GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAM
THE 2019 UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND NUVANCE HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT
On Becoming an Endowed Chair

By Majid Sadigh, M.D.,
Christian J. Trefz Family
Endowed Chair in Global Health

OCCUPYING A CHAIR IS AN HONOR OF the highest magnitude. Not only does it fall upon a chair to uphold the principles and values that brought upon that honor, but one also shoulders the responsibility of representing the individual or family for whom the chair is named. The Christian J. Trefz Family Endowed Chair in Global Health was founded on the belief that it is our humanity that makes us human, and that humans can be kind and motivated to bring about sustainable impact. Members of this donor family have espoused a spirit of giving and a dedication to pursuing solutions to difficult problems through innovation and hard work. My experiences in the global health setting have solidified the understanding that it is not only good intention that brings about progress, but a commitment to tangible and measurable outcomes as well as a sense of accountability when one falls short of these goals.

I have seen that the most fundamental truths, such as poverty and injustice, can often be explained away with articulate turns of phrases and heavy-handed econo-political jargon. Occupying the Christian J. Trefz Family Endowed Chair in Global Health provides me with a stronger, even more transparent platform to share my work and message of hope. This is what I would tell the donor family if they were here at this moment: that I am honored to wear this mantle, and that my work in collaboration with so many leaders in the global health arena will only continue to grow and evolve with the support of this endowment.

Since acquiring this title, the program has sponsored greater numbers of scholars to come to Nuvance Health for training, and deployed greater numbers of faculty and residents to our international partner sites for capacity building of human resources. The program has also expanded through the development of new partnerships in China, India, and Thailand. Meanwhile, our small newsletter has evolved into a robust eMagazine that stands as a comprehensive global health resource. I am excited for the many strokes of progress in the coming year, made possible by the generosity of the Trefz family.

On June 25, 2019, the first annual Endowed Chair Dinner was held at Bernard’s in Ridgefield, Conn., to honor donors and office holders. Majid Sadigh, M.D., gave the remarks below.
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For Eight Years, Our Global Health Program has connected medical students, faculty members, and residents to a worldwide network of clinical sites that now includes ten countries. For all these participants, having opportunities to share the clinical care of patients and learn from others in the course of extensive, in-person visits are learning experiences unlike any others. This approach fits with our goal as professionals to always approach the care of patients with cultural humility, kindness, and respect. Living the experience of caregiving in another country imparts insights that stay with us throughout our careers. Our medical students have realized the value of this program: over 20 percent of our most recent class has requested participation. The student reflections on global health found in this report show the wide range of lessons learned through cross-cultural connection.

I thank Majid Sadigh, M.D., the founding director of the program, for making these opportunities come about. Dr. Sadigh has worked tirelessly, crisscrossing the globe to build this network on four continents. I also thank our partners in this program, Nuvance Health. Not only has our work with Nuvance brought about our branch campus in Connecticut; it has given the Larner community access to this portal to the wider world of health care. Our key partner in this has of course been Dr. John Murphy, whose support and friendship have meant so much to our community.

The rise of the current global pandemic has certainly changed, for now, the character of our Global Health Program. But it has also shown just how interconnected our world is, and how much caregivers of all kinds must learn from one another. We look forward to the time, hopefully in the near future, when we begin the next chapter in this story.

John Murphy, M.D., President and CEO, Nuvance Health

Richard L. Page, M.D., Dean, The Larner College of Medicine at The University of Vermont

Global Health Leadership

As Technology Makes Our World smaller, solutions to global health challenges require a highly-trained, engaged and interdisciplinary workforce. One of the nation’s leading and most respected global health training initiatives, the Global Health Program (GHP) at Nuvance Health continues to care for the world’s most vulnerable populations as it champions new and innovative training and research to equip current and future generations of global health practitioners.

Now celebrating its eighth year under the extraordinary leadership of program director Dr. Majid Sadigh, the Christian J. Treif’s Family Endowed Chair in Global Health at Nuvance Health, the GHP offers medical students and residents, nurses and other faculty unprecedented opportunity to experience other healthcare systems to better understand public health issues, cost-constrained care, and the impact of globalization on underserved populations.

The GHP hosts over 110 medical students, residents and faculty each year at nine international partner sites, where participants encounter vastly different healthcare systems and sharpen their cultural and clinical competencies in resource-constrained settings. Of perhaps equal importance is the opportunity to reconnect with the passion that inspired their original commitment to medicine.

In a unique, two-way exchange, more than 26 global health leaders and scholars from across the world also receive training at Nuvance Health each year and share their deep cultural knowledge and insight into diseases and conditions not often encountered in the United States.

As we move into a new dawn of global health, the GHP continues to broaden the scale and scope of its vision—through expanded partnerships with Nuvance Health hospitals and new initiatives focused on behavioral health and care for women and children. Our new Linde Healthcare Educators Without Borders initiative, and future Global Health Institute and Global Health Academy all advance our commitment to global health training and research through an inclusive, globally-connected web of talented educators building capacity on the ground within an ever-growing network.

We are profoundly grateful for the energy, enthusiasm and deep compassion of our loyal donor community and hundreds of international and domestic partners, whose expertise and determination serve as both inspiration and encouragement as we work together to serve the world’s most vulnerable people.

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ABOUT THE GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAM

The Larner College of Medicine/Nuvance Health Global Health Program centers on international partnerships to improve patient care and medical education through cooperation and the exchange of ideas. It is hoped that exposure to vastly different health care systems and socioeconomic structures will foster a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by partner countries in providing high quality care to their underserved populations. The fundamental goal of this partnership is the improvement of patient care.
NURSING DIVISION TAKES SHAPE WITH SUPPORT

A NEW GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAM NURSING DIVISION promises to increase awareness of the role of nurses in global health and develop meaningful collaborations through a bidirectional approach to education. A steering committee, led by Jo Ritchie, D.N.P., R.N., M.S.N., and Catherine Winkler, Ph.D., M.P.H., APRN, is working with colleagues in Connecticut as well as the Lerner College of Medicine and Sacred Heart University to “continue the work that has already begun and further education, research, and relationships that support a strong collaborative model,” says Winkler. “We also look forward to strengthening the team approach by including pharmacists, physician assistants, physical therapists, social workers, and other disciplines.” The new division received support from the 2019 Climb for a Cause, an annual fundraiser during which Christian J. Trefz Family Endowed Chair in Global Health Majid Sadigh, M.D., and his daughters, Mitra and Katrin, climb Mount Kilimanjaro to benefit an aspect of the global health program. Winkler says the division aims to develop the capacity of nurses in global health.

“Our belief is that experienced nursing staff—registered nurses, nurse practitioners, nurse educators, clinical nurse leaders, clinical specialists, nurse managers, and nurse administrators—are critically important in the care of patients and for the effectiveness of the healthcare delivery system,” says Winkler. “We recognize that the seasoned nurse has a level of knowing and power, and education systems; pedagogy including how to teach and “training the trainer,” nonclinical global health-related fields including anthropology and public health; cultural competencies including cross-cultural navigation and cultural relativity; and useful skills such as grant, proposal, and manuscript writing.© Global Health Program Annual Report 2019
New Programs and Partnerships

ARIZONA

A “GLOBAL HEALTH AT HOME” TEACHING SITE IN ARIZONA promises to provide learning opportunities primarily through the Indian Health Services. Global Health Program leaders met with Jonathan Melk, M.D., CEO of Chiricahua Community Health Centers (CCHC) in April of 2019, and Nuvance Health internal medicine specialists Aparna Oltikar, M.D., and Anamaria Cristina Mihu, M.D., visited in August. CCHC serves Cochise County, which shares a 100-mile border with Mexico and where one-fourth of families earn less than $25,000 per year. CCHC welcomes every child—of whom there are 15,000—and their family regardless of financial standing.

BOTSWANA

IN JULY OF 2019, MAJID SADIGH, M.D., MADE A SITE VISIT TO the University of Botswana in Gaborone, Botswana. He met with leaders at the institution to follow up on signing a Memorandum of Understanding and to identify key faculty for the collaboration.

PRE-PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS COMPLETE GLOBAL HEALTH INTERNSHIPS

FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR, THE GLOBAL HEALTH Program has accepted three pre-professional students for global health internships at Danbury Hospital. Jack Mix, Sarah Cordisco, and Ritesh Vidhun have met regularly with Majid Sadigh, M.D., to discuss the fundamentals of global health including biostatistics, medical literature reviews, and the healthcare profession. They also had opportunities to interact with Global Health Scholars and faculty from different countries, as well as complete in-depth projects.

- Entering the University of North Carolina in Wilmington this fall where he plans to follow a pre-med track and major in biology, Jack Mix created a global health module that incorporates the basic tools for teaching global health to future interns.

- Sarah Cordisco, a sophomore nursing student at the University of Vermont, is developing a women’s global health module as well as a manuscript on the role of nursing in global health.

- A high school senior at Chase Collegiate School in Waterbury, Conn., Ritesh Vidhun previously completed a research project on the healthcare system in Uganda and presented a poster at the 2019 Nuvance Health Global Health Conference. He is expanding his research to compare and contrast the medical education and healthcare systems of Zimbabwe and the United States.

– KATHERINE CALLAHAN ’21

In these six weeks I have begun my career as physician and member of the global community. My impact will not come in the next three weeks, or even next years, but eventually I hope to be a driver of change on the global level.

L to R: Jeffrey Holzberg, M.D.; Stephen Scholand, M.D., director of global health in Arizona, Thailand, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe; Majid Sadigh, M.D., Trefz Family Endowed Chair in Global Health, Darlene Melk, director of community medicine, and Jonathan Melk, M.D., CEO of Chiricahua Health Centers

L to R: Jack Mix; Dylan Ochoa, MPH; Ritesh Vidhun; Stephen Scholand, M.D.; and Sarah Cordisco

Majid Sadigh, M.D., third from right, with the University of Botswana leadership
Global Health Scholars
Forge Bonds Around the World

In an ongoing exchange of ideas and information, Global Health Scholars traverse the globe with a goal to improve patient care. Physicians spend time working in specific areas of interest at teaching hospitals and clinical sites, forging new bonds and bringing new knowledge back to their home institutions. This year, the Global Health Program and the University of Vermont, in conjunction with Health Around the World, welcomed their first Global Health Scholar from Dalian Municipal Hospital in Dalian, China. Peishi Yan, M.D., a clinical cardiologist on staff at Dalian Municipal Hospital for more than ten years, arrived at Danbury Hospital on May 11. The following are excerpts from reflections Global Health Scholars write about their time in the program.

A MEANINGFUL INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PLATFORM

Daria Artemeva, M.D., Global Health Program Site Director at Dalian Municipal Central Hospital

It was a great pleasure to meet excellent people from different fields and areas of expertise at the conference. The Global Health Program has established a meaningful international exchange platform based on the premise that humans deserve the same rights to health care. My hospital is affiliated with Dalian Medical University where there are 2,000 in-patient beds. However, we are not an ideal training site for students and residents, as we do not have a fellowship program. Our level of healthcare also needs great improvements, with greater attention on basic skills rather than advanced technology. It is our new and important mission to make our doctors more aware of these differences and start making needed changes and improvements. I hope to be part of this exceptional group.

REFLECTIONS ON MEDICAL EDUCATION

Peter Agaba, M.D., Global Health Scholar from Uganda

I have observed several similarities and differences between the medical education systems in Uganda and the United States. Medical education in the United States, and experiential learning in particular, is structured with excellent simulation facilities and proper supervision. For instance, a resident will have performed simulated central venous line insertions before inserting one in a patient. Of the many highlights from my time in the United States, a few clinical moments stand out: the point-of-care ultrasound course I attended at the University of Connecticut, the day I spent at Danbury Hospital’s Simulation Lab, and another day spent in the operating room performing CT-guided epidural steroid injections. Concurrently, my social spotlights include soaking up the local culture and history with Vietnamese Global Health Scholars who are outgoing, friendly, and a joy to be around. On return home, I hope to transplant a few ideas such as an annual critical care ultrasound course for our residents.

BUILDING CONFIDENCE, DELVING FURTHER

Daria Artemeva, M.D., neurologist and Global Health Scholar from Kazan State Medical University, Russia

This experience has given me a broader lens of patient symptoms and syndromes. I now have greater confidence in treating patients with different types of strokes and preventing stroke in my patients at KSMU. I have learned new approaches to treating the most frequent neurological conditions such as epilepsy, Bell’s palsy, and headaches. At the same time, I have had the chance to meet incredible and highly professional doctors and residents. Each teaching session with my supervisors inspired me to delve further into discussed topics and seek answers to important questions. I send a heartfelt thank you to everyone who welcomed and supported me during my training at Nuvance Health.

GLOBAL HEALTH: MY JOURNEY OF GRATITUDE AND INSPIRATION

Tham Nam Nguyễn, M.D., Global Health Scholar from Vietnam

Two things especially impressed and inspired me throughout the training: First was learning about the doctor-patient relationship and communication. Doctors are aware not only of disease, but also patient living conditions and environments. Based on equality and patient-centered care, the relationship can sometimes blossom into a long-lasting friendship. Second is the quality of comprehensive care and use of evidence-based medicine in clinical practice, which together allow chronic patients a higher quality of life. I was moved by seeing patients over ninety years of age living happily with long-term oxygenation and enrolled in rehabilitation programs. I felt incredibly grateful and inspired as the course came to an end. All the mentors, hospital staff, and global health faculty provided me with a warm welcome, caring atmosphere, and emotional support as I enriched my clinical and cultural knowledge. This training has inspired me to work toward providing a higher quality of care while helping me realize that I can do so even with limited resources.

Some of the trees planted by global health participants at the garden already yield fruits.

– REVEREND SAMUEL LUBOGA

Hundreds of students and physicians from all over the world have been welcomed into the Luboga family’s home in Uganda since the global health program’s founding. Reverend Samuel Luboga, M.D., Ph.D., DSci, a retired surgeon and Anglican priest, and Christine Luboga host students through a homestay, which allows participants the opportunity to share their experiences and become immersed in the local culture. They also have the chance to put down roots in Uganda. The Luboga family has a five-acre garden about a 45-minute drive from Mpererwe where, whenever possible, they bring homestay participants to get away from their computers and cell phones and see food-giving plants many of them have never seen, such as banana, maize (corn), pumpkin, cassava, and sugarcane plants. They also each get a chance to plant a tree. The trees are either fruit trees such as mangoes (mango), ffenn (jackfruit), nimmu (lemon), machungwa (orange), nkamamawanga (pomegranate), kistafferi, muyembe (mango), mapera (guava), or timber trees such as musiz or kalitumi (eucalyptus).
BUILDING AN INTERNATIONAL CORPS OF HEALTHCARE EDUCATORS

By Jamidah Nakato, Ph.D., Director of Linde Healthcare Educators Without Borders, and Hamidah Babirye, Associate Director

THE NUVANCE HEALTH GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAM, in conjunction with Linde, introduces Linde Healthcare Educators Without Borders (LHEWB): a new program aimed at building an international champion of healthcare educators trained to mobilize wherever needed to meet the burgeoning demand for committed and highly skilled clinical and non-clinical health professionals. Emulating the Nuvance Health/University of Vermont College of Medicine Global Health Program, LHEWB has been created with the vision of an inclusive, multi-connected web of talented participants and mission of capacity building on-the-ground in the areas of medical education, research, and leadership.

On receiving certificates of completion, successful trainees will return to their home institutions to impart their newly-acquired knowledge to colleagues and students while integrating transferable ideas and methods that meet the specific needs of their medical communities. In this way, they will serve as agents of change in the arenas of global health, medical education, and healthcare delivery. These LHEWB graduates will simultaneously serve as supervisors in the training and research projects of our global health participants, thereby playing a pivotal role in educating the next generation of global health leaders and helping elevate worldwide global health elective standards.

As the program gains momentum, reputation, and human power, these Global South members of Linde Healthcare Educators Without Borders who are familiar with the terrain will be prepared to mobilize both at home and abroad to implement changes in medical education, with or without the contribution of Global North experts. Such allocation of involvement will be a unique advantage of our inclusive, connected model that simultaneously advocates for and features the true value of Global South to Global South solidarity and collaboration.

JOINING TOGETHER FOR PATIENT WELL-BEING

By To Mai Xuan Hong, M.D., Director of the International Relations Office and Senior Lecturer at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh city

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS FOR HEALTHCARE staff to be well-trained and empathetic toward patients. Though Vietnam has implemented a new program based on primary care that educates medical students and trains healthcare staff in community health, the training is neither integrated nor of sufficient quality to impact the nation’s high healthcare demands. Now living in the “flat world,” we would love to cooperate with foreign experts toward conducting detailed and useful activities that help poor patients and healthcare workers in rural areas. In this context, the Global Health Program and Linde Healthcare Educators Without Borders have opened a new opportunity for us Vietnamese doctors and faculty members to join hands in working with you toward improving healthcare quality in communities worldwide. We hope that the intensive training course will allow Vietnamese doctors to become further involved in global health and devote their enthusiasm, confidence, and compassion to patient well-being.

PRIORITYING THE NEEDS OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH

By Mitra Sadigh, writer, editor, and researcher at the Nuvance Health/University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine Global Health Program

IN THIS NATIONAL AND COLLECTIVE POLITICAL landscape that separates people and communities on seemingly every possible divide, our program celebrates diversity in all forms, from field to faith, nationality to identity. What unites us is a commitment to fighting for a world where every human being has the right to health and well-being. We also strive to embody the principle of inclusion. Far from the far-too-prevalent model of the Global North implementing their own initiatives in the Global South under the guise of assistance, our partnerships are rooted in respect, bidirectionality, and exchange. Our newly launched Linde Healthcare Educators Without Borders—with the mission of addressing burgeoning medical education and capacity building needs around the world—is co-directed by two Ugandan natives, both of whom are women. Through open and transparent communication, we strive to prioritize the needs of our Global South partners and provide them with the resources that they seek.
GLOBAL HEALTH AT THE UVM LARNER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND NUVANCE HEALTH

GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT 2019

FROM THE VERY FIRST DAYS OF MEDICAL SCHOOL, students at the UVM Larner College of Medicine have opportunities to engage with the Global Health Program. Alumni of the program go on to prestigious residencies across the country, some of whom plan to continue their global health work as their careers take shape.

CLOSER LOOK DAY
On April 26, 2019, the UVM Larner College of Medicine admissions team hosted 50 accepted students and 28 of their family members for Closer Look Day. Students had the opportunity to attend a presentation about the Global Health Program, as well as view a photography showcase on display as part of the College’s annual Global Health Day.

GLOBAL HEALTH BOOT CAMP
On June 21, 2019, the UVM Larner College of Medicine Global Health Leadership Team hosted the annual pre-departure Boot Camp Day, an intensive one-day course held one week prior to the start of the students’ electives abroad. The final step in their pre-departure preparation and training, the boot camp culminates the bi-weekly global health elective course that runs January through June for first-year medical students accepted into the Global Health Program.

GLOBAL HEALTH ELECTIVE COURSE
The global health elective course prepares students for their time abroad with bi-weekly classes on a range of topics, including:

• Payers and Players in Global Health
• The Reductive Seduction of Other People’s Problems
• Social Determinants of Health
• Global Women’s Health
• Humanitarian Emergencies
• Global Mental Health

GLOBAL HEALTH BRIDGE
The Global Health Bridge, directed by Associate Global Health Program Director Mariah McNamara, M.D., M.P.H., assistant professor of surgery, offers opportunities for students in their clerkship year to engage in global health and medicine topics. This year, guest speakers and panelists included immigrants to the United States who shared their culture, beliefs, and traditions from across the world. Other speakers included a police corporal who provided insight into abuse, trafficking, and drug problems, and a special needs teacher with disabilities who proved that almost anything is possible with the power of belief, particularly in oneself.
Honest dialogue is at the heart of global health work. In building a diversity of relationships, participants learn how to better serve patients across cultures. The Global Health Program has created several online discussion series focused on important issues, with a goal to bring together those in the Global South and the Global North in conversation. One series, focused on sexual health and violence, has drawn participants from Connecticut, Russia, Zimbabwe, and other international partner sites. Another series titled “Challenging Moments in Global Health,” invites comment on five different case vignettes that typify some of the challenges participants may encounter, including concerns about safety, navigating cross-cultural boundaries, and participants who have trouble adjusting to new circumstances.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE ACROSS CULTURAL CONTEXTS

Sexual harassment and violence are gradually emerging from taboed obscurity and entering the global consciousness. What were once accepted as facts of life are slowly being called into question as systems of oppression that can be overturned. It is pertinent that we demonstrate our commitment to gender equality and safety for all human beings by using this momentum to create platforms for further investigation. This series, published in the Global Health Program e-magazine, encourages global health community members to share their thoughts and insights in the form of perspective pieces.

SELECTED POSTS

- “Sexual Harassment and Violence Across Global Contexts,” by Katrin Sadigh, M.D., infectious disease specialist, Epidemic Intelligence Service officer class of 2020
- “Sexual Harassment in Russia,” by Anna Ziganshina, M.D., endocrinology fellow at Albany Medical Center
- “Sexual Harassment on the Streets of Uganda,” by Jamidah Nakato, Ph.D., assistant lecturer at Makerere University
- “Sexual Harassment in Zimbabwe: ‘Kiss Kiss Sista’, #MeToo in a Zimbabwean Context,” by Tendai Machingaidze, M.D., Global Health Program site director in Zimbabwe
- “Sexual Harassment: An Overview,” by Robyn Scatena, M.D., associate director of global health at Norwalk Hospital

CHALLENGING MOMENTS IN GLOBAL HEALTH: NAVIGATING CROSS-CULTURAL BOUNDARIES

Challenging moments can be ascribed to an array of sources including insufficient orientation, unrealistic expectations, unfamiliarity with the culture and way of life, or mismatch between participant and elective. The “Challenging Moments in Global Health” series aims to address these issues by featuring real cases written by global health coordinators, directors, and leaders over the years.

MISMATCH BETWEEN A TRAINEE’S expectations for an elective and the reality on-the-ground is not uncommon. I think the best means of preventing such predicaments is honest communication and robust pre-departure preparation with an emphasis on solidarity. Global health participants should be prepared on what to expect with regards to accommodations, food, transportation, ward conditions, and clinical supervision. They should be warned that working in global health frequently leads to unpredictable events and that things might not be as expected.

When students become frustrated with physical conditions, food quality, exposure to pathogens, etc., they should be gently guided away from thinking mainly of themselves and their own material wants, and towards considering what it is to live and work with those conditions all the time. They should use the experience to better understand how their patients live and how their fellow students and physicians must work in these conditions day in and day out.

Unfortunately, in the moment it is easy for a global health participant to continue listing a litany of complaints. It is often only after their return that they realize the profound gift they received by living a life in solidarity with their patients.

BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH DIALOGUE

Molly Moore, M.D.
GLOBAL HEALTH REFLECTIONS

EXPERIENCING THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM IN A DIFFERENT COUNTRY

From the Dominican Republic

A POSITIVE AURA

My main experience with the local people has been through medical home visits. We do this mainly for the elderly and those who physically can’t make it to the community clinic. I’ve met with Clara, an 87-year-old patient who suffers from malnutrition. Yet despite her fragile body and apparent weakness, she does everything on her own. She cooks, cleans, and takes care of all household responsibilities with a smile on her face. I’ve also met with Niguella, an 85-year-old patient who had what appeared to be woody edema on her legs, who is struggling to walk around the house (which led to many falls), and has had occasional depressive episodes. Despite it all, as soon as we walked in the house she received us with a bright smile. There was this positive aura about her that made me feel an instant connection with her. Maybe she reminded me of my own grandma, who despite her own personal medical issues is a constant source of positive energy for the entire family. – Jose Calderon ’22

CONNECTING CULTURES

It has been wonderful having Ben [UVM Assistant Professor of Family Medicine Benjamin Clements, M.D.], around because we’ve been able to discuss interesting cases and learn about the pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment behind several health conditions. In addition, we’ve been able to compare and contrast the medical system in the Dominican Republic and the United States. Sometimes, I also catch myself making connections between the healthcare system, culture, and way of living in the Dominican Republic and India. Spending so much time with Ben, during and after clinic hours, has made me consider Ben not only as a professor and mentor, but also as a friend. – Prasanna Kumar ’22

CASES THAT LINGER IN THE MIND

From Thailand

THE VALUE OF SEEMINGLY SIMPLE SKILLS

Coming from the United States where all specialties are becoming increasingly sub-specialized and internists are rather hands-off while most invasive procedures are taken over by interventional radiologists, I actually wish I could train and work in Thailand in order to hone my procedural skills and become as capable as the Thai doctors or older generation of American physicians. – Li Zhou, M.D., medical resident at Norwalk Hospital

From Uganda

FAMILY AND LOVE

While dancing with the indigenous people of Uganda on a small island in the middle of Lake Bunyoni, I learned that sometimes, a small piece of land can be the whole world. While racing on the motorcycles, boda bodas, that were banned for foreign students on the streets of the provincial town of Kabale, I learned that sometimes it is worth it to take a risk and break a few rules. While having dinner with an African family and listening to stories of their lives, I learned just how much I miss my family and became convinced that the family is the most important thing for me. The hugs I gave them at the airport upon my return after six weeks so far away never were tighter. As I said goodbye at the airport to my friends I met in Uganda, the Beatles song “All You Need Is Love” was playing in my head. I memorized for life the smiles and bright moments associated with my new friends. Indeed, loving people around you, places you visit, and your own profession makes life brighter and more meaningful. If someone asks me what the main gem of Uganda is, I will not hesitate to answer: it is the people, full of kindness and love for everything that surrounds them. – Dilyara Khastieva, M.D., Global Health Program participant from Kazan State Medical University, Russia

TRADITIONAL THAI MEDICINE

The community hospital has an entire wing dedicated to traditional Thai medicine. It is incredibly enlightening to see how different Thai look at traditional medicine compared to Americans. Traditional Thai medicine is literally integrated into the community hospital where patients can receive oil, foot, therapeutic, and traditional Thai massages; cupping therapy; acupuncture; and herbal teas and supplements. The masseuses go to school for four years to get certified in Thai Massage. I am hoping to learn more about what they learn and some of the philosophy of traditional Thai medicine. – Collin Montgomery ’22

GLOBAL HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2019
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND NUVANCE HEALTH GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT 2019

• Majid Sadigh, M.D., made a one-week site-visit to Dalian, China, to learn more about the medical education and healthcare delivery systems at Dalian General Municipal Hospital (DGMH). Goals include establishing an annual medical education conference in Dalian to introduce new medical education methods to a broad audience and to build a new medical residency program modeled after the American program.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Homestay Model Established

• There are now two homestays in place: The Organda family, who lives on one side of a small street in Santo Domingo, and their daughter who lives with her family on the other side. Our global health participants dine and socialize together regardless of which homestay they are in. Located in Santo Domingo within walking distance to the UNIBE School of Medicine, these homestays provide participants with a meaningful space for immersion and distance to the UNIBE School of Medicine, and other leadership to discuss future curriculum for global health.

INDIA

INTERNATIONAL VISIT

• Program Director Majid Sadigh, M.D., and Global Health Program India Site Director Sowpnil Parve, M.D., embarked on a site-visit from February 16 to 27, 2019, to the Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences (DMIMS), Sawangi (Meghe), Wardha, India. Multiple high-level meetings were held, during which DMIMS leadership learned about the unique features of the Global Health Program.

RUSSIA

INTERNATIONAL VISIT

• From May 9 to 10, 2019, Majid Sadigh, M.D., made his annual administrative and teaching trip to Kazan, Russia, where he met with Kazan State Medical University’s (KSMU) leadership, global health interest group, and Global Health Scholars. He also delivered a series of talks to residents, students, and Faculty on various topics including student mistreatment, antibiotic resistance, mentoring of Ph.D. students in clinical research, biostatistics, and journal club. He also hosted a presentation on the KSMU-Nuance Health/UVM Larner College of Medicine collaboration, a presentation that was dedicated to the memory of Kirit Sabirav. Sadigh also oriented global health participants for upcoming six-week electives in Uganda and the Dominican Republic.

THAILAND

INTERNATIONAL VISIT

• From September 25 to 28, 2019, Majid Sadigh, M.D., met with Prachayaparn Petchwyn (M.D.), dean of Watalak University (WU) and WU leadership to discuss the new university mandate of one publication per year for junior faculty, future U.S. visits from WU leadership, and the anticipated teaching session that will be led by Jeffrey Wang. On a meeting on November 13, 2019, WU Faculty expressed interest in Continuing Medical Education activities with a focus on teaching and evaluation methods as well as the architecture of clinical and educational research.

UGANDA

Celebrating a New Global Health Information Center

• On March 1, 2019, the Honorable Jane Ruth Aceng, M.D., Minister of Health of the Republic of Uganda, launched the Nuance Health Information Center at Nabsowa Guest House in Namere Hypercure under the “Homestay Concept: Cross-Cultural Understanding for Effective Global Health and Medical Training.” Collaborative in both idea and implementation, the information centers—which will first be rolled out in Uganda and then other international partner sites—provide resources to the community and help to steer Global South interest in global health. These sites will be the support hub for participant orientation, sociocultural curriculum, and matching participant needs with available resources. While the classes held at the centers will be offered mainly to Global Health Program participants, the goal is to eventually open them to international participants in other programs.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

• Stephen Scholand, M.D., met with Prachayaparn Petchwyn (M.D.), dean of Watalak University (WU) and WU leadership to discuss the new university mandate of one publication per year for junior faculty, future U.S. visits from WU leadership, and the anticipated teaching session that will be led by Jeffrey Wang. On a meeting on November 13, 2019, WU Faculty expressed interest in Continuing Medical Education activities with a focus on teaching and evaluation methods as well as the architecture of clinical and educational research.

INDIA

INTERNATIONAL VISIT

• Program Director Majid Sadigh, M.D., and Global Health Program India Site Director Sowpnil Parve, M.D., embarked on a site-visit from February 16 to 27, 2019, to the Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences (DMIMS), Sawangi (Meghe), Wardha, India. Multiple high-level meetings were held, during which DMIMS leadership learned about the unique features of the Global Health Program.

RUSSIA

INTERNATIONAL VISIT

• From May 9 to 10, 2019, Majid Sadigh, M.D., made his annual administrative and teaching trip to Kazan, Russia, where he met with Kazan State Medical University’s (KSMU) leadership, global health interest group, and Global Health Scholars. He also delivered a series of talks to residents, students, and Faculty on various topics including student mistreatment, antibiotic resistance, mentoring of Ph.D. students in clinical research, biostatistics, and journal club. He also hosted a presentation on the KSMU-Nuance Health/UVM Larner College of Medicine collaboration, a presentation that was dedicated to the memory of Kirit Sabirav. Sadigh also oriented global health participants for upcoming six-week electives in Uganda and the Dominican Republic.

THAILAND

INTERNATIONAL VISIT

• From September 25 to 28, 2019, Majid Sadigh, M.D., met with Prachayaparn Petchwyn (M.D.), dean of Watalak University School of Medicine, and other leadership to discuss future curriculum for global health participants based on lessons learned from the first group of participants who underwent the elective this past summer, as well as other curriculum-related matters.

• Stephen Scholand, M.D., met with Prachayaparn Petchwyn (M.D.), dean of Watalak University (WU) and WU leadership to discuss the new university mandate of one publication per year for junior faculty, future U.S. visits from WU leadership, and the anticipated teaching session that will be led by Jeffrey Wang. On a meeting on November 13, 2019, WU Faculty expressed interest in Continuing Medical Education activities with a focus on teaching and evaluation methods as well as the architecture of clinical and educational research.

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PARTNERSHIPS

• From January 15 to 21, 2019, Bulat Zigyann, M.D., Ph.D., director of international affairs and AUC/RUSM electives at the Glob- al Health Program; Laurie Lennnon, director of business operations at Nuvance Health; and Jeffrey Anderson, American University of the Caribbean senior regional clinical coordinator for the Northeast, traveled to Uganda to meet with the leadership of partner sites at Makerere University College of Health Sciences, St. Stephen’s Hospital, St. Francis Naggalama Hospital, ACCESS, and Nakosse Hospital. Their main agenda focused on gathering feedback for quality improvement, exploring opportunities for expansion, and celebrating new developments.

• Ramapriya Vidhun, M.D., director of the University College of Health Sciences emergency department.

• On March 31, 2019, leadership from the Makere University College of Health Sciences School of Public Health in Kampala, Uganda, came to Burlington, Vermont for an administrative visit to the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine.
ed the faculty development workshops to four Korean State Medical University (KSMU) faculty members who were visiting in the United States. This led to an invitation in 2001 to travel to Korea to teach the Russian faculty members this educational model that was culturally different than the more tradi- tional Russian fashion of medical education, and that engages learners in a vibrant and inclusive manner. Over the past 18 years, I have con- tinued to work with the KSMU faculty and to date have taught, in some fashion, over 140 faculty members, residents, and medical students. I have also been fortunate enough to present similar workshops at several other international medical universities. This faculty development work takes a successful educational model (the STDP model) and at- tempts to transport that model, education- ally and culturally, from the U.S. to the host country. While much of the work has been done in the English language, adaptations into Russian and Japanese already exist and plans are underway for the development of a Spanish adaptation.

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Global Health and the Arts

Tendai Machangaidze, M.D., Global Health Program Site Director in Thailand, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe, and Tendai Machingaidze, M.D., Global Health Program Associate Site Director in Zimbabwe, site-visited the University of Zimbabwe College of Health Sciences (UZCHS) where they convened with UZCHS and Parirenyatwa Hospital leaders Margaret Barok, M.D., Pamela Chidawanyika, M.D., Rati Nhlolou, M.D.; and James Hakim, M.D., as well as Clinical Research Center staff. Meeting highlights included engagement of the Parirenyatwa Hospital Pediatrics Department for an enriched pediatric experience for global health participants as well as the possibility of a partnership with KidCan, a children’s cancer charity that runs a children’s oncology ward at Parirenyatwa. This partnership allows participants exposure to retinoblastoma, Wilms tumor, leukemias, lymphomas, and other pediatric cancers.

USA

Cross-Cultural Faculty Development

Jeffrey Wong, M.D., Associate Dean of Medical Education and Professor of Medicine at Pennsylvania State College of Medicine

• I trained in the Stanford Faculty Develop- ment Program (SFDP) from 1992 and quickly became involved with cross-cultural faculty teaching in several academic institu- tions in the United States. In 2000, I present- ed the faculty development workshops to four Korean State Medical University (KSMU) faculty members who were visiting in the United States. This led to an invitation in 2001 to travel to Korea to teach the Russian faculty members this educational model that was culturally different than the more tradi- tional Russian fashion of medical education, and that engages learners in a vibrant and inclusive manner. Over the past 18 years, I have con- tinued to work with the KSMU faculty and to date have taught, in some fashion, over 140 faculty members, residents, and medical students. I have also been fortunate enough to present similar workshops at several other international medical universities. This faculty development work takes a successful educational model (the STDP model) and at- tempts to transport that model, education- ally and culturally, from the U.S. to the host country. While much of the work has been done in the English language, adaptations into Russian and Japanese already exist and plans are underway for the development of a Spanish adaptation.

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On January 25, 2019, the UVM Larner College of Medicine hosted an event titled “A CONVERSATION WITH BASSEM YOUSSEF: FROM CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY TO POLITICAL SATIRE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.” Dubbed “the Jon Stewart of the Arab World,” Youssef talked about medicine and his transition into comedy in a conversation facilitated by Mariah McNamara, M.D., M.P.H.

AT SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY

On March 26, 2019, Moses Othin, M.D., Global Health Scholar from Uganda, and Connie Glenn, M.D., faculty at the Sacred Heart University (SHU) College of Nursing presented “HEALTHCARE AND EDUCATION IN UGANDA” at SHU’s West Campus. On November 21, 2019, Charles Herrick, M.D., MBA, chair of the Noonance Health Global Health and Education Lecture Series at Sacred Heart University.

Dr. Charles Herrick and Grace Herrick deliver remarks in Schine Auditorium on Sacred Heart University’s main campus.
**POSTER PRESENTATIONS**

2019 CONNECTICUT INFECTIOUS DISEASES SOCIETY CONFERENCE

**Title:** "Clinical Features of Streptococcus Suis Infection in a Major Urban Hospital, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam 2014-2019"
Authors: Ann Tho Bac, Ty, M.D.; Stephen Scholand, M.D.

2019 GLOBAL HEALTH DAY AT DANBURY HOSPITAL

**Title:** "Clinical Features of Streptococcus Suis Infections in a Major Urban Hospital, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam 2014-2019"
Authors: Tho Ngoc Anh Vu, M.D.; Tran Thi Nhu Nguyen, M.D.; Nhan Pham, M.D.; Nga Thi Thu Tran, M.D.; Stephen Scholand, M.D.; Hung Quoc Le, M.D.

**Title:** "Developing Culturally Appropriate Education to Increase Cervical Cancer Screening Among Maasai Women in Rural Tanzania"
Authors: Babu Miller, M.D.; Jenna Jorgenson, Amelia Tajik, Kiaro Tende, Duudi P襄, Monica King, Emmanuel Mallange, M.D.; Anne Dougherty, M.D.

**Title:** "Modification of Evidence-Based Family Planning Intervention for a New Target Population: Postpartum Women in Nakasoke District, Uganda"
Authors: Samantha Deans, M.D.; John Mundaka; Faith Nabali, M.D.; Maren Sedyk, Robert Kayebuula, M.D.; Sarah H. Heil, Ph.D.; Anne Dougherty, M.D.

**Title:** "Gender Disparity in Injury Outcomes: Increased Mortality of Female Children Under Five in Uganda"
Authors: Katie Wells, M.P.H.; Rashida Nambazira; Jason Murphy, M.D.; Stacey Chamberlain, M.D.; M.P.H.; Mark Bisanzo, M.D.; Brian Rice, M.D.M., M.Sc.

**Title:** "The Landscape of In Vitro Fertilization and Other Assisted Reproductive Techniques in Low- and Middle-Income Countries"

**Title:** "Viral Load Compliance in HIV Patients: A Quality Improvement Effort at St. Stephen’s Hospital, Uganda"
Authors: Katerine Callahan, B.S.; Nina Dawson, B.S.; Brian Gross, B.S.; Mariah McNamara, M.D. M.P.H.; Catherine Nakibule, M.D.

**Title:** "Creating a Bi-Directional Culture of Safety in Global Health Electives Through the Development of Comprehensive Safety Protocols"
Authors: Mitra Sadigh, B.A.; Swapnil Parve, M.D.; Leah Moody, M.P.H.; and Majid Sadigh, M.D.

**Title:** "Global Health Program Sites"
Authors: Mitra Sadigh, B.A.; Amanda Wallace

**Title:** "Global Health at Cho Ray Hospital, Vietnam"
Authors: Phuong L. Hoang, M.D.

**Title:** "Health Needs Assessment St. Stephen’s Hospital, Mperewre, Uganda"
Authors: Mitra Sadigh, B.A.; Samul Luboga, M.D., Catherine Nakibule, M.D.

**Title:** "Global Health Elective at the American University of the Caribbean & Ross School of Medicine"
Authors: Swapnil Parve, M.D.

2020 UVH LARNER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE NEW SEASON EDUCATIONAL RETREAT

**Title:** "Learning about Diversity Through Global Health Electives"
Authors: Holt M., Maus L., Urbina L., Kumar P., Callahan K. Moore, M. and McNamara M.

**Title:** "Use of Reflective Writing as an Educational Tool in Global Health Electives"
Authors: Callahan K., Kumar P., Moore M., Hodde N., Clements B. and McNamara M.

**Title:** "Near-Peer Teaching Assistant Rotation in Global Health: A Pilot Study"
Authors: Rodgers M., Hodde N., Clements B., McNamara M., Moore M., and Zehle C.

2020 CONSORTIUM OF UNIVERSITIES FOR GLOBAL HEALTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**Title:** "From Communities to the Classroom: Bringing a Social Determinants of Health Approach to a Medical School Global Health Curriculum"
Authors: Taurgeon N., Rodgers M., Wells K., Moore K., and McNamara M.

**SUBMISSIONS UNDER REVIEW**

"More than one year into Ebola outbreak, DRC facing a new normal.,’’ Majid Sadigh, M.D., interviewed by Joe Grimanga, Infectious Disease News, October 2019

"Mission Ambition: How to Pick the Right Sponsor for a Clinical Volunteerism Trip,’’ Majid Sadigh, M.D., interviewed by Matt Dominis for Emergency Nurses Association’s EMA Connection, November 2019

**MANUSCRIPTS IN PROCESS**

GLOBAL HEALTH OFFICE AT NUVANCE HEALTH

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2019 BY THE NUMBERS

20 NUMBER OF UVM STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE GLOBAL HEALTH ELECTIVE

24 NUMBER OF UVM STUDENTS ACCEPTED INTO THE GLOBAL HEALTH PATHWAY

209 NUMBER OF WEEKS THAT INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL HEALTH LEADERS AND SCHOLARS SPENT AT UVM/NUVANCE HEALTH

395 NUMBER OF WEEKS THAT NUVAANCE HEALTH/UVM FACULTY, FELLOWS, RESIDENTS AND MEDICAL STUDENTS SPENT AT INTERNATIONAL SITES