

Hubert-Yeargan Center Happenings

Spring 2025

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

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Dr. Chris Woods &
Dr. Nathan Thielman

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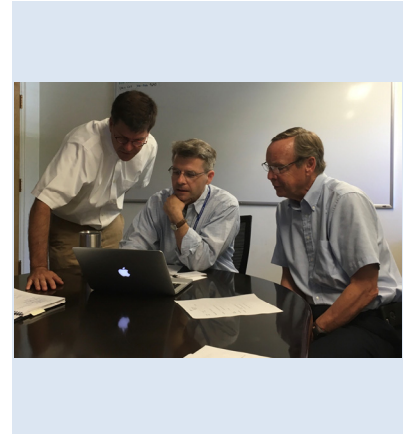
Remembering Dr. Ralph Corey

It is with a heavy heart that we share the news of the passing of our esteemed founder, Dr. G. Ralph Corey, MD, Gary Hock Distinguished Professor Emeritus in Global Health, Division of Infectious Disease, on March 24, 2025.

Dr. Ralph Corey was a champion of Global Health education for post-graduate medical trainees for decades, long before global health gained broad appeal. In 1985, he spent three months working in a small missionary hospital in western Kenya. This life-altering experience had such a profound impact on him that he became passionate about inspiring others to improve the health circumstances of vulnerable people around the world. He wanted Duke residents to have immersive experiences in other cultures and learn about the difficulties of providing health care for people in under-resourced communities. By sending future professionals into global communities, he hoped to instill in them an appreciation for the interrelatedness of peoples, cultures, and other nations. His sincere hope was that these global experiences would make them stronger patient advocates and more self-aware physicians. He believed that genuinely caring for people is the most important thing we can do as physicians.

He was fortunate to have a career in academic medicine and medical education at Duke that allowed him to build relationships internationally while facilitating the placement of young physicians in resource poor settings. With the support of a vast network of colleagues and trainees and the generosity of donors such as the Hubert and Yeargan families, his dream of a center dedicated to global health became a reality. In 2004, the Hubert-Yeargan Center for Global Health was established with a mission to develop the next generation of globally educated, socially responsible physicians, dedicated to improving the health of disadvantaged populations.

Over his distinguished career, he facilitated and supported more than 450 clinical electives for his trainees in over 20 diverse global locations. Recognizing the essential requirement for bi-directional opportunities, he also hosted approximately 200 international trainees from 15 global partner institutions at Duke. His visionary leadership also led to the creation of a unique program, the Global Health Pathway for Residents and Fellows (GHP), that provides in-depth training for leaders in global health research and implementation.



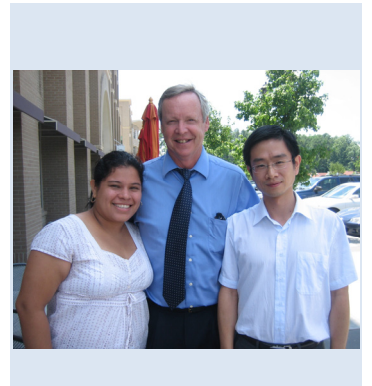
Remembering Dr. Ralph Corey

Since our inception, Dr. Corey guided HYC to remain true to its core mission and committed to improving the health of the communities we serve. Under his leadership, HYC built a robust cardiovascular service in Western Kenya, including a ten-bed cardiac care unit and a Kenyan-led Cardiovascular Fellowship Training Program. In order to provide a stable and robust care and research infrastructure, we have also provided significant operational, research, and laboratory funding to build health system capacity at global partner sites, particularly Sri Lanka and Tanzania. Dr. Corey was dedicated to changing lives, and through the programs he created, he unquestionably did.

It goes without saying that we remain forever grateful for the boundless enthusiasm and vision Dr. Corey brought to educating young trainees across the globe. He will be deeply missed.

For more on Dr. Corey's impact on HYC, please visit: <https://vimeo.com/107491580>

To give a gift to HYC in memory of Dr. Corey, please visit: <https://www.gifts.duke.edu/new?designation=3991573>



2025 Recipients of the Dr. G. Ralph Corey Legacy Award

The Dr. G. Ralph Corey Legacy Award stands as a testament to the profound influence of Dr. G. Ralph Corey on global health education and practice. Since his transformative experience in a Kenyan missionary hospital in 1985, Dr. Corey has inspired a movement dedicated to improving health outcomes in underserved regions. This prestigious award, established by the Hubert-Yeargan Center and the Duke Clinical Research Institute, honors his commitment by providing essential funding for research projects focused on health equity. By nurturing the next generation of medical professionals, the award ensures that Dr. Corey's legacy endures, fostering a future where health disparities are actively addressed and eliminated. We have selected three remarkable global health researchers as the 2025 Dr. G Ralph Corey Legacy Award recipients. This year's recipients are Ganga Moorthy, Robert J. Rolfe Jr., and Anna Strasma, each of whom is engaged in impactful research within their respective fields.

Ganga Moorthy, an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Assistant Research Professor of Global Health at Duke University, focuses on developing a clinical prediction tool aimed at risk stratification for infants susceptible to bloodstream infections. Her project, conducted at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre in Moshi, Tanzania, seeks to enhance the early identification and management of at-risk infants, ultimately aiming to improve healthcare outcomes in the region.

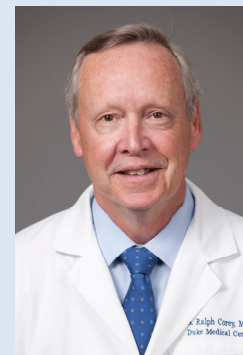
Robert J. Rolfe Jr., is an Assistant Professor at Duke University, specializing in infectious diseases. His research project involves genomic analysis of bacterial zoonotic diseases among human and animal reservoirs in Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. By investigating the genomic characteristics of these diseases, his work aims to reveal transmission patterns and contribute to preventive strategies that can mitigate their impact on both human and animal populations.

Anna Strasma, an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Nephrology at Duke University, is addressing the occupational health risks faced by farmworkers through her pilot study titled "Heat Exposure and Kidney Injury in North Carolina Migrant Farmworkers." Conducted in Eastern North Carolina, her research examines the effects of heat exposure on kidney function, aiming to identify interventions that can alleviate health risks for this vulnerable group.

Together, these recipients exemplify a strong commitment to advancing global health through innovative research. Their work not only enriches scientific understanding but also seeks to improve health outcomes for populations in need.

More information on the award can be found here:

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



Dr. G Ralph Corey



Ganga Moorthy, MD, MSc-GH



Robert J. Rolfe Jr., MD, MSc



Anna Strasma, MD, MSc-GH

Donations

HYC is sustained by generous contributions from people like you. Now, more than ever, we need your support! Your individual donations will go directly to support our educational programs, including our bilateral clinical exchange program and the GHP. On behalf of our trainees, and everyone whose lives their work has touched, thank you for supporting our mission at HYC.

Examples of ongoing costs that your donation supports:

- \$100 Provides BLS Training to a Kenyan Nurse
- \$150 Provides a Week of Groceries for visiting International Trainees
- \$250 Purchases a Tanzanian Medical License for a Duke Resident
- \$500 Assists with Vaccination Fees for Kenyan Medical Students
- \$2,500 Purchases Airfare for One International Trainee to Duke

Make your donation today by visiting <https://hyc.globalhealth.duke.edu/giving-back/> or scan the QR code below to make an online donation.



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Ralph Corey, MD

GHP Spotlight: Dr. Jim Leng

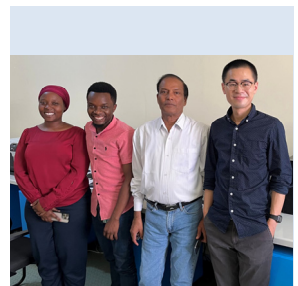
Dr. Jim Leng, a Global Health Implementation Pathway (GHIP) Radiation Oncology resident, has been conducting longitudinal research at Bugando Medical Centre (BMC) in Mwanza, Tanzania, over the past two years. Although cancer has historically been considered a problem of high-income countries, over 70% of cancer-related deaths now occur in LMICs, where resources for cancer prevention and treatment remain scarce. Cervical cancer highlights this disparity, with nearly 90% of deaths occurring in LMICs. This disparity is expected to persist over the next century, despite ongoing efforts in vaccination and screening. Radiotherapy is a critical part of treatment for more than 50% of cancer patients, including those with cervical cancer. However, it remains a limited resource, and significant investments will be necessary in the coming decades to address morbidity and mortality from cancer in LMICs.

BMC serves as the only radiotherapy facility in Tanzania's northern region, with a catchment area of nearly 20 million. There is scarce data available on current treatment outcomes to inform future developments. To address this gap, Dr. Leng and his team prospectively enrolled over 250 cervical cancer patients who received definitive chemoradiation and brachytherapy, with the aim of characterizing survival rates, patient-reported outcomes, and identifying barriers to care. Additionally, they are assessing clinical areas for improvement and developing a cost-effectiveness model using disability-adjusted life years to measure potential impact and help prioritize investments.

Jim is incredibly thankful for the support and mentorship at HYC and GHP throughout his residency – especially from Dr. Schroeder and Dr. Thielman. He is excited to be joining the University of Washington and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center as an Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology in September. With dedicated time for global oncology in this position, Jim will continue his work in Tanzania and looks forward to creating new opportunities for meaningful collaboration through UW's Program for Global Oncology and Health Equity and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation.



Jim Leng (Left) with Dr. Beda Likonda
(Radiation Oncologist at BMC)



(L to R): Vivian Buermo, Frank Ngalanda,
Prof. Pradumna Chaurasia, Jim Leng

Cardiovascular Fellows Visit Duke



(L to R): Drs. Edgar Karanga,
Rebecca Abutika, Rebecca Lumsden

This March, The Hubert-Yeargan Center for Global Health welcomed Cardiovascular Fellows **Dr. Rebecca Abutika** and **Dr. Edgar Karanga** from Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Kenya. Their international rotation will enhance their cardiology skills through participation in Duke Cardiology conferences and hands-on clinical experiences, including acute cardiovascular care, cardiac imaging, and interventional cardiology.

Upon their return to Kenya, they will graduate from their fellowship programs equipped with valuable knowledge and practical skills, poised to make a significant impact in their communities' healthcare systems. We look forward to seeing the positive impact Dr. Abutika and Dr. Karanga will make in Kenya, showcasing the value of global health education and collaboration.