, Spring 2019



*"Coming to Duke University for an elective was a new and exciting experience for me. The fellows and attendings were exceptionally nice and always eager to help. I had only just finished my first clinical year back in Thailand and they helped me learn and understand cases a lot more. Rounds and conferences are also interesting and gave me a brief idea how different the health policy and standard of care in the United States are compared to Thailand. I'm very grateful and glad that I took the opportunity to join an elective here."*

- Narisara Tribudharat, Medical Student from Siriraj Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand - May 2019

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## Donations

Founded by Dr. Ralph Corey, 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.

Please use the enclosed card to pledge your time, talents, and treasures or give online at <http://dukeglobalhealth.org/givingback>.

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# Thank You!