

Our mission is...

To develop the next generation of globally educated, socially responsible clinician educators and scientists dedicated to improving health equity at home and abroad.

Sustaining Our Efforts

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

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When is Global Local? When It's in Your Genes

By Corrie Walston

In 1942, in a small fishing village in the Philippines, a mother hid her daughter, Araceli Ganan, along with her other seven children, in the jungle as her husband, the town's mayor, negotiated terms with the occupying forces. The family survived, and after the war, young Araceli continued her schooling, graduating from Far Eastern Medical School in Manila in 1967. Decades later, her daughter, Dr. Maria Almond, would take up the mantle of the 'globally bound, locally found' physician shaped in large part by her mother's journey.

In her memoirs, Dr. Araceli Almond wrote, "Growing up on a small island makes one dream of other places." One of those dreams was to come to the US and, in 1970, she made her way to Pittsburgh for pediatric residency. She met and married Greenbrier Almond, an internal medicine-psychiatry medical student from West Virginia. They settled in his hometown of Buckhannon, WV and set up their medical practice, Total Life Clinic. Araceli and Greenbrier went on to have two children, Maria and Roncevert, with whom they traveled to all 50 states and six continents. The family made several trips back to the Philippines, while nurturing deep roots in the Buckhannon community.

The Total Life Clinic cared for the whole person, providing general medicine, pediatric and psychiatric care in one place, a novel concept, but one born out of necessity due to the region's limited resources. "I don't know if that would have happened as quickly or easily in a place with a lot of resources. One of the attractions of low resource settings is getting to be creative and innovative", says Maria.

Meanwhile, inspired by generations of doctors in her family, Maria began her own journey in medicine. After her fourth year at Harvard medical school, when most graduates clamor for residency matches, Maria devoted a fifth year to working in Moshi, Tanzania. Her mentor studied collective efficacy, the belief that your neighbor will be there to help you. Maria helped develop a curriculum for youth affected by HIV, teaching them about self-advocacy and how to speak to their own needs. The community began to follow the kids' recommendations and Maria watched as health improved and communities began to heal. Not content to just "fly in and fly out again", Maria looked for a residency program that would embrace psychiatry as part of global health.

She found that program at Duke. In 2008, Dr. Maria Almond joined the Global Health Pathway (GHP) as a psychiatry fellow. "The GHP solidified my decision to work in service to the community," she says. It provided structured education and mentorship that allowed her to believe in the expansive role of psychiatry in the community, to take psychiatry "off the couch". As part of the GHP, she returned to Moshi and spent nine months working on several projects, among them a long-running study on coping with HIV/AIDS and another focused on implementing a depression-screening tool for non-clinicians to use in local HIV clinics.

After leaving Duke, Dr. Almond served as Clinical Director of the University of Michigan PsychOncology Clinic and as a staff psychologist for the University's Counseling and Psychological Services office. In 2015, she relocated to Farmville, Virginia to be closer to family. She found herself serving as the only psychiatrist in an eight county region. Not only did she provide mental health care for rural Virginia, but in 2020, she began shepherding her community through a global pandemic. (*cont'd on page 3*)



New Piedmont District Health Director, Dr. Maria Almond, speaks to the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors.

Two Former Global Health Pathway Fellows Receive Faculty Positions

Congratulations to Drs. Deng Madut and Titus Ng'eno on their recent Duke Faculty appointments!

Dr. Deng Madut was recently appointed as an Assistant Professor of Medicine and an Assistant Research Professor of Global Health at Duke. Dr. Madut, GHP class of 2019, received his medical degree from Texas Tech School of Medicine in 2012, and came to Duke for his residency. During that time, he completed an elective rotation in Eldoret, Kenya through the HYC. Through that experience, he decided to pursue a career in global health and infectious disease, particularly focusing on the implementation of sustainability of HIV care and prevention strategies. As a GHP fellow, he investigated barriers to infectious disease care strategies in Moshi, Tanzania under the mentorship of Drs. Nathan Thielman and Matthew Rubach. His research focuses on improving the diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases among populations in low-resource settings.



GHP graduates and new Duke faculty members, Dr. Deng Madut and Dr. Titus Ng'eno

Dr. Titus Ng'eno joined the Duke Faculty as an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Cardiology, as of August 1, 2021. Dr. Ng'eno grew up in Nairobi, Kenya and is a graduate of the Oxford Brookes University (UK). He trained in medicine at the University of Nairobi School of Medicine, before joining Duke University for his Internal Medicine Residency, and Cardiology Fellowship training. He is also a graduate of the Master of Science in Global Health at Duke, was a Fogarty Global Health Research Fellow, an Advanced Imaging Fellow and a Design Health Fellow at Duke.

Dr. Ng'eno's research is focused on innovative cardiovascular disease interventions, to improve health outcomes. He was a lead investigator in the NIH funded Feasibility study on cardiac rehabilitation in Kenya (NCT02795936), and subsequently conducted the **Cardiac Rehabilitation** and **Metabolomic Profile** among Patients with **Heart Failure** (CROME-HF) clinical trial (NCT03743012). Since 2010, Dr. Ng'eno, together with Drs. John Lawrence and Jerry Bloomfield, have supported the growth of a cardiology program at the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH), Kenya. The Duke-MTRH partnership has led to the establishment of a cardiac ICU, growth of diagnostic and ambulatory cardiology services, and development of a cardiology fellowship training program. Through a collaborative effort between the Cardiology Division, the Hubert-Yeargan Center for Global Health and the Duke Global Health Institute, Dr. Ng'eno will continue to co-lead Cardiovascular development in the region.



The 14th Class of the GHP:
Drs. Dougherty, Moorthy, and Strasma

In July, the **GHP welcomed its 14th class of fellows: Dr. Jack Dougherty** (Infectious Disease), **Dr. Ganga Moorthy** (Pediatric Infectious Disease), and **Dr. Anna Strasma** (Nephrology). All are enrolled in the Master of Science in Global Health program and hope to complete their global health research projects in 2022.

Dr. Emily Herfel travelled to Kisumu, Kenya during the fall of 2021 and will spend nine months there working to develop and implement a pilot clinic-based HPV and cervical cancer education module aimed at reducing stigma and increasing HPV and cancer screenings in the community. **Dr. Shanti Narayanasamy** continues her work on the fungus *Talaromyces marneffi*. She is also conducting a Duke-wide survey of how physicians and medical students operationalize race in their clinical practice. **Dr. Sofia Zavala Monzon's** main research focus is on tuberculosis. She is currently analyzing diagnostic criteria for latent TB in foreign-born populations and validating of a rapid diagnostic method for mycobacterial diseases in the lab. **Dr. Matthew Weingard** is continuing his work with partners in Cape Town, South Africa to explore clinicians' attitudes and beliefs about pediatric mental health referral. The study aims to expand childhood access to mental healthcare through improved clinician training in assessment, treatment, and referral of common pediatric mental illnesses.

GHP by the Numbers

- 14 years of enrollment
- 45 graduates / 8 currently enrolled
- 19 subspecialties participating from 8 departments
- 31 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
- 29 graduates with academic appointments
- 2 graduates at CDC; 2 at NIH; 2 Graduates in public health / NGO sector

Global Partner Site Updates

SRI LANKA: The HYC purchased a **PCR machine for the Duke-Ruhuna Research Lab** in Galle which has been used to process more than 1,800 COVID-19 samples from the community since May 2021. The **Duke Ruhuna Research team** won the prestigious President's Award in April 2021 for their paper on the acute diagnosis of dengue, cited as one of the top twenty papers in the country. **Dr. Ajith Nagahawatte** accepted the award from the National Research Council in Colombo. **Ms. Ruvini Kurukulasooriya**, a research coordinator with the Duke Ruhuna team since 2011, presented her Methicillin Resistant Staph Aureus (MRSA) research project at the Young Scientists Conference on Multidisciplinary Research in October 2021. She is pursuing her doctorate in Micro- and Molecular Biology and is supervised by Duke and Ruhuna faculty.



Ruvini Kurukulasooriya takes a nasal swab from a farmer, Sri Lanka.



Dr. Matt Rubach and the Lab Team at KCMC, Moshi, Tanzania.

TANZANIA: **Drs. Chris Woods, Blandina Mmbaga** (KCMC, Moshi, Tanzania) and **Kirtika Patel** (MTRH, Eldoret, Kenya) led a [COVID-19 Clinical Research Coalition](#) webinar on the use and challenges for biorepositories in LMICs relating to COVID-19. Dr. Mmbaga has also been named program director for a new injury prevention research initiative in Tanzania, working closely with GHP alumna and Emergency Medicine faculty lead **Dr. Catherine Staton**. **Dr. Matt Rubach and team** finished analyzing samples from the Investigating Febrile Deaths in Tanzania study so see how patients' immune systems responded to their respective infections. **The SICK (Sepsis Characterization in Kilimanjaro) study**, which aims to identify subtypes of sepsis in sub-Saharan Africa, plans to enroll 800 subjects over the next two years in the Kilimanjaro region.



Drs. Hazel Mburu and Eric Anyira read a scan in the CCU, Eldoret, Kenya.

KENYA: The **MTRH Cardiovascular Fellowship** continues to thrive, and welcomed two new fellows in 2021: **Drs. Hazel Mburu and Eric Anyira**. Meeting virtually via Zoom has allowed faculty from Duke, Vanderbilt, UT-Austin and the UK to contribute didactic lectures to this fellowship curriculum. Thanks to a very **generous donation by Mr. Ray Michel**, father of nurse and Eldoret volunteer Cory Miller, construction began on the **MTRH CCU Family Comfort Room**. This space will provide a comfortable, quiet room for families and clinicians to gather for patient conferences and for CCU nurses to recharge. This act of generosity further solidifies the partnership between the HYC and MTRH in caring for patients and staff in western Kenya.

NICARAGUA: **Dr. Megan Reller and her in-country partners, Drs. Filemon Bucardo and Armando Matute**, have enrolled nearly 1,500 patients in their **acute febrile illness study** at HEODRA hospital and other local clinics in Nicaragua. This work is supported by the HYC and a CDC grant. Their team was also able to identify an outbreak of Dengue Fever thanks to the onsite PCR testing capabilities for flaviviruses. **Elana Horwitz**, a third year medical student at Duke, returned to Duke from UNAN-Leon and continues to remain involved with the research team. Despite COVID, limited bi-directional education continues as a Nicaraguan PhD candidate presently at UNC studying Dengue and Zika viruses will come to Duke to work on respiratory assays before returning to Nicaragua.

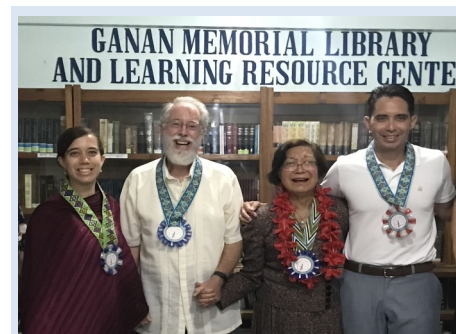
(cont'd from page 1) She advised local schools, coordinated emergency managers, clinicians and public health groups, and managed the mental health needs of her own team. "People didn't come to me because I am an infectious disease expert. They came because of the trust we had built together", she says. "I am a global health doctor practicing locally," she explains. "Global and local have always been the same to me. It isn't just about transplanting US ideas abroad, but bringing back global ideas to our local communities. A good example are community health workers. They're growing in popularity in the US and it's because they work. They work in India, in Tanzania, and they work here. People who know the community and its culture can speak to their own people and that's powerful. At the heart, it's about delivering high quality health care to the whole person in a place where you don't have all the resources you may be used to. You have to pull at other ideas."

In the spring of 2021, the position of Piedmont District Director opened and Dr. Almond was asked to consider applying. In one of her final conversations with her mother, Maria asked for her advice. Despite her failing health, Araceli responded enthusiastically, "Go for it!"

Araceli Ganan Almond died on May 17, 2021. As she helped write her mother's obituary, Maria says she was "reminded of how her [mother's] own daring, brave path of dreams and service are reflected in my own life choices".

On October 9, 2021, Dr. Maria Almond became the Piedmont Health District Director for the Virginia Department of Health. One of her main goals as Director is to rebuild local trust -- trust in healthcare and trust in the community. COVID, she says, exploited the pre-existing epidemic of loneliness. "We must understand all determinants of health. I hear the stories, I know the patterns, and I know how the pain has spread here. Being able to step into a position where I can begin to provide the supports that can heal that pain in a different way is where I need to be."

It is no surprise that Maria Almond felt called to a role allowing her establish roots in a place that needed her. Global is local — the idea that we're all more alike than different, that Tanzania, the Philippines, and Central Virginia are linked by the need for collective efficacy and that community is paramount in healing — is literally in her genes.



The Almond Family (Maria, Greenbrier, Araceli, and Roncevert) at an honored visit to the library named for Araceli's family. Romblon, The Philippines.

Awards and Accomplishments

Congratulations to **Colin Smith, MD**, 5th year Global Health Medicine-Psychiatry resident, for receiving the **2021 James H. Carter, Sr. Community Service award**. In collaboration with the Duke Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and the Carter family, this award recognizes psychiatry trainees who exhibit extraordinary commitment and service in community health. Dr. Smith also received the **2021 Fenton Award** from the Association of Medicine and Psychiatry (AMP). The award, given to one Medicine-Psychiatry residents in the US, honors Dr. Martin Fenton, a founding member of the AMP who championed integrated medicine and psychiatric care for his patients, education and visionary leadership.



Dr. Colin Smith



Dr. Chris Wanjiku

Dr. Chris Wanjiku received the **American Society of Hematology Minority Research Award** for his project looking at the care of patients with sickle cell disease, under the mentorship of Dr. JJ Strouse. This award provides hematology research support for underrepresented minorities. Trainees receive mentorship, gain hematology knowledge and advance their careers. Dr. Wanjiku was a medical officer from Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital who spent many hours under the tutelage of Dr. Peter Kussin prior to coming to Duke to complete his residency.

Congratulations to **Neelima Navuluri, MD, MPH**, for being selected to receive the 2021 National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Foundation Young Investigator Award based on her project **"Intervention Mapping to Improve Lung Cancer Screening Among Black Veterans"**. She is among only six awardees from 31 network members to receive this award, which will provide funding for her to continue her work in addressing and reducing disparities in lung cancer screenings among Black patients in the VA health system. Dr. Navuluri is a graduate of the Global Health Pathway and spent most of her second fellowship year in western Kenya looking at the prevalence of chronic hypoxemia and exploring options to improve capacity for long term oxygen therapy in resource-constrained settings.



Dr. Neelima Navuluri



Dr. Andrew McCrary performs an ECG in Eldoret, Kenya.

Congratulations to **Drs. Jerry Bloomfield and Andrew McCrary**, both graduates of the Global Health Pathway, as well as to our Kenyan colleagues, **Drs. Winstone Nyandiko and Myra Maghasi**, on receiving an award from the **National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute to study Subclinical Cardiac Dysfunction in Children & Adolescents with HIV**. This research has been prioritized as an NIH/HIV High Priority Target to better understand co-morbidities related to long term exposure to HIV and antiretroviral therapy.

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



Global Health Fellow, Dr. Emily Herfel (left), research team member Sandra Taji (second from right) and friends, Kisumu, Kenya.

Thank You!