

Hubert-Yeargan Center Happenings

Fall 2024

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



Dr. Chris Woods &
Dr. Nathan Thielman

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HYC's 20th Anniversary Celebration

In October 2024, the Hubert-Yeargan Center for Global Health marked a significant milestone with its 20th anniversary celebration at the 21c Museum & Hotel in Durham, NC. The event highlighted the center's achievements and ongoing projects, as well as the contributions of its affiliate faculty and alumni. The evening commenced at 7:45pm with a warm welcome and a brief history of HYC presented by Dr. Chris Woods. His insightful overview set the stage for the celebration, showcasing the center's accomplishments over two decades.

This acknowledgment was complemented by a video message from Dr. Michael Merson founding Director of DGHI, reflecting on the center's journey and future aspirations. In a heartfelt tribute to Dr. Ralph Corey, we proudly presented a historical video created in 2014 that reflects on the establishment of the Hubert-Yeargan Center and Dr. Corey's invaluable role in its inception. This video is more than just a retrospective; it is a testament to the enduring influence that Dr. Corey has had on global health education and the Hubert-Yeargan Center for Global Health. His vision continues to inspire and guide the center's mission, to develop the next generation of globally educated, socially responsible healthcare professionals dedicated to improving the health of disadvantaged populations. The video is posted on our website at hyc.globalhealth.duke.edu/about/

Dr. Nathan Thielman and Dr. Rebecca Lumsden delivered engaging presentations on our global work and impact. They emphasized the center's dedication to improving global health and the significant strides made in research and community outreach. The celebration also featured inspiring talks from Global Health Pathway alumni: Julian Hertz, Titus Ngeno, and Gayani Tillekeratne shared their personal experiences within the pathway, highlighting how the program shaped their careers and the impactful work they continue to do in the field of global health. The event not only celebrated past achievements but also inspired a renewed commitment to addressing global health challenges. The program ended with acknowledgment of the Hubert & Yeargan Families. With their unwavering support and generosity, HYC can continue to fulfill our mission.

The night was indeed a fitting celebration of 20 years of HYC.

To view more photos from the event, please visit our digital gallery: [20th Anniversary Duke Hubert-Yeargan Center For Global Health - Copper Key Photo](https://www.globalhealth.duke.edu/20th-anniversary-photos)





Educational Exchange News



This summer the Hubert-Yeargan Center for Global Health successfully hosted two Medical Students, Geogina Mwaniki and Vivian Nyabuto, and two Registrars (Residents) Charity Gathigia and Kate Rasowo, from Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya. Under the guidance of Dr. Becca Lumsden, Clinical Education Director, the trainees participated in tailored rotations at Duke Hospital. These rotations were meticulously planned to align with each trainee's specific interests and career aspirations, ensuring a meaningful and impactful experience. To further enrich their stay, the Duke Medical School Global Health Interest Group organized various social activities and tours of the learning spaces. These events facilitated networking and cultural exchange, allowing the visiting trainees to immerse themselves in the Duke community. The trainees had the opportunity to engage in several scholarly activities, including grand rounds, journal clubs, and other educational opportunities. A key highlight of their visit was the interaction with Duke residents who will be traveling to Eldoret in the spring for their Clinical Elective rotations. This exchange laid the groundwork for future collaboration and strengthened the partnership between Duke University and Moi University, illustrating the mutual benefits of such global health initiatives.

The Global Health Clinical Elective Rotation has received an unprecedented number of applications for the 2025-2026 academic year representing residents from Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, the combined Med/Peds and combined Med/Psych programs. The team is diligently moving forward with the applicant interviews and will collaborate closely with the Program Directors from the residency programs to finalize the selection of candidates. Once selections are made, the team will schedule the rotations in a manner that aligns with the department's needs and priorities. For the current 2024-2025 academic year, we are sending five residents to Eldoret, Kenya, four to Moshi, Tanzania, and one to Galle, Sri Lanka in January for their rotations. These rotations are invaluable for residents, offering them the chance to expand their clinical skills, cultural competence, and understanding of global health issues. The program looks forward to the contributions these residents will make and the learning experiences they will gain from their time abroad.



HYC Faculty Achievements

Kilimanjaro, Tanzania: In September 2024, **Deng Madut, MD**, and **Matthew Rubach, MD**, presented their research on "One Health Research in Northern Tanzania - Investigating the Epidemiology of Rift Valley Fever Virus" at Duke Medicine Grand Rounds. Their presentation focused on the collaborative efforts of the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) and Duke University in exploring febrile illnesses in Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. The researchers highlighted the One Health research platform at KCMC, which is dedicated to investigating zoonotic causes of febrile illnesses. This platform emphasizes the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health, a crucial approach in the study of infectious diseases like the Rift Valley fever virus. The research conducted by the KCMC-Duke Collaboration highlights the necessity for integrated efforts in combating infectious diseases. By focusing on the interconnectedness of ecosystems and health, the One Health approach offers a comprehensive framework for addressing zoonotic diseases and protecting public health on a global scale.

Moshi, Tanzania: In October 2024, **Nathan Thielman, MD, MPH, Professor of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases Duke Department of Medicine** presented "HIV Research in Tanzania and the Bright Future of Global Health" as the Global Health Research Annual Keynote Lecturer, Co-hosted by the Department of Medicine and the Hubert-Yeargan Center for Global Health.

Congratulations to **Ganga Moorthy, MD, MSc-GH** who gave an outstanding Pediatric Grand Rounds presentation in October 2024 titled "Training Globally Competent Pediatricians: Strategies & Importance for the Future of Child Health" which provided a comprehensive overview of pediatric global health education and training in the United States. It emphasized the need for pediatric trainees to develop the skills necessary to care for diverse populations both domestically and internationally. The talk also highlighted the contributions of the Duke Global Health Institute (DGHI) and the Hubert-Yeargan Center for Global Health in supporting the development of pediatric trainees. Additionally, it explored opportunities to expand pediatric global health education and training at Duke, underscoring the importance of preparing future pediatricians for a globally interconnected healthcare landscape.

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.

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Global Health Pathway Updates

Dr. Hutton Chapman, a GHP Peds Hem-Onc Fellow, is currently working on a research project at Bugando Cancer Centre in Mwanza, Tanzania. Despite the phenomenal improvement in pediatric cancer outcomes in high resource settings, outcomes for the same diseases in low resource settings remain very poor. Burkitt lymphoma in particular, which is the most common pediatric malignancy in many areas of sub-Saharan African, exemplifies this disparity. While survival outcomes in high resource settings are >90% for this disease, in many low resource settings, survival remains <40%. This disparity in part is due to the fact that the higher intensity chemotherapy that is typically used in high resource settings require significant supportive care resources and capacity that are absent in low resource settings. Novel strategies are subsequently needed to adapt chemotherapy regimens to low resource settings in order to maximize treatment efficacy while limiting treatment associated toxicity.



A particular treatment strategy, called high-dose methotrexate (HD-MTX), historically has been shown to be highly effective for pediatric Burkitt lymphoma. However, HD-MTX has been typically been given alongside an intensive supportive care protocol in high resource settings. Our research looks at how to adapt the HD-MTX protocol, and its needed supportive care, for safe use in low resource settings. We aim to introduce novel methods to overcome the resource barrier and successfully use HD-MTX in resource limited settings with the hopes of improving outcomes for children with Burkitt lymphoma.

Dr. Cat Cheney, a GHP Internal Medicine Resident, is currently working on a research project at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre in northern Tanzania. At KCMC, upper gastrointestinal bleeding (UGIB) results in 100-300 admissions annually and is associated with very high mortality. In Sub-Saharan Africa, esophageal variceal (EV) bleeding accounts for about 50% of acute UGIB. As schistosomiasis is endemic to the area, many cases of EV are attributed to non-cirrhotic causes, particularly this parasitic infection. However, other etiologies that could lead to cirrhosis as a cause for portal hypertension (e.g., alcohol use, metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD), viral hepatitis, etc.) have not been systematically investigated. Therefore, we developed this proposal for a prospective cohort study with two primary aims. We first seek to describe the epidemiology of acute UGIBs among patients admitted to a tertiary care center in northern Tanzania. We then hope to identify factors associated with mortality risk to improve the allocation of limited resources to patients at the highest risk for poor outcomes. As part of this second aim, we will also assess the external validity of risk stratification tools for patients presenting to the hospital with acute UGIB.

