

Hubert-Yeargan Center Happenings

Fall 2023

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.

HYC Leadership

Executive Director, HYC
Chris Woods, MD, MPH

Associate Director, HYC
Program Director, GHP
Nathan Thielman, MD, MPH



Executive Director of the HYC,
Dr. Chris Woods

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Inaugural Recipients of the Dr. G. Ralph Corey Legacy Award

In 1985, Dr. G. Ralph Corey spent three months working in a small missionary hospital in the western highlands of Kenya. This life-altering experience for him became the inspiration that allowed for hundreds of young physicians to travel abroad to improve the health circumstances of people in the developing world through clinical service, education, and research. Dr. Corey’s vision helped to secure Duke’s role as a leader in global health education for post-graduate medical trainees. In recognition of Dr. Corey’s outstanding service, Hubert-Yeargan Center and Duke Clinical Research Institute have partnered to create the Dr. G. Ralph Corey Legacy Award that establishes a research fund to carry on Dr. Corey’s vision consistent with the HYC mission statement: *to develop the next generation of globally educated, socially responsible clinician educators and scientists dedicated to improving health equity at home and abroad.* The award program will provide supplemental funding to support post-graduate trainees and junior faculty research projects related to *health equity and health disparities in LMICs and underserved populations.* This scholarship is a mechanism to both honor an individual with a lifelong commitment to underserved communities, while at the same time to carry on his legacy of training the next generation of global health professionals.

The inaugural recipients of the Dr. G Ralph Corey Legacy Award are Hutton Chapman, Sharla Rent, Sweta Patel, Titus Ngeno and Neelima Navuluri. **Hutton Chapman, MD** is a Pediatric Hematology/Oncology fellow at Duke University who will be conducting his research, “Safety and Feasibility of the use of High Dose Methotrexate in the Treatment of Pediatric Burkitt Lymphoma in Mwanza, Tanzania” at Bugando Medical Centre in Mwanza, Tanzania. **Sharla Rent, MD, MSc-GH** is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics within the Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at Duke University and also an affiliate faculty member at the Duke Global Health Institute. Dr. Rent will be conducting research at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center, in Moshi, Tanzania. Her research project is titled “Assessing regional capacity to respond to obstetric, neonatal, and pediatric emergencies in Northern Tanzania”. **Sweta Patel, MD, MSc-GH** is an Assistant Professor of Medicine and Global Health within the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine at Duke. Dr. Patel will be conducting research “Quantifying the burden of pulmonary restriction among adults in Botswana” at the University of Botswana in Botswana, Africa. **Titus Ngeno, MD and Neelima Navuluri, MD, MPH** have collaborated for their research, “Validation of Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Patient Related Outcome Measures among Adults in Kenya” at the Moi Teaching & Referral Hospital in Eldoret, Kenya. Dr. Ngeno is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Cardiology, Department of Medicine and the Duke Global Health Institute. Dr. Navuluri is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care, Department of Medicine and Duke Global Health Institute.

More information on the award can be found here:

<https://hyc.globalhealth.duke.edu/programs/rc-faculty-award/>



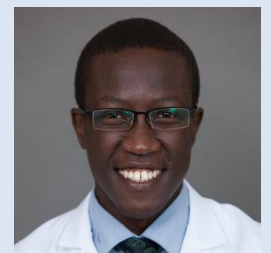
Hutton Chapman, MD



Sharla Rent, MD, MSc-GH



Sweta Patel, MD, MSc-GH



Titus Ngeno, MD, MSc-GH



Neelima Navuluri, MD, MPH

Richard Hubert Receives the 2023 Bill Foege Global Health Award



Richard Hubert

We are very proud to share that **Richard Hubert** was a recipient of this year's Bill Foege Global Health Awards. MAP International presents the Bill Foege Global Health Awards to recognize people and organizations whose contributions to the progress of global health measure substantially. Leaders in the global health community consider Dr. Bill Foege as a folk hero in the global health community, crediting him as “the man most responsible for eradicating smallpox.” This signature award for achievement in global health is named for him. We would like to thank Mr. Hubert for his contributions to the progress of global health as we celebrate him for this award.

Educational Exchange News



(Pictured left to right) Rhonda Bartley, Himali Jayasinghearachchi, Tara Pemble and Jessie Hardison at the Hubert-Yeargan Center before Himali returned to Sri Lanka after her time at Duke.

Himali Jayasinghearachchi reflects on her time at Duke as Duke University's Hubert-Yeargan Center for Global Health is being recognized for its unwavering commitment to shaping global collaboration and empowering scientists worldwide. Himali states “I am profoundly grateful to the Hubert-Yeargan Center for Global Health, Duke University for the invaluable opportunity extended to me under the ECHO program.” She mentions that “the opportunity to immerse myself in advanced molecular biology workflows at Duke University has been transformative for me as an aspiring Sri Lankan scientist.” She stated that “this life-changing experience has provided me with invaluable skills in molecular biology, specifically RNA, and microRNA sequencing as well as extensive data analysis training, which has not only enriched my academic journey but also positioned me to make significant contributions to the field.” Himali is excited to carry forward the knowledge gained and contribute to the advancement of global health research. She expresses her deepest gratitude to Prof. Christopher Wood and his dedicated team, as well as the BIOCAT team at Duke University, for their exceptional support.

Trainee **Hannah “Rosie” Spiegl**, Duke Pediatrics Resident, who spent her Global Health Clinical Elective Rotation at Bugando Medical Centre in Mwanza, Tanzania: When asked about advice to give someone considering a global health rotation, Dr. Spiegl responded, “Absolutely do it. There is no way to explain to you the benefits you’ll receive from an experience like this both as a physician and as a whole person. I truly think everyone should expose themselves to other medical systems outside of the US whenever given the opportunity as it has really informed and molded the way I intend to practice moving forward.”



Hannah “Rosie” Spiegl (middle) at Bugando Medical Centre in Mwanza, Tanzania, Fall 2023.



Pictured left to right: Cory Miller, Tara Pemble, Neelima Navuluri, David Lagat, Joan Kiyeng, Cynthia Binanay, John Lawrence, Titus Ngeno, Dale Lawrence.

In October, **Drs. Joan Kiyeng and David Lagat** visited Duke as part of the Duke-Moi University Cardiovascular Fellowship Program. They are the first graduates of the program and are now faculty at MTRH. During their visit they met with key faculty and observed cardiovascular care within multiple areas of the hospital. They also gained more insight into care delivery, emergency response and management systems. They are especially grateful for the opportunity to strengthen the collaboration between Duke and the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital.

Ailo Duko, a medical student from Moi University, in Eldoret, Kenya on her time at Duke: “I would like to thank the entire fraternity of DUH, Ampath and Moi University for such a life changing and eye-opening opportunity. It really helped me become not only a better doctor but also a better person. I would also like to appreciate our program coordinators, the consultants I worked with, all the members of the teams that I worked with and the friends I made during my stay. They all participated in making our stay memorable and full of learning opportunities.”



Ailo Duko (left) in front of Duke University Hospital during her time at Duke.

Faculty Achievements

MOSHI, TANZANIA: Dr. Nathan Thielman, Dr. Julian Hertz, Dr. Preeti Manavalan, and Dr. Blandina Theophil Mmbaga (a pediatrician at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center in Moshi, Tanzania) have received an R21 grant for their project “Adapting and Piloting an Evidence-based Intervention to Improve Hypertension Care among Tanzanians Living with HIV”. Using implementation science methods, they will adapt COBRA for delivery within the Tanzanian HIV clinic, examine implementation outcomes, and estimate effect size in preparation for a subsequent large-scale, hybrid effectiveness-implementation trial across Tanzania. Their research team, comprised of experts in hypertension, HIV, and implementation science and their robust relationships with community agencies and health systems make them well-suited to conduct this work. The proposed program will lay the groundwork for an R01 application to evaluate implementation, effectiveness, and scalability of the adapted intervention in a fully powered trial across Tanzania and help stem the rising tide of cardiovascular comorbidities among PLWH in SSA.

MWANZA, TANZANIA: Dr. Kristin Schroeder was nominated as a finalist for the Opus Prize, one of the globe's most significant faith-inspired recognitions for social entrepreneurship. “I was in shock and deeply honored, as someone had learned about what we do in Tanzania and was deeply moved and decided to put us forward for this award,” says Schroeder, an associate professor of pediatrics and global health who has been working for nearly a decade to improve pediatric cancer survival rates in Tanzania. The Opus Prize is an annual accolade that acknowledges individuals or groups advocating for transformative change infused with faith. It aims to support the humanitarian initiatives of the awardee but also to motivate others to embrace a life dedicated to service. The top awardee receives a \$1 million prize. As a finalist, Schroeder is guaranteed a \$100,000 award to invest in her cancer initiatives. Schroeder was nominated for her efforts to improve survival rates among pediatric cancer patients at the Bugando Medical Centre in Mwanza, Tanzania. Before she started her work in Tanzania, the survival rate of cancer patients at the clinic was under 20 percent, and nearly 50 percent of patients abandoned treatment before it was complete. In addition to improving patient education and services in the clinic, Schroeder and fellow Duke oncologist Nelson Chao, M.D., co-founded a nonprofit organization, iCCARE, to provide resources and support for families in cancer treatment. “My most significant contribution to the program's success is the implementation of a patient navigation program where we educated [patients and families] regarding cancer. This reduced treatment abandonment and increased health literacy which improved treatment outcomes,” says Schroeder.

Global Health Pathway Updates



Chelsea Gaviola (3rd from the right) with her study team in Nepal.

Dr. Chelsea Gaviola, GHP Internal Medicine Resident, is currently spending 9 months in Nepal. Her project titled “Reducing silica exposure among brick kiln workers in Nepal: A human-centered design framework to develop a personal protective equipment training intervention” in partnership with the Institute of Medicine at Tribhuvan University, will use a mixed-methods research design, to characterize facilitators, barriers, and factors influencing PPE adoption through quantitative surveys and qualitative workshops of brick kiln workers and managers. Chelsea was awarded a UJMT

Fogarty Global Health Fellowship grant to support her project. The research findings will then be shared with brick kiln workers and managers so that they can develop a PPE education and distribution intervention at one brick kiln in Nepal.

Dr. Robbie Patterson, GHP ENT Resident, is currently spending 12 months in Cape Town, South Africa. His project titled “A Mixed Methods Analysis of a Novel mHealth Tympanometer Training Program” in partnership with the University of Pretoria, aims to evaluate and optimize an innovative training program designed to train lay screeners to use a novel mHealth tympanometer. Robbie was awarded a UJMT Fogarty Global Health Fellowship grant in support of his research. Through his research, he seeks to improve proficiency in detecting and preventing hearing loss, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

GHP by the Numbers

- 16 years of enrollment
- 53 graduates / 6 currently enrolled
- 19 subspecialties participating from 9 departments
- 40 MPH / MSc-GH awarded and 3 currently enrolled
- 11 months overseas, on average
- 500 Global Health Publications
- 39 Fogarty Global Health Training Fellowships
- 7 Early Career Development Awards
- 38 graduates with academic appointments
- 2 graduates at CDC; 2 at NIH; 5 Graduates in public health / NGO sector



Robbie Patterson (far right) with longtime mentors and collaborators, Jim Saunders (Dartmouth neurotologist), Carolina Der (Chilean neurotologist, WHO technical lead for ear and hearing care), Chris Waterworth (Australian audiologist)

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

If you would like to support the Hubert-Yeargan Center financially, please visit <https://hyc.globalhealth.duke.edu/giving-back/> or scan the QR code below 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.

Staff and Faculty

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Cynthia Binanay, MA, BSN

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Tara Pemble

Program Coordinator, HYC
Kelsey Newton

Administrative Coordinator, HYC
Jessie Hardison

Administrative Support, HYC
Rhonda Bartley

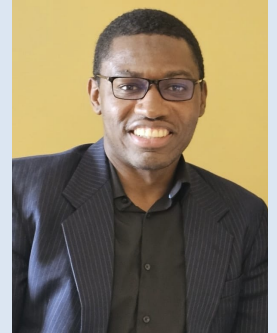
Research Analyst
Armstrong Mbi Obale

Founding Director, HYC
Ralph Corey, MD

HYC Staff Goings & Comings

This year we said farewell to three staff members and welcome three new ones! Tianchen Sheng and Coralei Neighbors left their research analyst positions with HYC in the summer to further their education and pursue graduate degrees. Corrie Walston left HYC in September and is now working as a Program Assistant in the Nicholas School of the Environment. We wish them all the best in their new endeavors. Armstrong Mbi Obale, Jessie Hardison and Kelsey Newton joined us this fall. They each bring a unique set of skills and we are thrilled to have them on our team!

Armstrong Mbi Obale recently joined HYC as a data analyst working with Dr. Gayani Tillekeratne. Obale graduated from the Duke Master of Science in Global Health program in May 2023. His major role consists of management and analysis of data from across a couple of infectious disease-focused projects based primarily in Sri Lanka. He writes R functions after having performed thorough document analysis of relevant data sets and their dictionaries, and merges data from the respective data sets as need may arise. In addition to the data analysis related roles, Obale serves as regulatory coordinator for a few projects and conducts literature reviews that result in manuscript writing. He also collaborates in grant writing and participates in the development of data collection tools and databases using the Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) application.



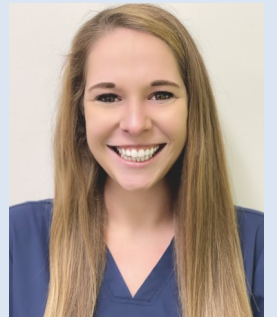
Armstrong Mbi Obale



Jessie Hardison

Jessie Hardison joined the Hubert-Yeargan Center in October as the Administrative Coordinator for the bilateral Clinical Education Programs. She works with Duke residents as they embark on their Global Health Clinical Elective Rotations at our partner locations around the globe. She also coordinates visits to Duke for all of our international scholars which include medical students, fellows, nurses, registrars and others from our global partners. In addition to the Clinical Education programs, Jessie will assist with HYC faculty and affiliate travel to key partner sites. She has a Master's degree in International Studies from the School of Public and International Affairs at North Carolina State University. She has previously worked in global health program management at the Duke Global Health Institute and the UNC Institute for Global Health and Infectious Diseases.

We are pleased to welcome **Kelsey Newton**, who took over as Program Coordinator of Finance and Communications for the Hubert-Yeargan Center at the beginning of November. Kelsey has been at Duke since 2017 and joins the team excited to continue her career at Duke with HYC. Kelsey completed her Master of Healthcare Administration degree in May from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. She will serve as point of contact for all HYC financial needs, along with managing the HYC website, designing HYC newsletters and other communication and marketing materials. Kelsey will also be the coordinator for the newly launched RC Legacy Award and the HYC Affiliate Program.



Kelsey Newton