Global Health Program Conference

A Celebration in Honor of
Dr. John Murphy, the CEO of Nuvance Health

June 3-5, 2019

“People With Passion Can Change The World”
- Steve Jobs
“Our program is strong because of the passionate strength held in the individuals with whom we work and the communities in which we move.”

Dr. Majid Sadigh, Director of the WCHN/UVMLCOM Global Health Program and Christian J. Trefz Family Endowed Chair in Global Health at WCHN
The first annual WCHN Global Health Program Conference was held in celebration of the UVMLCOM/WCHN Global Health Program’s seventh year, and dedicated to Dr. John M. Murphy, CEO of Nuvance Health, for his tireless support and pivotal role in advancing the program to what it is today. The event provided a meaningful scaffold on which domestic and international partners - well-seasoned and new - could meet, network, and collaborate with the goal of creating a new consortium in global health devoted to medical education. The event was also a celebration of our new partnerships with Linde and Health Quest, as well as an opportunity to introduce global health to a wider community.

It was incredibly powerful to see representatives from each of our partners under one roof. These included our existent international partners - Universidad Iboamericana (UNIBE) in the Dominican Republic; Kazan State Medical University (KSMU) in Russia; the African Community Center for Social Sustainability (ACCESS), Saint Francis Naggalama Hospital, Saint Stephen’s Hospital, Makerere College of Public Health in Uganda; and University of Zimbabwe College of Health Sciences in Zimbabwe - and domestic partners, University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine, Sacred Heart University Global Education Initiative and School of Nursing, and Western Connecticut Health Network. Together, we welcomed our new international partners Dalian Municipal Central Hospital in China, Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences (DMIMS) in India, Walailak University School of Medicine in Thailand, and Makerere University School of Public Health in Uganda, as well as our new potential domestic partners Chiricahua Community Health Centers representing Global Health at Home in Arizona, Linde, and Health Quest.

With such staggering programmatic growth over the last few years, this event reminded all of us to take a moment to recognize our remarkable expansion and accomplishments while reflecting on potential areas of improvement and methods of working toward sustainability. By conversing and learning one another’s strengths and talents, members were able to discover new collaborative possibilities. I watched in awe as we revealed unique skills, expertise, and passion to ourselves and one another, with those we already knew and those we had just met. I was moved by the ease with which our partners old and new instantly melded, connected by a deeply shared vision: equal access to healthcare for everyone, everywhere through true multidimensional partnerships founded in trust and capacity building in medical education. We were all stunned to discover the immense potential contained within each of us, within each potential collaboration, and together as a collective, and returned to our work spaces in our respective corners of the world with a resurge of creativity and commitment. I hope we can render this unbridled potential energy held in our global health family kinetic.
Message from Senator Christopher S. Murphy:

Dear Friends:

I wish I could join you today for Western Connecticut Health Network’s (WCHN) inaugural Global Health Conference. Today’s convening of guests from around the world is a testament to the promise of global health—that by creating and fostering an international community of doctors, nurses, researchers, and other health professionals, we can solve the world’s most serious health crises. Thank you to all those in attendance for what I am sure will be a productive and inspiring conference.

With providers and policymakers looking to innovate around how we deliver better healthcare outcomes around the world, global health is seen as an increasingly important field. It also happens to exist at the intersection of two committees I sit on in the United States Senate: the Foreign Relations Committee and the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee. But sitting on a Senate committee is not required to know this: health and wellbeing has a profound impact on the livelihood of whole nations, and can have cascading effects around the world. The Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is just one example of this phenomenon; as the outbreak inches towards the DRC’s borders with Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi, international tensions in already fraught region may intensify. Our foreign policy must be informed by health policy, and the inverse must also be true.

Meanwhile, here in the United States, measles outbreaks have swept through communities from coast to coast—including here in western Connecticut—as misinformation about vaccinations proliferates without sufficient response. Conferences like this one, along with the great work the WCHN does every day, play an essential role in spreading knowledge about health and developing real strategies to combat these issues head on.

Thanks to the work of all the people in attendance at this conference, I believe we are moving closer to providing answers to some of the world’s biggest questions in global health. This event has brought together, under one roof, an exceptional amount of knowledge about complex medical issues and international affairs, and the level of sophistication and expertise you bring to this subject sets a bold example for future practitioners and healthcare providers to rely on. I wish you a successful event and I look forward to working hand-in-hand with you for years to come.

Sincerely,

Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senate
Dear Dr. John Murphy,

Please accept these warm greetings from the community of Kazan State Medical University and health professionals in the Republic of Tatarstan. We cordially congratulate you, the administration, students, faculty, and health workers at Western Connecticut Health Network/ Nuvance Health and University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine for the seventh year anniversary of the Global Health Program.

We would like to cordially thank you for your kind support, including in continuing the collaboration with our institution and hosting our faculty and residents at your home sites. The program has greatly contributed to the development of medical education and training of health professionals in Kazan, and we appreciate it very much.

Kazan State Medical University is proud to be the first overseas site established within WCHN/UVMLCOM Global Health Program. The seven-year period was marked by productive collaboration in global health between our institutions. This cooperation not only expands horizons for the parties in the global health arena, but also enriches clinical and intercultural knowledge of participants.

Due to the WCHN global health initiative, KSMU developed first in Russia and later in Europe six-week global health electives offering extensive clinical rotations, basic and applied research projects, and unique sociocultural curriculum for international medical students. Over the years, KSMU has welcomed many talented and highly motivated medical students from partnering medical schools while selected young KSMU faculty members and residents underwent clinical clerkships at WCHN.

KSMU highly appreciates the Global Health Program partnership for its beautiful and valuable experience in exchanging views and ideas, as well as its contribution to medical education development. We recognize that the program has made, in only a few years, an outstanding contribution to the training of health professionals around the world while making strides in influencing population health in a global way. Today, the Global Health Program has a tremendous opportunity to make our world a better place.

With best wishes,
Alexey Sozinov
Rector of Kazan State Medical University
My dad is from California and my mom is Portuguese born in Mozambique. My mom’s stories always piqued my curiosity about the continent of Africa, a curiosity that continued to grow through high school as I frequently attended the WCHN global health evening sessions. In the summer of 2015, I had the opportunity to go to Uganda for two weeks during which I shadowed doctors and nurses, visited an orphanage, and went to ACCESS in Nakaseke where I learned about the activities of this amazing organization and community.

I was particularly moved by the work ACCESS does with children and orphans. During one of our home visits, an elderly woman sang a beautiful and haunting song. I didn’t understand the words, but the emotions I felt were powerful. I felt fully present that day. There existed a feeling of community, connectedness with one another in the villages we visited that is difficult to describe. In the U.S., we do not often see communities in which everyone treats one another with dignity and respect. I felt that I was witness to something important. I left ACCESS feeling like I had to be a part of that community in a permanent way. I started brainstorming about what I could offer that could have lasting impact. After speaking with Dr. Robert Kalyesubula and Estherloy Katali, President and Co-Founders of ACCESS, we came up with the idea of a preschool program, as that was something the community needed that I could work on remotely. We created a curriculum and opened a preschool program that started during my junior year of high school.

To help illustrate why Nakaseke made such an impression on me, let me tell you about my return to Uganda in July 2018. The morning we drove to visit the school during my next visit in 2018, we stopped at a street shop in Kampala to purchase candy for the children.

The shop was small, packed with odd foods and nicknacks and one cashier crammed into the corner because space was so tight. The street was loud and bustling with people and cars, equally packed in, and I was with my sister and her friend. I stepped onto the street with feelings both familiar and strange. Shops and streets in the midst of people hustling about, just like midtown Manhattan. It was in the midst of this familiarity that I felt strange. Here I was with my sister and her friend, three American girls so out of place in a sea of people as to cause them to stop in their tracks to stare at us. How could something seemingly so familiar feel so strange? When I visit Boston or New York City, I feel like a stranger among strangers, and somehow that feels comfortable because no one cares. But in Kampala, I feel like a stranger among friends and neighbors, and it makes me feel alone – like a real
stranger – while also feeling envious of a sense of community that doesn’t exist in any city in the US, not even in my home Newtown. It is this irony of feeling like a stranger among friends in Uganda but a friend among strangers in the US that is so alienating.

Later, I arrived at ACCESS expecting that we would visit the school program and greet the children with the treats. Instead, they came running to greet us in their bright, electric colored polo shirts chanting “Welcome to ACCESS Preschool.” Their warmth, giggles, and bright eyes filled me with so much love that I burst into tears. We were then greeted by many other people, some familiar like Dr. Robert and Estherloy, and some new. Embracing them felt like coming home. We picked up exactly where we left off when I was sixteen.

There is something about the way Ugandans greet you that makes you feel immediately welcomed and cared for. They extend both their hands to shake yours, then hold your hand in theirs in a warm embrace while talking to you. They focus their eyes and attention on you as if you are the only person on the planet. It makes you feel safe and connected, like the bond is as strong as family. Never have I been greeted with such strong feelings. It is disarming.

The children continued running around us giggling, tugging on my dress and requesting my attention. Two grabbed my hands, one on either side, and walked me with Dr. Robert to a Welcome Brunch. As we went around the large table introducing ourselves, I was struck by the passion and dedication with which community members help the preschool to run. Afterwards, we walked to a tent set up with tiny brightly colored chairs where the children put on a show, full of life and infectious laughter. The end performance was a dance similar to the conga line dance where the little ones lined up and danced their way around. Eventually everyone joined in, including Dr. Robert. It was a moment I wish I could have frozen in time. I spoke with parents about their day-to-day lives, their families, and their friends. They shared the impact the school has had, and the aspirations they have for their children. The stories they shared were intimate and moving with the familiarity of a friend.

Let me end by talking about Susan Byekwaso, the Coordinator of the International Office at Makerere University College of Health Sciences, as she perfectly represents what Uganda means to me. By my side throughout most of my days in Uganda, she refers to me as her daughter and herself as my African Mama. I am blessed to have another mother across the world. She plans our days precisely, but is there to make it work when I want to go off the schedule. She is tough in the best way possible, even saying no to me, like, “No Grace, you cannot stick your head outside the van in the middle of Kampala with the streets filled like this!” Susan does this purely from her heart, her love of people, and her love of her home. And her home is not just her house, and not just the country, but the entire global health contingent who call upon her when visiting.

I decided to create my own individualized major in global health at the University of Connecticut. One of the first papers I wrote on the subject was an attempt to understand why the US has undergone a reversal in life expectancy for the first time in its history when compared to other Global North nations. A group of Princeton economists noted that the reversal is largely due to three factors: opiate overdoses, cirrhosis of the liver, and suicide. They coined the term “deaths of despair” to describe this triad. As rich as we are in material goods, we are very poor in community. Uganda, on the other hand, is rich in this most important commodity that comes freely. And a sense of community is what Uganda has given me.
An Opportunity for Exchange and Inspiration

Dr. Naomi Hodde, Department of Medicine Faculty at UVMLCOM

It was a sight for sore eyes and slightly discouraged souls. In a time when so much of our energy is directed at exploring efficiency, payment models, or physician burnout, the Western Connecticut Health Network Global Health conference provided an opportunity for inspiration and rejuvenation. For three days in early June, 140 members from China, the Dominican Republic, India, Russia, Thailand, Uganda, Vietnam, as well as domestic partners in Connecticut, Vermont, and border communities in Arizona had an opportunity to share ideas and visions for future work in global health education, healthcare delivery, and cultural exchange.

On Monday June 3rd, we heard from panelists detailing new partnerships at global health sites around the world. Dressed in a traditional Thai lavender garment with a broad and warm smile, Dr. Prachyapan “Menn” Petchuay’s enthusiasm for the emerging educational experience at Walailak University School of Medicine was infectious. Next, Dr. Swapnil Parve shared many details of their growing educational program at Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences. Finally, Dr. Jonathan Melk discussed the history and current scope of Chiricahua Community Health Centers in Douglas, Arizona. Their model is innovative in its approach to interdisciplinary care to adults and children providing a broad range of services including medical, dental, and behavioral healthcare in southeastern Arizona. Their motto “Health For All” speaks volumes. The health system serves 28,000 patients of all ages in nine sites - through brick-and-mortar clinics as well as mobile health centers in buses in a catchment area the size of Connecticut and Rhode Island combined. His dedication to the project’s mission was palpable. The potential for future exchange at this site made it clear that global health is a philosophy of learning that can be translated into action domestically as well as abroad.

Later in the afternoon, conference attendees were treated to shared reflections from the field. Presentations included topical lectures on sexual harassment and gender equity, diversity and inclusion in global health, and means of mitigating harm to host institutions and members during global health electives. Topics in medical education included Dr. Moore discussing her curriculum for simulation and pre-departure training designed for learners and a session on evaluation and feedback. The afternoon concluded with an engaging discussion using case studies detailing “Ethical Challenges in Short-Term Global Health Clinical Experiences.”

A dinner and awards ceremony at the Ethan Allen Hotel was a time for conversation and exchange among participants. Additionally, we were grateful to hear several performances from acclaimed soprano Alexis Rodda. Among the honorees that evening were Grace Herrick, founder of Grace’s Promise; Amanda Wallace, Multimedia Specialist at WCHN; Mitra Sadigh, Writer, Editor, and Researcher at the Global Health Program; Dr. S. Javed Shahid, Section Chief of Neurosurgery, Danbury Hospital; and Dr. John M. Murphy, CEO of Nuvance Health. It was a lovely opportunity to highlight the achievements of this talented group and the generous local support being directed to the important work of partners in a shared global health mission.

The next morning, Global Health Program leadership traveled to Danbury Hospital for Grand Rounds, delivered by Dr. John Murphy who detailed the newly designed partnership with Nuvance Health and his continued commitment to the hybrid model of this health network including community health care, academic medical education, and productive research. Dr. Murphy conveyed his vision and perspective. Several posters displayed scholarships resulting from collaborations at global health partner sites including Uganda and Russia.

Later that morning, the true work began. In a conference room at Linde Corporation, Dr. Mariah McNamara lead 35 members of the leadership team from twelve sites across the globe in a strategic session to explore the mission, vision, and values of the WCHN global health collaborative. Members exchanged ideas on strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for improvement at individual sites. The ultimate goal, however, was to come together as one community and detail our...
vision for the future of this collaborative. All remain committed to a mission steeped in mutual respect in the spirit of cultural exchange, medical education, and bi-directional opportunities for growth. The group identified the need for a multi-site leadership and steering committee as well as a communications committee to ensure adequate exchange of ideas across sites in an efficient and reliable network. Finally, there was consensus on the need for regular future meetings in the form of a yearly conference. The hope is that the location of this meeting can vary among sites in the Global North and South, and that a conference planning committee will be formed.

The session was filled with hope for a strong and sustainable collaboration to be headed by our current partners, but one that will grow and change over the coming years. The morning was productive and inspiring. Members left the session ready to work toward a shared goal in the model conceived by the program director and embraced by all in our growing Global Health Institute.

One of the key outcomes of the first WCHN Global Health Conference was the adoption of a resolution to form a consortium of our partners in global health and launch a unique program “Linde Global Health Educators Beyond Borders.” Scheduled to launch in 2020, this novel program will select academically promising international colleagues for training at Nuvance Health and Linde Headquarters in Danbury to become an army of health educators around the world. In order to maintain their certifications every five years, program graduates will be required to conduct academic or scientific activities in global health in their own home country as well as in other countries in the global south.
Dr. Prachyapan “Menn” Petchuay, Dean of Walailak University School of Medicine

Arriving at Danbury’s Ethan Allen Hotel at 10 p.m., after more than 24 hours of travelling from my home in southern Thailand, I was exhausted and jetlagged, too tired to think of anything. On the last leg of the journey from New York City’s JFK airport, I was delighted to be in the company of Dr. Hoang Phuong Lann and Dr. Tran Hahn Uyen from Cho Ray Hospital in Vietnam. But as someone attending the meeting for the first time, representing Walailak University’s School of Medicine as the newest member of the global health family, I could not help feeling a little apprehensive. Checking into my hotel room, however, I was overwhelmed by a big box of souvenirs that was waiting for me. Before getting ready for bed and some much needed sleep, I just had to check it out and what I found - the welcoming postcard, books, some amenities, and a bit of this, and a bit of that - made me feel right at home. But the most important package, especially as the hotel kitchen was closed, was a delicious nutrition bar. With that keeping my stomach happy, I was ready for my first sweet night in the USA.

I have to confess that before attending the conference, my view towards global health was not totally clear. I had researched its work in several articles that contained differing points of view, such as whether this might be another science in the medical world, a new subject, or merely a new medical practice in a global perspective. However, I had concluded that this particular conference would clarify these issues for me and any queries I might have about global health would be resolved. I accepted that I was a new and unknown person in this arena.

Meeting everyone for the first time at the welcome party, I was nervous. It was the fear of the unknown which I’m sure we all feel when we attend any function for the first time. But on seeing the familiar faces I had met in Thailand, Dr. Stephen Scholand followed by Dr. Majid Sadigh and Mitra Sadigh, my nervousness...
evaporated. The warmth of the welcome, with everyone greeting each other with smiles and acknowledgment indicated that we were all happy to be there; we were the same family and we shared the same values. Experiencing the warmth of that greeting, I readily accepted that I too would be one of the global health family.

Standing in front of everyone during the first conference session, I was even more nervous as I had to speak in English which is of course not my native tongue. Afraid of the misuse of some vocabulary or misunderstanding what someone might ask me, I was quickly reassured by the support that I could see and sense from other attendees. My confidence grew as everyone seemed to be enthusiastically listening to me. I knew then that whatever our vocabulary, whatever words we used, we were speaking the same language: the language of care. All of us in that room were linked by common beliefs, and any dissimilarities were soon resolved.

Throughout the sessions, we were all participating. We discussed different topics from different points of view. Travelling from different points of departure we nonetheless shared the same value and the same destination. The destination where our medical care will be under the hands of good doctors. The destination where we teachers can nurture our students to become the doctors we have dreamed of.

I understand now more about global health, a project to shape both our students and staff to be global doctors who instinctively understand not only the workings of the clinic where they will ultimately practice but also well beyond that – out into the communities where their patients reside.
Dalia Martinez

I’m a former journalist-turned content strategist. I help companies get noticed by mapping out how they can promote their brand and I write their promotional content. In terms of my experience in healthcare, I work with doctors who specialize in finding the root cause of disease and support stronger legislation in the U.S. to protect food supply, water, and environmental health.

What interests me the most about social justice work is the opportunity to learn from people who come from all walks of life with hundreds of stories, and of course, making a difference. I am involved in social justice work in the U.S. for prison reform, voter rights, and environmental causes.

Currently, I’m adding on user experience design (UXD) to my content strategy portfolio with the hope of utilizing it in the non-profit and policy think tank circuit.

Abraham Lincoln Walks at Midnight

By Vachel Lindsay
(In Springfield, Illinois)

It is portentous, and a thing of state
That here at midnight, in our little town
A mourning figure walks, and will not rest,
Near the old court-house pacing up and down.

Or by his homestead, or in shadowed yards
He lingers where his children used to play,
Or through the market, on the well-worn stones
He stalks until the dawn-stars burn away.

A bronzed, lank man! His suit of ancient black,
A famous high top-hat and plain worn shawl
Make him the quaint great figure that men love,
The prairie-lawyer, master of us all.

He cannot sleep upon his hillside now.
He is among us:—as in times before!
And we who toss and lie awake for long
Breathe deep, and start, to see him pass the door.

His head is bowed. He thinks on men and kings.
Yea, when the sick world cries, how can he sleep?
Too many peasants fight, they know not why,
Too many homesteads in black terror weep.

The sins of all the war-lords burn his heart.
He sees the dreadnaughts scouring every main.
He carries on his shawl-wrapped shoulders now
The bitterness, the folly and the pain.

He cannot rest until a spirit-dawn
Shall come;—the shining hope of Europe free;
The league of sober folk, the Workers’ Earth,
Bringing long peace to Cornland, Alp and Sea.

It breaks his heart that kings must murder still,
That all his hours of travail here for men
Seem yet in vain. And who will bring white peace
That he may sleep upon his hill again?

Click here for audio of Dalia reciting the poem >>
Keyvan Behpour, President of Kvon Photography

What led you to pursue photography?
I have been fascinated with the still image since I was eight years old, spending my childhood memories looking through the National Geographic Magazine which we used to receive in Iran. My father gave me his old camera and light meter, sending me off “looking” and “seeing,” and I never stopped.

What subject material are you most passionate about capturing and why?
I love all aspects of photography: architectural, scenic, advertising, lifestyle... but what fascinates me the most is people. It’s my belief that when a camera is pointed at a person, it triggers something in them to put up a front such that the real person behind it cannot be revealed. I feel that a photographer’s inner personality comes into play at this critical moment. If the photographer can establish a connection with the person or the group of people and get through that barrier, the real person behind it is so much more beautiful and interesting, with a fascinating life story that would not have been revealed otherwise. That is where my passion lives.

What has been your involvement in human rights and social justice issues?
I have been an outspoken advocate in this area for as long as I can remember. I continually read, research, and share the issues as broadly as I can, trying to inform and educate whoever might listen. As we all know right now, the current geopolitical atmosphere makes this task harder, and hence we must try that much harder.

What do you see as the value of art as a means for advocacy?
I get requests from various NGO’s and other organizations asking for a $20 donation to feed people or help with the tragedies that have befallen them. My response is always this: I can give you $20 for a meal, or you can get me to where the problem is, and I can capture the essence, depth, and urgency of the situation, bring the images back, and get hundreds of thousands of dollars instead from newly informed and passionate people after they have seen and felt the problem.

What are your hopes for your future work and career involvements?
My hopes are a just world, and a peaceful one at that, while this seems like such a distant goal, it will be even further away if I don’t try. I hope to continue my advocacy work by bringing out the truth and helping as many unfortunate people as possible while making a living, to support my family as well.

What was your impression of the Global Health Conference, and what are your thoughts on the Global Health Program’s mission?
I have been totally fascinated with the Global Health Program and its vision. I knew nothing about global health until one night when I was photographing an event for Norwalk Hospital and heard the Program Director talking about global health. It was like the clouds parting as a beam of light came down from the sky. I thought, now this is something that finally makes sense, the big picture: get everyone involved since it’s not just us and them, but about all of us.

Photographing the latest congregation of all these amazing, talented, accomplished, and caring humans for three days was so powerful in my mind. Just looking across the room, making friends with all of them and listening to distant nations passionately discussing common goals, remedies, and possibilities was inspiring. It gave me hope that we might just be able to do this on a worldwide basis.

I feel that one of the most important aspects of global health is sending medical students from one country to another so they can see and develop compassion for others and realize the problems and shortcomings that they had no idea even existed. The exchange of ideas and solutions is also a key factor.

We all need to burst out of our safe, comfortable, and local bubble and become involved with the wider world to realize that at the end of the day, we are all humans. We all need peace, love, understanding, compassion, a place to rest and be.
Alexis Rodda, Soprano

Alexis Rodda is a classically-trained soprano described by New York Classical Review as having “a lovely voice, full of color and body in every register.” She attended Princeton University (BA), Mannes College (MM), and currently attends CUNY Graduate Center as a Five-Year Fellowship recipient and doctoral candidate. In March 2019, she was chosen as a Fulbright Scholar to travel to Vienna and conduct research in the exil.arte Zentrum (The Exiled Art Center.) In 2018, she won a grant, the Elebash Award, to travel to Munich and explore the works of exiled Austrian composer, Egon Lustgarten, at the Lahr von Leitis Archive. A strong proponent of new music, she premiered four new works in the past two years including the leading role in a full length opera, A Taste of Damnation, by Avner Finberg and has developed a new operatic libretto with best-selling author Cari Luna based on her award-winning novel, The Revolution of Every Day. At Princeton, she was a Lewis Center for the Arts grant winner to create and sing a new opera by composer Maxwell Mamon, Rosaleen, which had its premiere in Richardson Auditorium. She was a 2013 Boston Metropolitan Opera National Council District Winner and Regional Finalist, a 2014 NYC Metropolitan Opera National Council Encouragement Award Winner, and a 2014 and 2018 Elebash Grant Winner. She was a 2016 Serge & Olga Roussevsky Young Artist Award Finalist and a 2016 Violetta DuPont Competition Encouragement Award Winner. Additionally, she is a professional singer at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City. Alexis also teaches a number of students voice and piano lessons in the New York City area.
AMONG THE LETTERS

**Dr. Gagandeep Kaur, Pathology Resident at Danbury Hospital**

Having worked in rural India with limited resources and bearing witness to a wide array of dilemmas - from favoring treatment to males to delivering biased treatment based on financial aid - ethical dilemmas are the big concern while caring for patients in any respect, in the Global North and South alike.

The WCHN Global Health Conference provided a meaningful platform for all attendees. The "Ethical Dilemmas in Global Health" panel stuck out to me as particularly thought-provoking. Among the cases discussed was one of a traveling physician offering to give financial support to a patient that couldn’t otherwise afford the treatment, thinking this would solve the issue of lack of funds. However, the local physician discouraged this, stating that there are many more patients that require financial aid and funding one single patient does not solve the universal issue. Meanwhile, the traveling physician felt it was ethical to provide the best possible care to the patient at his capacity. Although it is the responsibility of a physician to care for the patient, decisions should not be driven by emotions. Healthcare institutions, hospital management, alternative funding sources, and community members willing to make a financial contribution can play a vital role in providing assistance to patients that need it most.

The other topic on this panel that caught my attention was in regard to gender-biased treatment. This practice should be strongly discouraged, and may be prevented by offering awareness to patients, families, and healthcare providers through seminars and educational programs. Doing so may gradually open the community to new ideas and practices.

The ethical dilemmas panel provided perspectives from different geographies including the United States, Uganda, and Vietnam, as well as insights and questions from conference attendees from around the world, providing me with the opportunity to hear varying voices while also expressing my own. What I took away is this: before concluding whether a healthcare decision is right or wrong, one must seek to understand the perspective behind the decision and its impact on patient outcomes.

**Ritesh Vidhun, High School Student**

The Global Health Conference this past June was interesting and eye-opening, to say the least. It was intimidating yet inspiring to be part of such a diverse group of people from all parts of the world who are experts in their fields as they discussed important healthcare issues. Being the only high school student presenting a poster made me incredibly nervous at first, but the collaboration among everyone was highly encouraging. Global health has given me the opportunity to pursue my interests through research while discovering an area of healthcare that I am very much interested in. Through meeting new people, conducting research, and discussing various topics in healthcare, I now have a better understanding of global health and the significance of this program.
The program and symposium were energizing and well-executed. Capping it with Dr. John Murphy’s grand rounds and Dean Page’s heartfelt words put an exclamation point to all that was said.

**Dr. Jonathan Fine**  
*Former Designated Institution Official at WCHN*

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Dear Global Health Team;

Thank you for inviting me to attend this wonderful event and visit Danbury Hospital for a month. It was a great pleasure to meet excellent people from different fields and areas of expertise. The Global Health Program has established an international exchange platform based on the premise that all humans deserve the same rights to healthcare.

My hospital is affiliated with Dalian Medical University. There are 2000 in-patient beds, but we are not yet the best training site for students and residents, and do not have fellowship program. Our level of healthcare also needs to improve greatly. We need to pay attention to basic skills besides advanced technology. It is a new and important mission to make more of our doctors aware of these differences and start to make changes and improvements.

I am excited to be a part of this exceptional group.

**Warm regards,**  
*Peishi Yan*

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Hello Ms. Lisa Esneault,

I want to express my gratitude to you and other Linde leadership for their generous support of the Global Health Program at Western Connect Health Network and Linde Health Educators Without Borders. The Global Health Conference was a great success thanks to your valuable endorsement. It was a wonderful and rare opportunity for all of our partners, Linde included, to gather in one space.

But beyond your substantial financial support of our program and events, we deeply appreciate the time and participation of Linde members, including Todd’s speech at the dinner as well as your opening remarks during the brainstorming session. We also deeply appreciate you hosting the global health leadership at the Linde headquarters. We were all moved by the warm welcome given by all Linde representatives.

We are truly grateful for this new partnership and excited for the growth that your support has allowed us to pursue in the coming years. Thank you for standing by us, in both financial backing and mission.

**Sincerely,**  
*Majid Sadigh*

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Dear Dean Page,

I want to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to attend the global health dinner and grand rounds. Your presence and insights made a tangible historical influence on the future direction of the UVMLCOM/WCHN Global Health Program, for which I am personally thankful.

**Warm regards,**

Continued on next page >>
It was my great pleasure. I also enjoyed reading the materials you gave me.

Best wishes,

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

Dear Carole,

I owe you a debt of gratitude for being so generous in sharing your energy and wisdom with me and other members of the global health leadership during so many critical moments over the past 7 years.

You have been an inspirational role model to me and many others.

Warm regards,

Majid

Thanks to you for being such an inspiring mentor and leader! It was wonderful to see so many international leaders come together for planning and celebrating. The conference was an enormous success from where I sit, and I am very excited to see where the river of ideas takes us next!

Thank you for all you have done for all involved with global health,

Carole Whitaker

Congratulations on the program success with the Global Health Conference! Beautiful photos.

Thanks,

Rafael Khalitov

Hi Dr. Sadigh, Dr. Robert, and Joann,

I felt so embarrassed receiving an award for something so simple as to start a preschool program! I’m extremely fortunate to have amazing people, like all of you, supporting me in our shared journey of making the world a better place. Thank you for your kind words. I don’t deserve them. I promise to continue to work hard to one day earn the praises you shower me with.

Much love to all of you,

Grace

Continued on next page >>
Dear eMagazine team,

Hello. It’s an honor for me to read about and see the Global Health Program’s amazing work and success as demonstrated by the conference. It is my wish to join this conference one day. My greatest congratulations to you for these great achievements and accomplishments. The humanistic mission of the program is really inspiring.

I am sure that the program has inspired many young people like myself around the world. It makes me proud to be a member of this community. The program’s accomplishments and fast growth are demonstrative of the fact that good things come to those who are willing to sacrifice for a worthwhile goal. Words can’t express how happy and proud I am. Like many others, I am celebrating the dedication of so many members of this program who are selflessly investing their energy and talents toward humanistic goals.

I hope all the best for you and wish the program to reach the highest of success. I send my heartfelt congratulations to all members, and wish many more successes.

Best wishes,
Elnaz

Dr. Sadigh,

I regret that I did not have the chance to speak with you yesterday. I unfortunately had to run back to the hospital immediately following the panel discussion.

Thank you for the opportunity. It was great fun and I received wonderful personal feedback from those in attendance.

All the best,
Patrick Zimmerman, DO
Resident Surgeon, General Surgery
Danbury Hospital, University of Vermont

Hi Drs. Murphy and Sadigh,

My name is Sanjay and I am one of the general surgeons at Vassar – Just wanted to reach and tell you that I had the pleasure of attending part of the conf/sessions yesterday and the Grand Rounds today. I was truly inspired and it was a breath of fresh air to listen to both of you who were sharing your visions/passions for global health!

Global health has always been a passion of mine and I am actually heading to Africa next week to perform surgery. Please let me know how we can bring Global Health awareness to this HQMP like you have both done at WCHN.

Sanjay Thomas, MD, FACS
Attending General Surgeon
Core Faculty General Surgery Residency
Program Director of Transitional Year Residency Program

Continued on next page >>
Hi Dr. Sadigh,

I hope you had a chance to relax a little today. The parts of the conference I attended were so well run!

I wanted to say thank you again for your mentorship and giving me the opportunity to do things most people could only dream about!

Take care and safe travels to China,
Grace

Dear Majid,

During the conference I met with so impressive group of local and international Global Health Program members.

I have learned so much more, and over and over again the Global Health Program impresses me with the span of knowledge in so many fields. It is visionary in this world where help is needed.

Warm regards,
Eva Landegger

Dear Majid,

Congratulations on what seems to have been a very successful global health conference June 2-4th. The awards were fantastic.

Best,
Nelson Sewankambo

Thank you very much for the beautiful conference and this meeting with plenty of great people. It inspired so many committed people. Our collective global health initiative expanding very well. Congratulations! I am sure that Linde Health Educators also has a great future.

Cordially,
Marat Mukhamedyarov

Thank you Majid. It was a wonderful conference and opportunity to see old friends, make new friends, and establish new contacts and programs. Thanks to you and the many people at your side who made this work so seamless.

Steve Winter

Continued on next page >>
It was a great pleasure to meet each of you! Thank you for your warm welcome. I hope to collaborate with your programs more in the future.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Melk MD
Chief Executive Officer/Chief Medical Officer
Chiricahua Community Health Centers, Inc.

Just arriving home. Thanks to the WCHN team for organizing this wonderful event. Thanks to the program leadership. I am, like so many others, so proud of being a part of this exceptional group. We have in our hands a big task of contributing, from our different fields of expertise, to help to make this world more equal and fair.

I am so proud to have met people like you and want all our efforts from each site to bring hope and light to the undeserved and unprotected populations around the world.

Warm regards to everyone.

Dr. Marcos Nunez
Dominican Republic

Dear Everyone!

Thank you very much for opening my world to opportunities to learn something new, and for empowering me and giving me inspiration to improve my work.

To join the gang, I realise that there will be several things I have to do when I am back to my work. First of all, to get ready for my first group of students who will be with me for six weeks.

The conference was superb... Thank you for your hard work. Thank you to everyone who was the force behind the conference.

At this stage, I would like to promise that cooperation between my site and the Global Health Program will be a more fruitful, prosperous and productive one.

Thank you again,
Menn Petchuay

Dear All,

It was great meeting you all. I would like to thank the members of Western Connecticut Health Network for bringing us all together. Looking forward to a very fruitful relationship with all of you.

With best wishes,
Swapnil

Continued on next page >>
I have just arrived back in Zimbabwe. The journey was great though tiring. It was pleasing to meet all the other people involved in global health. The discussions were rich, inspiring, futuristic, and full of encouragement. We look forward to continued growth and prosperity of the organisation. I wish you all great success in your current duties.

Prof. R. Masanganise (Dean UZCHS)

Dear All,

I sincerely appreciate the opportunity offered me to join the Global Health Conference and all the participation therein. I learned a lot and was greatly inspired by the strategic direction the global health partnership is taking. It was a moment of international exposure and exchange of ideas. We are open to the network and development henceforth.

Blessed,
Sister Jane Frances

It was a great pleasure to meet everyone! I am leaving tomorrow and go back to work next week. I believe what I learned here will improve my work and benefit patients. I hope to collaborate with your programs more in the future.

Best regards,
Peishi Yan

Dear All,

I agree with everyone’s sentiments – this was a wonderful conference! I greatly enjoyed spending time with this amazing group of lovely, inspiring people. This is a very special program. I returned to Vermont with a renewed sense of deep gratitude for having the opportunity to be a part of it. I look forward to continuing to work with you all in the future!

Warmest regards,
Audree

Dear Global Health Team,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to participate in the incredible Global Health Conference! It was so wonderful to meet so many of our friends and partners, talk to everyone, and identify areas that we can strengthen our collaborations. This conference was a great learning opportunity for me personally and an inspiration for further development.

Thank you very much for making this conference happen!

With best wishes,
Bulat

Continued on next page >>
Dear Majid –

After being inspired by the WCHN Global Health Conference, I finished the faculty development piece which will be useful for the network and the consortium.

Best wishes,
Jeff Wong

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Dear Team,

We had a wonderful time and are very happy to have met old and new colleagues.

Robert Kalyesubula

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Dear Global Health Team,

I am back at work.
First of all, I'd like to thank the global health team for making my trip to the U.S. such a wonderful one. I appreciate your hospitality.
My thanks go to all of you – my new colleagues - for sharing your thoughts and experiences through conference presentations and discussions.
I believe that this event has brought us closer together. It is also an effective way to increase engagement with Global Health Program.
Again, thank you very much.

Best regards,
Lan Phuong,
Choray hospital, Vietnam

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Dear All,

It was so insightful to interact as the so-called United Nations, and wonderful knowing that all of us were there for one cause: to cultivate a world of global citizens.

Katali Estherloy

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Thank you for sharing this wonderful photo of such a wonderful group! It was so lovely to see old friends and make new ones, and I’m very much looking forward to working (and playing!) with you all in the year ahead!

Warmest wishes for safe return home for all the internationals!

Carole Whitaker

Continued on next page >>
Dear Global Health Team,

Thank you for sharing the photos. Thank you especially for the opportunity to participate in the excellent conference—a great opportunity for networking and creating more partnerships with your teams!

Rhoda

The pictures are beautiful. Thank you so much.

Best wishes,
Prof Masanganise

Thank you for sharing the beautiful photos.

Robert

Thank you so much for the beautiful photos.

Dr. Lan Phuong and Dr. Uyen

Coming Soon!

The collection of presentations and plenary sessions from the first Western Connecticut Health Network and University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine Global Health Conference
PHOTO GALLERY

Photos courtesy of Kvon photography

Day 1: Sunday Introductory Dinner at the Ethan Allen Hotel

The introductory dinner provided an opportunity for everyone to meet members from each domestic and international site and learn about their respective strengths. Delegates from each partner institution were called upon and introduced, followed by a summary of that site’s unique qualities and characteristics. As members looked around the room, many were matching faces to names they had heard or seen in their email inboxes.
Monday Morning: Day 2: Small Group Meetings

The introductory dinner provided an opportunity for everyone to meet members from each domestic and international site and learn about their respective strengths. Delegates from each partner institution were called upon and introduced, followed by a summary of that site’s unique qualities and characteristics. As members looked around the room, many were matching faces to names they had heard or seen in their email inboxes.

Luncheon

More guests joined from UVMLCOM, AUC, RUSM, and SHU for the conference after lunch.

Monday Conference:

Keynote speaker: Grace Herrick: “Sense of Community, What Uganda Gave Me”

Global Health Program members at the WCHN Global Health Conference panel sessions

Dr. Stephen Winter, Senior Advisor for the Global Health Program; Dr. Randi Diamond, Global Health Program Site Co-Director at Saint Francis Naggalama Hospital; and Sister Jane Frances Nakaféero, Director of Saint Francis Naggalama Hospital

Dr. Robert Kalyesubula, Co-Founder of the African Community Center for Social Sustainability (ACCESS)

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Dr. Margaret Tandoh, Associate Dean for Diversity & Inclusion, and Assistant Professor of Surgery at UVMLCOM

Dr. Molly Moore, Director of Global Health at the UVMLCOM Department of Pediatrics

Dr. Anne Dougherty, Director of the Global Women’s Health Program at UVMLCOM, speaking about gender inequalities in global health

Dr. Robyn Scatena, Associate Director of Global Health at Norwalk Hospital speaking about sexual harassment in global health
Cocktail Hour:

This gave new invitees a chance to socialize with domestic and international partners. Among the invitees was the Trefz family and many other generous donors, the Western Connecticut Health Network Foundation, and representatives from the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine, Health Quest, Western Connecticut Health Network, Sacred Heart University, American University of the Caribbean, ROSS University School of Medicine, and Linde.
Among the Letters

Dr. Bulat Ziganshin, Director of Global Health at AUC/RUSM; Mrs. Minoo Jarrett and Dr. Robert Jarrett, Co-Founders of Hearts Around the World; Dr. Marat Mukhamedyarov, Vice Rector of KSMU; Dr. Peishi Yan, Global Health Program Site Director at Dalian Municipal Central Hospital; Dr. Marcos Nunez, Dean of UNIBE; Dr. Ziganshin and Dr. Ziganshina; Dr. Swapnil Parve, Global Health Program Site Director at DMIMS; Dr. Catherine Kwagala, Medical Director of St. Stephen's Hospital; and Dr. Jeffrey Wong, Associate Dean of Medical Education at the Pennsylvania State College of Medicine

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(left to right) Dr. Paul Wright, Assistant Vice President of Neurosciences at Health Quest Medical Practice Division of Neurosciences; Dr. Chris Stenberg, Designated Institution Official and Vice President of Graduate Medical Education at Health Quest; and Dr. Jonathan Rosen, UVMLCOM Associate Dean of the WCHN Clinical Campus

(left to right) Mr. Martin Scholand, Dr. Stephen Scholand, Global Health Program Site Director in Thailand, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe; Mrs. Connie Scholand, and Mr. Truong Nguyen, a lifelong friend of the Scholand family

(left to right) Christian J. Trefz, donor of the Christian J. Trefz Family Endowed Chair in Global Health at WCHN; Dr. Howard Eison, Global Health Program Site Co-Director at Saint Francis Naggalama Hospital; and Grace Linhard, Chief Development Officer at WCHN

(left to right) Jo and John Luicci, donors of the Jo and John Luicci Endowed Chair in Emergency Medicine at Danbury Hospital

(left to right) Dr. Jay and Patricia Weiner, members of the Global Health Program; Dr. Swapnil Parve, Global Health Program Site Director at DMIMS; and Dr. Robert Jarrett, Co Founder of Hearts Around the World

Dr. Aparna Oltikar, Chair of the Department of Medicine at Danbury Hospital (left) with Dr. Jonathan Melk, CEO of Chiricahua Community Health Centers (right)

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Opening Dinner:

Invitees settling in for the dinner and awards ceremony

Mitra Sadigh, Writer, Editor, and Researcher at the Global Health Program reciting “The World of the Global Health”

Opening Remarks:

Dr. Majid Sadigh, Christian J. Trefs Family Endowed Chair in Global Health at WCHN and Director of Global Health at UVM/CDM addressing the attendees at dinner

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Dr. John M. Murphy, CEO of Nuvance Health

Dr. Richard L. Page, Dean of UVM/COM

Mr. Todd Skare, Chief Technology Officer at Linde speaking about Linde’s role in global medical technology and healthcare delivery

Dr. Mariah McNamara, Associate Director of Global Health at UVM/COM, speaking at the dinner

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**Awards:**

**Sister Jane Frances Award**

This award recognizes a student who observes tragedies in underserved communities, but overcomes the initial transient anger or frustration to find a creative solution and implements it with hard work and dedication.
Recipient of the Linde Excellence in Mentoring Award: Dr. Javed Shahid, Neurosurgeon at WCHN

The Linde Excellence in Mentoring Award recognizes a community physician or faculty member who has excelled at mentoring Global Health Scholars in achieving their career objectives through moral, social, and intellectual support.
Recipients of the John M. Murphy, MD Leadership Award: Amanda Wallace, Multimedia Specialist at WCHN, and Mitra Sadigh, Writer, Editor, and Researcher at the Global Health Program

John M. Murphy, MD Leadership Award: This award recognizes a member of the global health family at WCHN who demonstrates innovative, initiative driven leadership impacting the program and beyond.
Recipient of the Path to Excellence Award: Dr. John Murphy
Professor Marat Mukhamedyarov, Vice Rector of KSMU, delivering Rector Sozinov’s gift to Dr. John Murphy

Professor Marat Mukhamedyarov, Vice Rector of KSMU delivering Rector Sozinov’s message to Dr. John Murphy

Christian J. Trefz and Dr. Majid Sadigh, the Christian J. Trefz Family Endowed Chair in Global Health at WCHN
Tuesday: Medical Grand Rounds

Tuesday morning, Dr. John M. Murphy, CEO of Nuvance Health, delivered his talk about the history of the Global Health Program and his methods of adhering to the mission early on despite the lack of programmatic and financial support.
Poster, Reflection, and Photo Exhibition

Global Health Program members at the Photo and Poster Exhibition hosted at Danbury Hospital

Dr. Marcos Nunez, Dean of UNIBE, with Sister Jane Frances Nakafeero, Director of Saint Francis Naggalama Hospital

Global Health Program members mingling and admiring posters

Continued on next page >>
Sister Jane Frances Nakafeero, Director of Saint Francis Naggalama Hospital (left) with Dr. Damanjeet Chaubey, Medical Director of Palliative Care and Denial Management at WCHN and Andrew Cruz Endowed Chair in Palliative Care (right)
**Linde Headquarters**

Global Health Program leadership moved to Linde for a brainstorming session geared toward identifying one theme for multinational and domestic partnerships for future collaborations. Lisa Esneault, Vice President of Global Communications and Public Relations at Linde, opened the session. We are grateful to Linde for their hospitality and for providing such a wonderful space.
(left to right) Dr. Jonathan Melk, Director of Global Health at Home at Chiricahua Community Health Centers; Dr. Marcos Nunez, Dean of UNIBE; Dr. Swapnil Parve, Global Health Program Site Director at DMIMS; and Dr. Marat Mukhamedyarov, Vice Rector of KSMU

(left to right) Mrs. Estherloy Katali, Global Health Coordinator at the African Community Center for Social Sustainability (ACCESS); Professor Rhoda Wanyenze, Director of the Makerere University School of Public Health; and Sister Jane Frances Nakafeero, Director of Saint Francis Naggalama Hospital

(left to right) Christa Maria Zehle, Interim Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education; Mary Shah, Medical Librarian and Archivist at WCHN; and Dr. Tran Hahn Uyen, Global Health Program Coordinator at the Cho Ray Hospital Training Center

Dr. Tran Hahn Uyen, Global Health Program Coordinator at the Cho Ray Hospital Training Center, and Dr. Petchuay Prachyapan, Dean of Walailak University School of Medicine
Tuesday Evening:

International guests and WCHN delegates enjoyed a celebratory goodbye dinner, during which Lisa Esneault, Vice President of Global Communications and Public Relations at Linde, thanked our domestic and international partners for attending the event and wished them well on their journeys and future endeavors.

With deepest gratitude we express our sincere appreciation to Linde for their generous support of the Global Health Program at Nuvance Health by creating the “Linde Health Educators Without Borders.” The Global Health Conference was a great success thanks to Linde’s valuable endorsement and commitment to our mission. It was a wonderful and rare opportunity for international healthcare leaders from across the globe to share their vision and experiences of the impact they’re making caring for the underserved throughout the world.

But beyond Linde’s substantial financial support of our program and events, we deeply appreciate the time and participation for sharing in our vision to make an impact in the lives of so many throughout the globe. We are grateful for the personal commitments and interest Linde has shown in hosting our global health conference this year!

We are truly thrilled for this new partnership and excited for the growth that Linde’s support has allowed us to pursue in the coming years. Thank you for standing by us, in both financial backing and mission and believing in the important and vital work we are doing for the global community.
After the Global Health Program Celebration

Dr. Stephen Scholand, Global Health Program Site Director in Thailand, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe, and Dr. Prachyapan "Menn" Petchuay, Dean of Walailak University School of Medicine hiking in Connecticut
#climbforacause 2019 Mount Kilimanjaro

The first #climbforacause in 2018 raised funds necessary to build a microbiology lab at Saint Francis Naggalama Hospital in Uganda.

This year’s #climbforacause will be led by Dr. Majid Sadigh, the Christian J. Trefz Family Endowed Chair in Global Health at WCHN, and the Director of Global Health at the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine, along with his daughters, Katrin and Mitra. They will begin their climb on July 28.

Katrin Sadigh  
Harvard, BWH, Fogarty

Majid Sadigh  
WCHN

Mitra Sadigh  
WCHN, UVMLCOM

The 2019 #climbforacause will support:  
Nursing Division

Nursing excellence is at the heart of exceptional patient care and advocacy, especially in a global health environment. We continue to advance opportunities for clinical education and reciprocal knowledge-sharing between nurses and nursing students at home and across the globe. Your support will enable nurses from international global health partner sites to travel to WCHN for training, research and capacity building. In turn, our nurses gain critical competencies in caring for diverse populations both at home and abroad. From skilled and compassionate patient care, teaching and outreach to superior healthcare delivery, nursing expertise enhances every aspect of our Global Health program.

To support #climbforacause, visit: wchn.org/climbforacause  
For updates, visit us on Facebook and Twitter.
RESOURCES

Site Specific Information
Ho Chi Minh City and Cho Ray Hospital
Kasensero Uganda
Paraiso and the PAP Hospital
Tropical Medicine Modules
The Homestay Model of Global Health Program video
Ebola book
Global Health Diaries and Newsletters 2015-2016
Global Health Diaries and Newsletters 2016-2017
Global Health Diaries and Newsletters 2017-2018
The World of Global Health book
The World of Global Health Video
A Connecticut Doctor in Africa, by journalist Mackenzie Riggs
Climb for a Cause
Global Health Annual Reports
Global Health Program Website
Global Health at WCHN Facebook
Photographs from Uganda, by photojournalist Tyler Sizemore
UVM Larner College of Medicine Blog
Previous Issues of the Global Health Newsletter
Global Health Reflections and Photos
Publications
Tropical Medicine Course
Tropical Medicine Booklets (101, and 202)
Presentations By Global Health Scholars
Program Partners
Global Health Conference 2019 Photos
Global Health Conference 2019 Videos
Two UVM Docs Combat Ebola in Liberia (Article)
Majid Sadigh, MD Interview Regarding Ebola in Liberia (Video)
My Heart Burns: Three Words Form a Memoir (Video)
Words of Encouragement
AUC/RUSM Annual Report 2018
Cases and Reflections from Mulago