Your legs will get heavy and tired. Then comes a moment of feeling the wings you've grown, lifting.

— Rumi

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Global Health Leadership
The Global Health Program at NH/UVMLCOM is defined by an unwavering commitment to bidirectional, mutually dependent partnerships. Our program supports students and faculty through capacity building, site development, educational scholarships, and long-term mentorship. We rally behind individuals who plan to return home to implement changes that empower their communities. We build partnerships in which members and leaders are co-owners of the program that empower one another through autonomous alliances. Our program demonstrates that partnerships founded in friendship, trust, and respect allow for more enduring, far reaching and meaningful change.

Noteworthy components of the program include Global Health at Home, a group advocating for marginalized populations in the U.S., and Linde Healthcare Educators Without Borders and Almira Healthcare Scholars, a web of talented individuals whose work builds capacity on-the-ground through Global South–Global South collaboration.

Our “Bring the Field to the Zoom Class” initiative brings the patient’s experience at the doctor’s office and home to the virtual classroom, familiarizing students with sociocultural aspects of medicine. The “Virtual Open Forums with Friends and Colleagues Around the World”, which includes discussion of “hot topics,” followed by Q&A sessions, have allowed us to stay connected to our partners and communities.

We also launched the COVID-19 Resource Center, featuring over 3000 biweekly summaries of the most up-to-date articles, and shared with over 20,000 people globally has helped rebuild trust in science and to overcome the digital divide. Our weekly blog written by our partners has received over 6,000 viewers from 102 countries, while our monthly eMagazine serves as a resource for all things global health from arts to clinical medicine.

Our program is led by the eighteen members of the Executive Committee from 10 countries who shape the program’s content, structure, and direction through consensus building. We have created something beautiful together and move forward reaffirmed in our commitment to amplify the voices of the underserved.

Majid Sadigh, MD
Director of the Nuvance Health / University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine (NH/UVMLCOM) Global Health Program and Trefz Endowed Chair in Global Health
The past year remained one of continuing challenges, yet it also brought heightened clarity and promise for the Global Health Program. As we adjust to a new normal in the face of Covid’s unrelenting impact, our remarkable network of global health partners has never faltered. Instead, our collective commitment has grown stronger as we recognize our shared mission has never been more urgent.

Disparities in health existed long before the COVID-19 pandemic and include imbalances not only in access to care but in conditions that foster good health. The pandemic only highlighted and worsened these disparities. Global health emphasizes health equity for communities all over the world, including those in our own backyard. We view global health as a matter of equity, not geography, and will continue to strengthen and expand partnerships that advance a worldwide network committed to closing the health equity gap through cooperation and capacity building.

Although the past several years have imposed physical distance between Global Health Program partners, never before has our collective community shown a greater commitment to inclusion, involvement and engagement, ensuring that we listen to and learn from those whose experiences and ideas that are vital to tackling problems in healthcare. Whether in response to COVID-19 or tackling other healthcare challenges, we remain focused on creating better treatments, better care delivery and healthier societies, especially for underserved populations across the globe.

The pandemic has led to rapid accelerations in digital healthcare technologies, as well as in virtual learning models, and innovation will continue to be a key focus in Global Health Program activities and initiatives. Our virtual COVID-19 Resource Center, featuring links to leading scientific resources and the latest medical literature, continues to help our global healthcare partners stay informed and streamline both pandemic response and recovery in their communities and clinics around the world.

Our exceptional partnership with the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine continues to enrich our shared vision for quality patient care and medical education through cooperation and exchange of ideas, including an emerging community health partnership with the Dominican Community Center in Danbury focused on overcoming language and cultural barriers to improve health literacy and ensure equitable access to healthcare services.

Helping communities near and far recover and become more resilient will remain an urgent priority for the Global Health Program as our partners strive to mitigate climate disasters, address systemic racism, grapple with the lingering pandemic and plan strategically to avoid the next one. None of this would be possible, however, without the continued energy, enthusiasm and commitment of our loyal donor community and international and domestic partners. For their continuing support, we remain greatly inspired and deeply grateful.

John Murphy, MD
President and CEO of Nuvance Health
The partnership between the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine and Nuvance Health that supports the Global Health Program is now in its tenth year, a milestone worth celebrating particularly for the connections created across the globe for the betterment of human health.

This program has been a natural fit for both our institutions, as we share the mission of improving medical education in service to human health. We are guided every day in our work by the commitment to foster cultural humility, kindness and respect, and that focus is given broader meaning through the efforts of our students, staff and faculty experience in support of global health.

Many stories and reflections are presented in this report. A frequent theme is the effect of COVID-19 across the globe, including tales of adversity and achievement, as well as of devastating loss and disparity of resources. This underscores the importance of approaching health care as a worldwide system based on shared human experience and common principles.

As always, I am grateful for the people who stand behind our institutional partnership, particularly Dr. John Murphy, President and CEO of Nuvance Health, for his friendship and dedication to these efforts. And of course I give thanks to Dr. Majid Sadigh, the Christian J. Trefz Family Endowed Chair in Global Health at Nuvance Health, who founded this program and has guided these efforts spectacularly for a decade.

The Global Health Program has demonstrated its ability to work with new circumstances, and to use technology to maintain and build bonds among caregivers throughout the world. As we enter the third year of the pandemic let us hope that in the coming months conditions across the globe will continue to improve, and we will begin to move into the next phase of strengthening our networks—a new decade of increased engagement and connection with the global community.

Richard L. Page, MD
Dean, Larner College of Medicine
Reflections on 2021

Alexey Sozinov, MD, PhD, D.Sc.

Kazan State Medical University (KSMU), one of Russia’s oldest and most prestigious universities, is the nation’s only participant of the NH/UVMLCOM Global Health Program and was its first overseas site.

During 2021, KSMU actively implemented educational, scientific, and clinical activities, among others. The institution was ranked 801-1000 in the global Times Higher Education Impact Ranking, taking 101-200th place for individual sustainable development goal 3 “Good Health and Well-Being,” 401-600th place for goal 4 “Quality Education,” and 401-600th place for goal 9 “Industrialization, Innovation and Infrastructure.” KSMU has become the only university in the Republic of Tatarstan and the only Russian medical university to be included in the UI Greenmetric World University Ranking 2021, taking 726th place among international universities and 41st place among national ones.

The KSMU community successfully adapted to functioning in pandemic conditions and greatly contributed to the fight against COVID-19. Online and distance learning technologies are actively used and have become routine in the educational process. Hundreds of faculty members, residents, and students contributed to the provision of medical care to COVID-19 patients in medical organizations of Kazan and the Republic of Tatarstan. Twenty-two research projects related to COVID-19 have been initiated, six new educational programs dedicated to COVID-19 infection for training of medical doctors have been implemented, and seven faculty members participate in the “Virtual Grand Rounds” used for consultation of thousands of severe and critically ill COVID-19 patients.

Meanwhile the International Scientific Board of KSMU’s online meeting, centered on “Universities in the Age of Coronavirus: Transformation of the Educational Process, Research and Contribution to the Fight against the Pandemic,” was held on May 17, 2021. Members shared their experience of educational, scientific, and clinical activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Vice-Chair of the Board and Director of Global Health Program, professor Majid Sadigh presented “Remote Research and Clinical Trial Integrity During and After the Coronavirus Pandemic.” Online board meetings were useful and productive for exchanging experiences and ideas among colleagues from different countries.

The KSMU community wishes good health to all members and participants of NH/UVMLCOM Global Health Program and believes that joint efforts of medical specialists from all over the world will help humanity overcome the COVID-19 pandemic.
In my practice as a pediatrician, I often have to manage the manifestations and complications of COVID-19 in the form of a multi-system inflammatory syndrome or Kawasaki disease-like condition. The arsenal of medicines is much smaller here.

The relative rarity of the severe form of COVID-19 at the beginning of the pandemic has considerably disoriented pediatricians, creating the false impression that COVID-19 is a mild disease in children. I often have to convince pediatricians and parents that current forms of COVID-19 include severe phenotypes. Generally speaking, the pediatrics community is conservative and quite cautious in terms of using new technologies or discoveries for treatment and prevention in children.

We are living in historic times. This is the era of viral infections. COVID-19 has already changed the landscape of medicine, in its classical sense, and this is only the beginning. Moving forward, we will diagnose and manage many diseases in a completely different way. We are already treating viral pneumonia with monoclonal antibodies, steroids, and anticoagulants. Antibiotics are not needed at all—something that was unimaginable three years ago.

Further, our hopes for quick relief from the COVID-19 pandemic are left unfulfilled. SARS-CoV-2 will be here for a long time. It is now obvious that the use of vaccines alone does not solve the problem. We badly need new, effective antiviral drugs to help us fight against this malady. At one time, the appearance of such drugs radically changed the course of HIV and Hepatitis C pandemics. I am almost certain the same thing will happen with COVID-19 as well.
2021: A Period of Challenge and Change

As we welcomed 2021, India experienced a decline of COVID-19 cases to 20,000 during January and February. The pandemic scenario at that time was not new to us, as we were used to lockdown, quarantine, vaccine sanitizers, etc. A rural town like Wardha (Sawangi) too witnessed less reporting of new cases in the initial days of the year. However, the delta genotype brought a tremendous burden on Indian states along with loss, pain, and impairment of the healthcare system. The last year taught us how we should work, focus on people and their well-being, and support the inclusion of changes for the betterment of society. As an academic and research institute, we strived to orient our research and education contents like seminars and webinars to provide insight and practical guidance through the tough pandemic time. We also considered broad-spectrum changes that the second wave would bring for students, faculty and the broader world of work.

Further, we were constantly charging into the future. Technological advancements continued to disrupt our society for its betterment. By tailoring communications with patients using electronic technologies, we achieved much of our goals virtually, unearthing new ways and directions to solve unmet clinical needs. We also learned to set and balance our priorities with health as the primary while finding new solutions. 2021 was a period of challenge and change. Every phase of the previous year taught us a lesson we can reflect on to achieve great success in the coming future.

Although we do not have any insights into the future events this year, we all are well-aware that the coming days and months will bring new challenges and opportunities. We should be prepared to face these challenges and keep trying to build on our reflections and the wisdom we have achieved. We must also develop a strategic plan to adapt people management practices which will help us explore future trends and create a positive environment in and around our workplaces.

Syed Zahiruddin Quazi, MD, PhD
Associate Dean of Global Health and Director of Research and Development at Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences (DMIMS), Sawangi Meghe, Wardha, India
Toward a Better Global Health

Academic institutions have had to invest in information technology to enable teaching and learning online while addressing the role of medical students. Scarce resources have been stretched or reduced as those that are available are diverted to purchasing vaccines and providing social relief to populations that are confined to their homes without their usual sources of income.

Travel restrictions and social distancing have disrupted social practices of many societies. Funerals, weddings, and economic activity are important social events throughout Africa and other communities, making compliance to COVID-19 restrictions a big ask. Lack of amenities along weak economies and health systems also render adherence to COVID-19 containment guidelines unrealistic.

2021 brought experiences that led us to question what global health should look like. We have seen that global health determinants are numerous and complex, ranging from microbes to politics, science to health systems, and the wealth of nations. How can we optimize global health without holding communities and nations to perpetual cycles of vaccinations, inapplicable social restrictions, and personal habits that cannot be supported by available resources?

Associate Professor of Family Medicine and the Head of the Department of Family Medicine and Public Health, University of Botswana, Botswana, Africa

Vincent Setlhare
Planning a new start in my life, I realized that within each of us is the potential to live with excellence and determination to influence those around us in ways that truly make a positive difference to our settings and a yearning for peace.

Therefore, it is time to dare to begin again; to lock arms and hearts and take up the tasks. Impossible though it may seem, we must make ourselves whole again. We must constantly remind ourselves that the road to success is almost always under construction.

Within each of us is the deepening for personal and global transformation. This will lead to search for meaning in the personal and global arena. There has to be a wrestling with existential questions of what is mine to do and what is mine to be. It is only then that I shall be fully immersed in the Supreme power of the God Almighty who invited me away for the Spiritual Retreat.

With the sunset gone, the reflection of a new beginning and atmosphere of the sunrise awakens my senses to search for a unique opportunity forward to re-think, re-plan, re-group, and recover. While the continuous nurturing of the spirit and centering of my soul will like flowers leave part of the fragrance in the hand that bestows them, I must acknowledge the Giver.

Little progress has been made in diminishing the disparities that exist between Black and African American minoritized populations and the White majority. Cultural competence training in healthcare has focused on surface-level differences in ethnicities, including language and religious practices, while ignoring difficult-to-address topics such as race and racism. My study, using a convergent mixed-methods design, addresses the gap in knowledge of race and racial structures in healthcare.

Constructs such as diversity, unconscious bias, power, privilege, stereotype construction, and racism were addressed in a series of workshops in order to increase skills in cultural competence. Results indicate a significant change in median scores on the Intercultural Development Inventory between pre- and post-workshop administration of the instrument. Qualitative data support the findings and highlight robust themes of learning and discovery. The study results have implications for global contexts.
Racism Can Be Changed by the Academic Fraternity

Deputy Principal and Head of the International Office at Makerere University College of Health Sciences (MakCHS)

Professor Isaac Kajja

The collaboration between us and Nuvance Health/UVMLCOM, within the mandate of Makerere University, is training people young and old, nationals and internationals, as well as engaging in collaborative research and providing services. Our partnership is supported by the university’s top management. Training young people helps them appreciate cultural differences which strengthens their relationships. I pledge greater support to all areas of our collaboration.

The process of working together motivates cultural exchange in a way that can be harnessed towards the academic fraternity dismantling certain manifestations of racism and role modeling in ways that other communities may emulate. Perhaps together, we can all change gradually.

Collaborative research impacts more people and attracts greater sponsorship to support the program. Presentations delivered in forums like conferences used to disseminate research findings are accessed by people all over the world. I am aware of the longstanding relationships created as a result of this partnership. I encourage staff in the international office and at Nuvance Health to continue working together.

The Gap in Knowledge of Race and Racial Structures

Director of Global Health at Sacred Heart University

Christina Gunther
Global Mental Health and Rudy Ruggles Scholars

As an international coordinator at the College of Health Sciences, I have witnessed the partnership between NH/UVMLCOM grow from the single discipline of internal medicine to the inclusion of others like Obstetrics & Gynecology, Public Health, and Psychiatry.

The Rudy Ruggles Global Mental Health Scholars Program promises to address the international recruitment crisis in psychiatry and bolster available mental health treatment for Ugandans. Makerere University’s residency training program is ideally suited to train specialized physicians who can take on leadership roles, shape policy, and guide the country in the provision of mental healthcare as well as model excellent and humane mental healthcare for their students. The program received funding from philanthropist Rudy Ruggles, a longtime and dedicated supporter of Danbury Hospital and Nuvance Health.

Coordinator of the International Office at Makerere University
College of Health Sciences (MakCHS)

Susan Byekwaso, MBA
As a consequence of humans pushing ecosystems and animals to the brink of extinction, we are dealing with the third novel coronavirus: SARS-CoV-2.

Resilience, in conjunction with human faith and an admirable commitment of global scientists who continue to work together as a unified force, has created the synergism necessary to put an end to this tragedy.

This brought in much new knowledge, particularly in respect to pathophysiology, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of this newly discovered virus in 2021. The possibility of having a group of effective vaccines, made by different labs in different countries on different platforms, in such a short time looked like miracles. Meanwhile, unfortunately, we noticed the expansion of social disparities and inequalities leading to lack of accessibility to these life saving vaccines in many countries.

This pandemic has amplified the inequities and inequalities in our societies all around the world. No one speaks about “One Health” as a solution to this and similar future pandemics. Too few of us are discussing “One Health,” interconnectivity of planet health and human health. To prevent future outbreaks, we need to heed the importance of liberty, equity, and the One Health Movement in all societies.

It is urgent that we in the global health community redirect our unified energy towards developing globally coordinated action plans in collaboration with world leaders, academies, civil societies, and people of good will if we would like to be well-prepared for another inevitable disastrous pandemic.
COVID-19 has taken our most eminent and senior physician, Professor JG Hakim, as well as one of our international collaborators, infectious disease specialist Professor David Katzenstein. Both died in the same hospital in Harare within 24 hours of each other at the end of January 2021. Their loss has made us even more likely to want to retreat into the cocoon under the guise of “shielding,” which for a clinician means avoiding bedside teaching. After all, conducting ward rounds with the rest of our teams is one of several unique features that makes Zimbabwe University attractive to our global health collaborators.

Shielding or hiding from clinical care became the norm, and was encouraged given the various lockdown periods that Zimbabwe introduced with each surge in cases. We had “zoned” our hospital wards into the Green (COVID-19 negative) and Red Zone (COVID-19 suspects plus confirmed cases). The ordinary (Green Zone) medical wards had been reduced from five wards with 30 beds i.e. 150 inpatient beds to just two wards i.e. 60 beds, with the remainder reserved for COVID-19 cases which most of us were not involved with. We were “shielding,” expecting the formation of new teams to take care of those in the Red Zones!
It makes me wonder whether all these efforts are being snickered at by the perpetrators of racism and colonialism: “Now you know what we do and will continue to do. What can you do about it?” It however gives me hope that there is a growing critical mass of professionals in high- and low-to-middle income countries who are starting to examine the negative impact of these savage inequalities and trying to address them.

One suggestion I have is for us to recognize the value of indigenous wisdom in helping address common global health challenges. Before applying our western-earned knowledge to solving problems in resource-limited settings, we could step back and find out what the problem is called in the local language and the solutions locals propose. In this way, we could work with them to reach a midpoint solution that incorporates local and western elements. We should also be prepared to reciprocate the frequent adoption of western standards by people in low-to-middle income countries by identifying lessons learned in those communities and adopting them for application.

I have a feeling the world has left Africa to dry out through natural selection. Additionally, these large bodies always want to work with governments that have broken systems. Although politically correct, this never helps people who are most in need.

I believe that individuals from developed countries need to at least speak up about this state of affairs. The media has also suddenly gone quiet when we most need them.

All these issues leave me perplexed.
How life has been in the world of a Pandemic: Dispatch from Thailand

‘June’ Atthayaporn Choomai, MD

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 in December 2019, daily life underwent a significant change. Although the outbreak in Thailand impacted our society after China, the U.S. and Europe – it has been very damaging. Our economy collapsed, brought to a standstill from the many repercussions of the pandemic.

The Thai healthcare system came under severe strain. Effective vaccines were not available for a number of reasons. Policies for effective control – to decrease disease spread, were ineffective. People unfortunately did not have the facts about COVID-19 and as a result suffered.

In May 2020, Thailand was in crisis. The disease overwhelmed us. People died at home in Bangkok, our capital, without knowing the cause of illness until after they died. Announcements were made to welcome city-dwellers back to their hometowns if they needed any healthcare provision, as the hospital situation in Bangkok had collapsed.

Our hospital, Thasala, received many more COVID-19 patients as a result, including from other provinces.

Sadly, we lost hundreds of patients from COVID-19 during this time. Healthcare providers were overworked and exhausted, it took a heavy toll on us. Unfortunately also, even non-COVID-19 infected patients had problems, because of the strain on our hospital.

Nowadays, things have improved –our immunization rate is close to 80%. In Thasala hospital, the cases have decreased despite the appearance of the new variant, Omicron.

Finally, things are slowly improving, including the economy. I believe we can weather this storm. We look forward soon to re-welcoming tourists (and Global Health colleagues!) from around the world to explore the nice places and beautiful culture of Thailand.
Respect, consensus, and a bidirectional exchange of education, capacity building, and healthcare are the key to our program’s success. The executive committee has domestic and international members, four from the Global North and fourteen from the Global South. The program has a unique approach to capacity building, providing continuing education for healthcare educators and administrators, and fostering excellence in healthcare, advocacy, and versatility. Through careful collaboration, we have been able to overcome challenges that have arisen from a variety of sources while respecting one another’s humanity and culture. We have been versatile in addressing the challenges posed by the pandemic by pivoting to online instruction and exchange.
Rooted in capacity building and educational empowerment, the Global Health Academy is a place where skills and resources are shared in a way that strengthens our greater global health collective. The Academy provides training for medical/clinical educators, global health interns, and health-related interest groups while nurturing Linde Healthcare Educators Without Borders, Almira World Health Care Providers, and international scholars.

Course offerings cover core values including ethics, humility, health equity, and health advocacy; essential competencies including healthcare delivery and education systems, research methodologies, and clinical and theoretical medicine; pedagogical skills including how to teach and “training the trainer”; cultural competencies including cross-cultural navigation, cultural relativity, medical anthropology, and the mutual dependency model; and other useful skills such as business administration, grant writing, leadership skills, manuscript writing, poster design, and proposal development.

Individuals and institutions are matched with faculty members based on the topics and competencies they would like to learn. Faculty can travel to the site of interest, or the Academy can host interested parties domestically for the duration of the course, depending on which is the best fit. It is our hope that the Academy will further opportunities for Global South–Global South partnerships and capacity building; embody our core values of brain gain, collaboration, community, mutuality, and respect; and further our shared mission: equal access to health and well-being for everyone, everywhere.
I became painfully aware that too many of my fellow humans across the globe were feeling the effects of inequities in comprehensive healthcare and basic human comforts. I did not want my footprint to be made in sand, only to be washed away by the incoming tide. I wanted and needed to make a permanent difference. I am not clinically trained, but I can put pen to paper, and I DO have a voice: a loud New York voice. I enrolled in courses for global health policy and governance. My goal is to use my knowledge, voice, and passion to bring renewed focus on the glaring deficiencies that will begin the evolution of comprehensive, effective change in global health policy.

What am I learning from COVID-19? Despite social distancing, restrictions on gatherings, and feelings of isolation... WE ARE NOT ALONE. We are all connected!

“Let us stand in solidarity. Not to a specific country, race or religion, but rather to HUMANITY.”
Back on My Feet!

Co-Director of Linde Healthcare Educators Without Borders

Hamidah B. Nsereko, PhD

Is it even possible? Is it even conceivable? COVID-19 has cast doubt on our abilities in so many ways. Our future seems hazy and what is most certain is the past. A few months ago, the lockdown was lifted in Uganda and restrictions were reduced. However, many people have lost their livelihoods. Many have lost relationships, including marriages, mainly due to arguments arising from loss of income and constantly being in the same space. Many have lost loved ones. Back on My Feet is an attempt to get each other out of our sunken state, emotionally, physically, mentally, financially, and otherwise.
I feel that I am a member of a bigger community. I see my fingerprints, as well as those of others, on every single page of the 2020 collection of photos and reflections. This collection is about us—all of us—regardless of where we live, the color of our skin, or our nationality or our ethnicity. This is true about all the program’s publications: Global Health Diaries, the eMagazine, reflection and photo collections, and annual reports, among others. They have given all of us a platform to share our stories while learning from and connecting to each other. I feel I am a citizen of the world.

The program’s publications since 2020 have focused on the stories and experiences of our friends around the globe about this human tragedy. In reading them, I have learned that the impact has been similar for all of us regardless of what country we are in. This gives me a sense of solidarity. Collectively, we are fighting this virus against humanity. We are one species with one enemy. We are together.

I would also like to comment on the impact of the COVID-19 Resource Center, a biweekly collection of summaries of reliable scientific publications on COVID-19. Like many others, I read and share it with friends, colleagues, and a large student body. It is even linked to my university’s webpage. I have found numerous opportunities to share its key findings, including with a woman in the market from whom I have been buying merchandise as well as the boda boda driver who delivers groceries to my house. People in my community are becoming more aware of the need to take preventive measures as opposed to expecting a cure. This means there is a light at the end of a seemingly endless tunnel. Fingers crossed, we can surely pull through together.

For all of the aforementioned, I, as a reader and a member, am thankful to the Nuvance Health Global Health Program.
Challenges During COVID-19

Swapnil Parve, MD

Director of International Affairs at the NH/UVMLCOM Global Health Program

This has been an exceptionally hard year for most of us. Work-related stress, trauma of a family member or friend’s passing, and confinement in homes for many of us have taken a huge toll on our emotional state. Though present before, these challenges previously existed in a form we could cope with. The ability to spend time in-person meant our friends could find comfort in sharing their moments of happiness and grief with us. Yet another year has passed, and our global visits remain halted. We wait in desperation to see and hug our friends at partner sites, but that looks like a distant dream. The Global South has been practically left to fend for itself. Although many Global South partners express their deep anguish over the behavior of Global North countries, they remain upright and dignified.

Technology has helped us remain connected through these turbulent times and has, in ways, brought us closer than ever. By staying in constant touch with our partners around the world and engaging in the art of listening, we continued to foster our bonds. Our friends and colleagues from the Global South wrote candid perspectives for our Global Health Diaries blog and eMagazine, and spoke their minds at our open forums and online meetings. These exchanges teach us in the Global North about resilience and humility.

“The storm is an artist; the rainbow is its masterpiece.”

- Matshona Dhliwayo
Year in Review

Amanda Wallace
Senior Multimedia and Graphic Designer
Nuvance Health

2021 has been a challenging year, to say the least. As a designer, I try to find inspiration in the world. With all that has gone on with Covid, you would think it would be a difficult task, however, inspiration can come from even the darkest of places. Sexual Harassment is a sensitive subject, and this year the Global Health Program published a book on the subject. Designing that book was frustrating at times. I wanted the reader to feel something when they read it and viewed the artwork, maybe uncomfortable, sad, shocked, or angry.

There were several other publications, just as important, just as moving. The monthly eMagazine, the annual report for Nuvance Health and UVMLCOM, annual report for AUC/RUSM, Global Health and the Arts (Also near and dear to my heart), Photos and Reflections 2021. I hope that everyone has had a chance to see them and appreciate how much time, effort, heart and soul goes into each and every one.

I would also just like to mention the COVID-19 Resource Center. That was published online weekly, sometimes biweekly, for several months. Again, as with print materials, I hope that the visuals enhanced the content, made it more meaningful and emotional.

I am so grateful to be a part of this wonderful program.
Reflections by Students and Scholars
Togetherness

With continued community awareness on safety measures and practices at national level and health institutions, people have become cognizant of what is required of us as members of the community to curb the spread of COVID-19. We may not hold hands like we are accustomed to or congregate for days on end at funerals or weddings to show our support. We have found alternative ways, however diverse, to reach out to our loved ones during these trying times. Social media, for instance, has provided a platform of communication amongst loved ones and can also be a mode for holding virtual events without putting susceptible individuals at high risk. This disease may have forced us to alter certain practices we are accustomed to, but we have not done away with the very essence of ubuntu, or togetherness.

Pamela Gorejena-Chidawanyika, MD
General Internist and Lecturer of Internal Medicine at the University of Zimbabwe

COVID-19 in Vietnam

Now amidst our worst surge of COVID-19, we are bracing for the worst: lack of staff, oxygen, and ventilators. Saigon has been under social isolation for several weeks and has now been under lockdown for two weeks ongoing.

We at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh city want to build a student-led COVID-19 Resource center like that of Global Health. We will translate and/or summarize important papers to Vietnamese, and then transfer them to the community in lay language.

We need support from the Nuvance Health Global Health Program.

Duong Duy Khoa, MD
Global Health Scholar
Through the success of the whole response team, I, the only female doctor on the team, have gained the love and support of my team and the Vietnamese population as well as recognition by Forbes Magazine as one of the most inspiring women of the year. It is a great honor and joy. However, there are many women who have been contributing quietly to this fight: colleagues, wives, mothers at home, business women, soldiers, frontline workers, and so on, many of whom have not been recognized.

The Forbes honor has partly proved the achievements of the fight against COVID-19 in Vietnam up to now. We still encounter many challenges ahead and numerous tasks must be completed to hold our outstanding accomplishment steady.

Vietnamese Spirit of Creativity

Global Health Scholar

Ahn Tho, MD
The Work Ahead

On New Year’s Eve, I always have a thought about how fleeting time is. Seeing off the year 2021, I was once again convinced of this. For me, it was a fulfilling year of education and health. All my loved ones are alive and well. I was examined by various doctors about conditions I was worried about, and everything turned out fine. I now live with the understanding that health should be protected from a young age.

I acquired the useful habit of doing morning exercises every day and devoted myself to learning English. I also took several courses in statistics and writing scientific manuscripts—skills that will help me achieve my goal of publishing in international journals. It was a fruitful year. There is a lot of work ahead, but the further I go, the more interesting it becomes.

Saida Agliullina, MD
Global Health Scholar and Assistant Professor at Kazan State Medical University, Russia

Reflection By A Global Health Summer Intern

No Longer Wanting to Be a Witness to Suffering

As the ongoing pandemic devastated countries around the world, I wanted to make an impact through global health and clinical research. After much online investigation, I found the mission of the Nuvance Health/University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine Global Health Program the most inspiring. No longer wanting to be a witness to suffering, I reached out to be an intern with the aim of supporting struggling communities affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

Discovering global health inspired me to better understand and address the mental health and educational issues that students have faced around the world. I have encountered a few problems, but I know that students outside the United States have endured much more and worse. Although the COVID-19 pandemic continues to threaten underserved communities, I am hopeful that through clinical research and science, there are ways to support those in need of care.

Rachel Logue
Intern at the UVMLCOM GHP
Inequalities and biases have always been challenging among people of different races, colors, cultures, and religions. This is reflected in the many revolutions and wars for misdirected principles occupying people around the world including the United States.

Meanwhile, treatment for people of different races and colors continues to be difficult with all these intolerable considerations in the eyes of those who believe themselves to be superior to others.

All of us around the world are searching for a miracle: a land where equality is a fundamental right for all races and generations and everybody is treated with dignity, respect, and equality. Optimistically, policies of equality doctrine for all races and colors will someday be implemented.

The day may come that humanity around the world lives happily ever after without any burden of hardship, mental disorders, or widespread diseases.
Reflections By Medical Students

Change

When I contracted this deadly virus, I panicked and didn’t initially have the courage to disclose the information to my parents. How could I? I was thousands of miles away from home and from my family. They would only feel helpless. I had to isolate myself, as per the norm.

It was not as nerve-wracking as I presumed it to be, as I was lucky enough to catch a mild infection. But living in a student dorm, the proximity had its fair share on the folks living around me. Everybody had to go through the isolation procedure. On the bright side, I still had a few companions that brought me relief during these troubling times. Even with a mild infection, I had an unrelenting fear of further severity of this scary situation—that the situation could further escalate.

As an individual, I didn’t have much of an issue living in my room, though I still terribly missed going out for a stroll in Kazan’s beautiful summer mornings. Interestingly, right outside my window, an extension of the DRKB (Republican Pediatric Clinical Hospital – tertiary-level facility) had begun its construction. It started right before the pandemic arrived. Watching the new living space take its form, day after day, was one of the ways I kept track of the passing quarantine days.

Pooja Narayan
Medical student and faculty of International Students at Kazan State Medical University
Reflections by Friends of Global Health
During tough times, it is often easier to accept some version of “thickening one’s skin” and becoming more mechanical and emotionally distant.

I thought back to my years of medical school and training. The advice, sometimes implicit and sometimes overt, was that as a physician I had to develop emotional distance. Otherwise, I would be utterly overwhelmed and unable to complete my duties.

I remember quietly condemning this philosophy. Although I could not articulate my understanding then, I believe that on some level there was an innate and intuitive knowledge that without empathy, both patients and caretakers would be compromised.

Twenty-seven years later I found myself becoming the person I had so easily condemned. I told myself to “toughen up” if I did not want to end up on the shower floor sobbing each night. I convinced myself that creating an emotional barrier would help me continue to work in a clinical atmosphere that, up until this point, I had never experienced.

I could not have been more misguided.

I can’t say when or how I lost myself and truthfully, I can’t really say when I came back.

But somehow, I realized that demanding “toughness” only resulted in my inability to experience the full range of emotions necessary to connect with my patients. It is (fortunately) futile to believe that as physicians, we can be impervious to emotions. Perhaps our burnout is from the mistaken notion that we need to continually desensitize and ultimately disengage.

This past year has been long, arduous, often overwhelming, and unsettling. But I am getting back into my day. I have learned that by maintaining my ability to feel—especially that which is most difficult and painful—allows me to stay human and maintain my own self-care as well as meaning in my work and mission.
The Value of Life Can Be Lost Quickly

After March 2020, the subsequent months were full of uncertainty. Many people had anticipated that things would settle in two or three months. We as a program planning to resume business in August had to postpone to August 2021. Everything changed within the blink of an eye. Who could have thought 2020 was going to be such a difficult year at its start?!

If there is anything I have learned since the outbreak of the pandemic, it is the value of life and how quickly it can be lost. For this reason, I endeavor to practice the measures as recommended by the Ministry of Health but I also spread the message, especially now that there is election excitement and fewer advertisements airing on televisions and radio stations.

Susan Nalugo, BBA, DMA
Coordinator of the Makerere University - Yale University (MUYU) Collaboration

When the World As I Knew It Changed

I know that with all said and done I’m one of the very lucky ones. I recognize how privileged I am to have a roof over my head, food on the table, and the ability to stay home and take care of my family without worrying about where the next paycheck is coming from or if I will have access to housing. Just as importantly, I am lucky that I don’t have to go through this alone. Watching the news and talking to family members in Iran breaks my heart, seeing the death toll rising and hearing of the loss of loved ones who did nothing wrong to deserve this sad and solitary ending to their lives. The pandemic has certainly wreaked havoc in everyone’s lives around the globe, but if we hold on to each other and enjoy every little thing that happens around us each day, maybe we can overcome the sadness and loss that we feel.

Ahang Zafari
Pandemic Reflections from a College Student

In a year that did not offer many moments of ease, I found comfort in the knowledge of solidarity. Though we may feel alone in this whirlwind of change, we are all enduring this pandemic together, across every corner of the globe. I am not the only person who stayed home, though sometimes it felt that way. I am not the only one who gave something up; many lost more than I can fathom. I am one of the lucky ones.

I have never been particularly fond of change, and no part of this year was what I expected. But I have learned to release my expectations because I see, now, how quickly they can crumble in my grasp. Every night, I lie in my bed under the glow-in-the-dark stars, pasted to my ceiling in a constellation of their own, and admire how they emit light in the darkness, night after night, year after year. And as I drift off to sleep, hugged by the walls that raised me, I forget—for a moment—how much has changed.
Global Health
at Home
This project has been about expanding access to preventative healthcare for a population who doesn’t usually get it. This population exists in the shadows of our communities and until they have legal protection, I hesitate to call any attention to any individuals or farms.

Access to healthcare services for the agricultural community is fraught with individual and systemic barriers. The subset of immigrant agricultural workers are arguably the most vulnerable of all. A myriad of factors influence low health utilization among this population including transportation challenges, language barriers, work schedule conflicts, ineligibility for insurance, out-of-pocket cost, fear of leaving the farm, and a culture of health that tends to be more responsive than preventative. At the same time, BIPOC immigrant workers have increased risk of falling ill with a communicable disease and passing it on to other members of often small and crowded housing units.

We just finished putting everything into the registry. Accompanied by three medical students, one resident, and one nurse practitioner student, we visited five farms and gave 94 vaccines, including first COVID doses. Ninety-four! Incredible.

Many of those we saw yesterday either wouldn’t have otherwise gotten these immunizations, would have delayed them, or wouldn’t have had access.

About eight people who received booster shots yesterday are headed home for a few months to countries where they don’t have access to the same vaccines and sometimes access is restricted. They will be better protected when they are home with their families and when they return to continue to help sustain the agricultural economy in Vermont.

The guys at Cabot are here on a work contract through the end of December. They were taken to a vaccine site in Berlin the previous week by a coworker, but there wasn’t any interpretation available nor anyone who explained to them the importance of getting a WHO- or US-approved vaccine if they want to return to the US to work in the future. Only one of the ten decided to get vaccinated that day. Yesterday, due to our collective presence and ability to take the time to talk to each and every one of them and offer vaccines on the spot, the nine remaining individuals got their first dose of Pfizer and a flu shot.
There Has Never Been a More Important Time to Promote

Little by little, we caught a glimpse of what it meant to be a migrant farmer in Vermont. For many, communication was solely in Spanish. When walking around the farm, we saw the kitchen and bathroom that dozens of workers shared, and what those conditions were like. We also saw the camaraderie among the workers and their families. We saw them laughing at each other’s jokes while peeling carrots or exchanging smiles when walking past each other. We came to appreciate the sense of togetherness and support that existed in a community that constantly faces challenges stemming from immigration issues.

As the world grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic, there has never been a more important time to promote vaccination. Most workers were excited when we came to offer our support and resources. Obtaining the trust of individuals navigating a challenging healthcare system is important to promote health literacy in all communities. The flu vaccine offers protection, peace of mind, and a sense of empowerment of one’s own health and is an important precursor to the COVID-19 vaccines. The Migrant Farmer Outreach Program is a great example of how we can lend a hand to our partners from around the world, even if we are not hopping on a plane and waking up in a different time zone.

You Realize That You’re Creating a Memory

Every once in a while, you realize that you’re creating a memory while you’re still in the midst of that experience. Driving home from the farms, I realized that the day was imprinting itself in my thoughts, helping to shape the kind of physician I hope to become. As I encounter vulnerable patient populations while navigating through the rest of my training, I hope to find ways to better serve those in need. Getting out of the clinic and into the spaces that nobody talks about to gain a better understanding of the systemic health inequities that exist in our own backyard seems like a good place to start.
I’m excited to share about a partnership, still in its infancy, that we are cultivating in Danbury, CT. Early in December 2021, I met with the Dominican Community Center of Danbury, a non-profit organization that seeks to empower the Dominican community in the Danbury area. One of their missions is to ensure that their community is aware of and able to access healthcare services. This goal stems from a concern that language and cultural barriers may prevent community members from getting the services they need to maintain their health. The organization is also dedicated to improving health literacy, youth development, and supporting elders in their community. When we met, we discussed several projects on which we could collaborate to help achieve these goals.

As we look forward to our partnership in 2022, we will begin with a survey of the community to better understand its members’ priorities and health concerns. We then plan to launch a series of health education talks for community members, with topics ranging from high blood pressure to COVID-19. It is our hope that by providing education about key health topics and acting as a connection between the Dominican community and Nuvance Health, we can improve community health. We also hope to form a youth group centered on youth leadership development, with mentoring pairs between youth and elders to connect the community across generations.
To Appreciate the Little Things Life Gives Us

It is a reality that the COVID-19 pandemic has changed our society. It has exposed inequities in our communities, which have been disproportionately impacted with high cases of hospitalizations and deaths atop financial devastation.

After a horrendous 2020, the year 2021 brought some hope of returning to some normalcy. We tried to wrap ourselves in a fictitious normality, but fear and despair still overwhelmed us. Fears of contagion were latent, but the need to bring food to the table forced us to take risks.

The abundance of laborer jobs and small businesses in our Latinx community has led to many uncertainties about how to balance living expenses with taking care of family. Many parents continue to risk their health in order to meet their household's needs, leading to an increased chance of exposure and infection. Although federal and state aid has been provided, many do not know how to access it or to meet the requirements.

Similarly, the dilemma of sending children to school or keeping them studying remotely is one more ingredient of concern for parents who need to go out to work and/or spend time with their children who are going through emotionally difficult times. Simultaneously, we have grown more reliant on technology which is also helping keep us safe.

Having dusted off the many health and financial needs our community faces, the pandemic has highlighted the need for families to access health services without suffering financial difficulties. It has given us the opportunity to integrate and get closer as a community. It has also given community organizations a chance to bring hope and work more closely to alleviate problems that many families have been facing.

These difficult times are teaching us the importance of family: how important it is to care for one another, and that family can be the best medicine. These times are also continuing to teach us to appreciate the little things life gives us.

2021 began to restore a certain trust in others. We have been learning to trust and value the efforts of science to counteract tragedies like this one. We have begun to socialize a little more, but with great care. We are more aware of our personal health and have learned to value and prioritize our personal care, from the point of view of physical and mental health. Above all, we have learned to value and appreciate life and the ways it helps us grow into a better person.
A New Elective in Global Health: Narrative Medicine

Andrea Green, MD

Director of Global Health at Department of Pediatrics, UVMCOM
In December 2021, I offered a four-week reading elective on the topic of Global Health Narrative Medicine. Themes of the course were explored through a mixture of fiction and memoir complemented with journal articles. At the end of each reading, students wrote a short reflection on the assigned reading and its accompanying articles. A range of topics was made available to students who had the option of choosing six core readings and their accompanying journal articles.

On completion of the course, students submitted a product in the form of an “On My Mind” article, mock case study, updated revision of an existing journal article/policy statement, or a piece of prose/poem for submission to a medical literary journal.

Irene Sue, fourth-year medical student at UVMLCOM, has been selected as a finalist for the Lancet Student Global Health Poster competition for her e-poster on the Global Health Narrative Medicine course that will be presented at CUGH in April 2022.

On the following pages are reflections from two students who participated in this course.
Migration
Written by Julia Clemens
UVMLCOM Class of 2022

Stories can transport us
another time
another place
another now
a child, lonely and scared
a parent, afraid for their family
a parent, trying to keep it together
seeking a better future, a better life, a better now
needing open hearts and open arms
not open cages
traumas repeated and reimagined
lives lost and people left behind
only memories remain of home
for some – a new town, a new school, a new language to learn
a new hope
a new perspective found at the end of the page
I will heal
I will give, again
Uneven Drips
Written by Nikkole Turgeon
UVMLCOM Class of 2022

Those with, swim in her gleefully
Those without, have drowned in her
    in search of freedom.
Or trying to escape back to it
    Drip drip drip
Abundant is she
She makes up most of the earth
    Drip drip drip drip
Yet, she has been made to flow unevenly
Near and far from where you sit,
too many have been stripped of enjoying her gifts
    Drip
She is trying to feed all life by providing vitality
If we work collectively,
we can protect her from those who don’t see her generosity
    In turn,
she will save us eternally
    drip drip drip drip drip drip

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Conquering the war over the COVID-19 pandemic requires embarking on long-term strategies as opposed to unsustainable short-term attempts and trials. Battling the disease requires radical involvement of every citizen and all people across socioeconomic statuses. Uganda, like any other functional state, should overhaul the health sector to enable its full capacity of effectively managing COVID-19. The Ministry of Education and other partner ministries and departments should urgently address the need for blending education with eLearning. Ugandan police, ministries of health and education, and local government must be at the helm of enforcing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and other guidelines. Massive vaccination, mandatory testing, and treatment for COVID-19 is another sure way to go. Schools, households, and majority citizens need a comprehensive national plan for economic stimuli. Otherwise, short-term strategies like lockdowns, food relief, and media briefings are not necessarily sustainable while the approaches and ways in which they are being implemented are questionable.
True to its Spanish name, Sierra Vista overlooks a spectacular mountainous area located about a one-hour drive from Tucson, and is the site of several CCHCI clinics and institutions. The CCHCI clinical site is the only domestic global health teaching site, and has been a Nuvance Health/UVMLCOM partner for the last couple of years.

This site represents an important training ground for Pediatrics and Family Medicine, with particular focus on preventative health and wellness. In fact, they are designated as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and provide comprehensive health services including internal medicine, dentistry, optometry, behavioral health, and outreach.

The health vans, of which there are eight, crisscross the remote desert areas, covering a land area greater than the states of Connecticut and Rhode Island combined. Essentially, these roving vans provide a full clinic on wheels, with examination rooms, equipment, basic testing and treatment facilities. Their mobility enables them to care for migrants, farm workers, refugees, and other marginalized peoples throughout the region.
The division of nursing has been established within the Global Health (GH) Program to participate in interdisciplinary learning and teaching to improve healthcare education and practice which aligns with the academic and clinical needs of our colleagues in resource limited countries while achieving the objectives of all contributing faculty and students.

The international nurse executive committee (INEC) represents the nursing division at Nuvance Health and continues to engage academic and clinical staff to increase awareness of GH, to coalesce around specified areas of academic and clinical need of our global partners and to work from a shared platform to meet identified requirements of underserved communities.

Additionally, the nursing division is interested in beginning work and projects virtually and pivot toward bidirectional education with international colleagues/scholars attending the GH Academy and/or academic classes here with site visits planned abroad with our medical associates as it is applicable.

Centered on the objectives, educators/mentors will be aligned here and abroad to efficiently develop course and curriculum content with competencies and standards built into programming to guide new educators in their communities and home countries.

With projects as identified by our colleagues from resource limited countries, we seek to support research and publications providing research methods education as needed. We will encourage INEC members to serve as faculty in the Global Health Academy and look forward to a new year that is peaceful and ready to flourish with sustainable connections to advance Global Healthcare.
Students and faculty all had their challenges when school went virtual. Students had to be more independent learners and active in their learning. They had to juggle being home and finding quiet time to complete their coursework all while managing the stresses of the pandemic. Students faced tremendous stressors at home with family members losing their jobs, caring for sick family members, everyone in the family at home needing to share the internet at the same time, and ensuring stable Wi-Fi access. Faculty had to adjust to learn new ways of teaching and engaging students so that they did not fall behind. Faculty had to convert spaces in their homes for work, along with creating a space for their children to learn remotely. Faculty had similar stressors as their students did with caring for sick ones or their partners losing their jobs and worries about how they were going to manage financially. What we all went through that first year and continue to deal with each day shows how resilient we are, how resourceful we are, how we overcome challenges and hardships, and how we continue to move forward for our students and each other. We have all learned many lessons and skills that we will continue to use in the future. The pandemic shook our lives, but we have now found stable ground.

Nursing Education:
Train-the-Trainer Model to Share Information and Practice Across the World to Improve Global Health

With the growth of technology and media, global health endeavors have become increasingly evident and possible. This increased visibility provides an opportunity to critically consider global health efforts. Train-the-trainer model of education can play an important role in building trust, improving communication, development of leadership, and facilitating sustainability in the global nursing process.

Tara Zacharzuk-Marciano, PhD, RN
Lead Nurse Educator for Surgical Services HealthQuest Legacy and Lead Nurse Planner ANCC, Professional Development
The Impact of COVID-19 on My Education

As a senior nursing student, I am disappointed that the COVID-19 pandemic has had such a profound impact on my education and career. It has created staffing shortages, unsafe nursing assignments, and an unheard-of number of deaths while revealing the many holes in our healthcare system. It has entirely shifted my view of nursing. The expected feelings of anxiety and excitement that come with starting a career have become muddied with worsening fears and worries about the future state of health care, staff safety, and patient safety.

The burnout healthcare workers are facing is unlike any before and it is disheartening that I need to consider this in myself before I have even completed my education. It becomes depressing to see nurses in-person and on social media express their feelings of hopelessness and despair over the state of our current health system. These feelings are reflected in how our current nursing leaders and mentors teach students, how they provide patient care, and how they treat those around them.

Entering a profession during an unprecedented time, I find it hard to feel prepared for my future job. I’ve had to come to terms with the fact that my professors cannot prepare me for this, as they have not experienced it themselves. They have tried to give me the education and experience to be a nurse, but no one was prepared to be a nurse in a pandemic.

Despite these challenges, I have learned a lot from experiencing a pandemic, such as how to be more adaptable, self-reliant, and resilient. I have gained skills and new ways of thinking that otherwise would have only come with years of experience.
Sarah Cordisco is a senior nursing student at the University of Vermont. Over the last few years she has developed a passion for women’s health, specifically in the scope of global health. In 2019, as a part of her internship at Nuvance Health Global Health Program, she created modules about the different issues that women face when it comes to their health, reproductive health, and sexuality. The modules include topics on intimate partner violence, birth control, stigmas, and sex education, among others.

Rachel Logue is an intern with the Nuvance Health/UVMLCOM Global Health Program and an incoming high school senior in Fairfield, Connecticut. She served as the Chairwoman of the Mental Health Policy Committee for a local state representative candidate in the summer of 2020. In collaboration with a multidisciplinary team of psychologists and policy experts, Rachel developed initiatives to improve the accessibility of mental health services for struggling students. Her drafted bill proposals were presented on the floor of the State Legislature. She has been an active volunteer in various political campaigns where she gained experience in community outreach. Rachel is now working with the NH/UVMLCOM Global Health Program on an international cross-sectional study to evaluate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on Indian medical students’ emotional well-being and ability to learn.

“Good health shapes an expression of experiences.”

- Arif Naseem
Help is Here

My younger kids are struggling with the absence of social life and adjustment to online learning. I’m optimistic. I can’t say it has been a disaster. None of my family has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and I have a job. I feel very fortunate. I have two sons that were born and raised in England. I haven’t seen them since the start of the pandemic but I am going to visit them and my newborn grandkids sometime in the spring now that I have my vaccine.

My message to you all is: Stay positive if you can. If you are suffering emotionally or mentally to please seek mental health support. Hang tough as much as you can but if you feel you need help, please reach out because help is there.

The main cook for the grill at Danbury Hospital

Micheal Keen

The Sun Will Rise Tomorrow

Many people, including those of us in the Global Health Program, experienced changes in our jobs due to COVID-19. In the beginning when the virus was still new and more mysterious, I was wary of coming to Danbury Hospital but I still did because I had a team to support. I was very strict with the protective equipment. I wiped down my office every day, closed my door, and left it closed when I went home. Even after vaccination and knowing more about the virus dynamics, I still protect myself carefully. I feel more confident that we are moving in the right direction. There is still risk despite being immunized, and nothing is 100%, but I feel very safe at Danbury Hospital.

We have to look inward, lean on our coworkers and fellow citizens, and stay positive rather than getting dragged down in the sadness of it all. Just remember the sun will rise tomorrow.

Manager of the NH/UVMLCOM Global Health Program

Wendi Cuscina, BS, CPM, PACT
Passion for Health

I am currently a senior resident in Pediatrics and Child Health in my final year of studies. During my free time I do private practice with urban hospitals around Kampala. My passion for Pediatrics and Child Health is rooted in my fourth year of medical school where the field is just another unique, interesting, and satisfying discipline.

Children are the future and deserve the best care to attain their full potential. It is this passion that led me to pediatric critical care. In Uganda there are hardly any pediatric critical care specialists to provide this kind of service to the little angels. I hope one day I will be the one providing such service. Beyond pediatrics, it’s passion for health for those who are underprivileged—a passion seen in my medical background where I worked for private non-for-profit institutions whose overall goal is to provide the best healthcare to those who had only dreamt of it.

Three weeks ago I achieved another milestone of my life when I married Monica Acen. My wife is a medical doctor currently working as a teaching assistant at Lira University Teaching Hospital. I am proud to have a partner who shares my passions and dreams such that we can be mutually supportive of one another.

Maurice Okao, MD
Medical resident at Makerere University College of Health Sciences, Uganda
The Global Health Family, from around the corner and across the seas, came together to update Chris and Eva Trefz on the projects and initiatives currently underway.

Grace Linhard, Chief Development Officer, opened the meeting with a warm welcome to all attendees. Trefz Endowed Chair Dr. Majid Sadigh facilitated the meeting, introduced members of the Global Health family, and kept us on track by moving through the agenda. Mr. and Mrs. Trefz expressed their thanks, pride, and overwhelming gratitude to the work, effort, and commitment of the Global Health Family.
The Global Health Program had the second annual debriefing meeting with Mr. Pablito Almira, Founder and President of the Almira Family Foundation on August 6, 2021. Each year, this foundation hosts talented physicians, nurses, and other healthcare workers from our partner sites around the globe to undergo continuing education in clinical medicine, epidemiology, and research at Nuvance Health, courtesy of the Almira Global Health Clinical Scholars Program.
Highlights From The eMagazine

Women in Education

Facing a Number of Challenges
Written by Jamidah Nakato, PhD
Co-Director of Linde Healthcare Educators Without Borders

Trials of a Woman PhD
Written by Hamidah Babirye Nsereko, PhD
Co-Director of Linde Healthcare Educators Without Borders

The Love of Knowledge
Written by Saida Agiullina
Senior teacher in the Department of Epidemiology and Evidence-Based Medicine at Kazan State Medical University, Russia

An Educational Success:
Written by Estherlogy Katali
Managing Director at the African Community Center for Social Sustainability (ACCESS)

Navigating a Community with Challenging Girl Child Education:
Written by Norah Namirembe
Assistant Coordinator of the International Office at Makerere University College of Health Sciences

Women’s Health

Senior Nursing Student at University of Vermont
Sarah Cordisco

• Education Inequalities
• Maternal Health Inequalities
• Preterm Births and Disparities
• Global Gender Gap
• Education Inequalities
• Maternal Health Inequalities
• Preterm Births and Disparities
• Global Gender Gap

Woman and Child (John Curtis)
Art to Remind Us of Who We Can Be

Contributing Editor: Mitra Sadigh

James McBride

Film Neighbours in Time of COVID-19
Lancet Infectious Disease
January 29, 2021
Rebecca Barksby

Art in a Pandemic: A Digital Gallery
Nature Medicine
March 15, 2021

What Clinicians Can Learn From Poetry
Zainab Mabizari, MD
June 23, 2021
Original article Featured in Op-Med, a collection of original articles contributed by Doximity members

Keyhan Kalhor

The best art created by Washington Post readers during the pandemic
Michael Cavna
July 6, 2020

The Importance of Art in the Time of Coronavirus
Louis Netter
Senior Lecturer in Illustration
University of Portsmouth
During times of confusion, tribulation, grief, uncertainty, and despair, the arts enliven us by reintegrating the disjointed pieces of ourselves and replenishing them with clarity and hope. The arts remind us of our individual and collective potential to grow, evolve, and transform. They remind us of what and who we can be and what we can create. In this new section, we bring you works of art that have moved and inspired us. We encourage you to also share works that have inspired you.
Articles of the Month

COVID-19 and the Moral Imagination
Lancet January 22, 2021; Arundahati Roy

On the Shoulders of Giants: From Jenner’s Cowpox to mRNA Covid Vaccines
Angela Desmond, Paul A. Offit; NEJM March 25, 2021

Film Yemen: Coronavirus in a War Zone
Talha Khan Burki, Lancet Respiratory Medicine February 05, 2021

A Tale of 2 Viruses and 2 Vaccines—Perspectives From 2 Stages of Life
A. Mark Clarfield, MD JAMA Network April 19, 2021

An Almanac of Pandemonium
Lancet Respiratory Medicine, January 07

Variants
New York Times; June 27, 2021; Amy B. Rosenfeld and Vincent R. Racaniello

Restoring Vaccine Diplomacy
JAMA Network May 28, 2021 Peter J. Hotez, K. M. Venkat Narayan

Bhutan: Small Nation, Big Ideas
Lancet Respiratory Medicine June 04, 2021

“Aunda” and “My Octopus Teacher” present creatures as distinct beings with qualities that have nothing to do with humans
By Nicolas Rapold
New York Times Dec. 15, 2020

From left to right: Marina K. Voroshilova, Albert B. Sabin, Mikhail P. Chumakov, Anatolii A. Smorodintsev
Bhutan: Small Nation, Big Ideas
Lancet Respiratory Medicine
June 04, 2021

Urgent health and humanitarian needs of the Afghan population under the Taliban
Lancet
August 26, 2021

Will Global Health Survive its Decolonisation?
J Lancet, Nov 21, 2020

Virchow at 200 and Lown at 100 — Physicians as Activists
NEJM July 22, 2021
Salvatore Mangione, MD, and Mark L. Tykocinski, MD

The tangled history of mRNA vaccines
Lancet, November 20, 2021
Nature, News Feature, 14;
September 2021, Elie Dolgin;
mRNA discoveries earn the 2021 Prince Mahidol Award;

Isolated in Uganda: How Covid-19 evacuations highlight unfairness of global health partnerships
StatNews
November 12, 2021
Stephen Asiimwe, Edith Nakku-Joloba and Aggrey SemeereS

Mandatory COVID-19 vaccination and human rights
Lancet
Published Online
December 23, 2021
Jeff King, Octávio Luiz Motta Ferraz, Andrew Jones;

COVID-19: learning as an interdependent world
Lancet
September 25, 2021
Editor
Videos of the Month
You Arent'n Alone!

They Don't Want Africa to Make Its Vaccine

GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT 2021
Program Highlights

Audio-Visual Studio at MakCHS

As higher institutions of learning embrace internationalization, the Makerere University The College of Health Sciences continues to cherish international partners. Nuvance Health supports capacity enhancement of our junior faculty, equipping them with skills for patient care and training of students, while MakCHS hosts medical and nursing students from the Nuvance Health network including University of Vermont, Danbury Hospital, and Norwalk Hospital.

The Global Health Foundations Curriculum Project

January 13, 2021

As part of the Global Health Foundations curriculum project, Larner College of Medicine (LCOM) global health students in the Class of 2023 worked with Dr. Bill Raszka to incorporate a session into his Attacks and Defenses course, the second course in the first-year LCOM curriculum. With Dr. Raszka’s guidance, students developed session objectives and worked with our partners, Dr. Stephen Scholand of Nuvance Health and Dr. Alex Kayongo of Makerere University School of Medicine, to develop a case-based malaria session with a global perspective. Unfortunately on January 13, 2021, the day of the session, the internet in Uganda was suddenly shut down due to the country’s election, and Dr. Kayongo was unable to participate.

Dr. Scholand did an excellent job running the session on his own using his case presentation, making it interactive and keeping the students engaged. The students worked on differential diagnoses and asked great questions throughout the session. The plan was for Dr. Kayongo to present a case as well, however as we all know, things do not always go according to plan. We are grateful to Dr. Scholand and Dr. Kayongo for collaborating with our students and developing the cases for this session! We are looking forward to having Dr. Kayongo present his case-based discussion in the near future.

Global Health Panel Discussion at Snow Season Retreat

On January 14, 2021, the Larner College of Medicine (LCOM) Teaching Academy held its annual Snow Season curriculum retreat. This year the Global Health Program had a panel discussion, “Global Health Partnerships in Medical Education” as one of the retreat’s breakout sessions. Panelists Dr. Shalote Chipamaunga, Dr. Joseph Kalanzi, Dr. Catherine Nakibuule, and Dr. Swapnil Parve collaborated with moderators Dr. Mariah McNamara and Dr. Benjamin Clements to develop the session via a series of planning meetings over Zoom in December and early January.
OPEN FORUMS WITH FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES AROUND THE WORLD

FEATURED SPEAKER
Sara Chesbrough, MPH
Chief for Health Equity and Community Engagement
Vermont Department of Health

- Lecture 9 (via Zoom)
- Monday, February 22, 2021 12 pm (Noon)

Zoom link: https://uvmcom.zoom.us/j/96213227396?from=addon

FEATURED SPEAKER
Dr. Zahir Quazi
Director of Research and Development
Associate Dean (Global Health) and Professor of Community Medicine at the Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences

- Lecture 10 (via Zoom)
- Wednesday, March 3, 2021 8:00am

TOPIC:
Early Childhood Development & Resilience in COVID Scenario in Rural India

Zoom link: https://uvmcom.zoom.us/j/95572040885?from=addon

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Zoom link: https://uvmcom.zoom.us/j/95572040885?from=addon

FEATURED SPEAKER
Jamidah Nakato, PhD
Makerere University College of Business and Management Sciences

- Lecture 11 (via Zoom)
- Friday, March 12, 2021 8:00am

TOPIC:
Pandemic Myths - African Style

Zoom link: https://uvmcom.zoom.us/j/95407781026?from=addon

FEATURED SPEAKER
Dr. Sabrina Bakeera-Kitaka
Pediatrics Infectious Diseases and Adolescent Health Specialist
Makerere University College of Health Sciences, Kampala, Uganda

- Lecture 13 (via Zoom)
- Monday, October 4, 2021 12 pm (Noon)

TOPIC:
Management of HIV among adolescents

Zoom link: https://uvmcom.zoom.us/j/93370468875?from=addon

ALL ARE WELCOME
Andrea Green, MDCM, FAAP
Professor Pediatrics, Larner College of Medicine
Director of Pediatric Global Health
Director Pediatric New American Program

- Lecture 14 (via Zoom)
- Wednesday, March 3, 2021 12 pm (Noon)

Zoom link: https://uvmcom.zoom.us/j/97756271488?from=addon

OPEN FORUMS WITH FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES AROUND THE WORLD

An Interactive Zoom Series

The UVM Larner College of Medicine / Nuvance Health Global Health Program

Presents

An Interactive Zoom Series

Lecture 11 (via Zoom)

Friday, March 12, 2021 8:00am

FEATURED SPEAKER
Jamidah Nakato, PhD
Makerere University College of Business and Management Sciences

Zoom link: https://uvmcom.zoom.us/j/96213227396?from=addon

OPEN FORUMS WITH FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES AROUND THE WORLD

An Interactive Zoom Series

Lecture 12 (via Zoom)

Thursday, March 18, 2021 12pm

FEATURED SPEAKER
Dr. Robert Paulino-Ramirez
Director, Institute for Tropical Medicine and Global Health Universidad Iberoamericana, Dominican Republic

Zoom link: https://uvmcom.zoom.us/j/95407781026?from=addon

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Bring the Field to the Zoom Class

The newly planned “Bring the Field to the Zoom Class” is an attempt to bring the patient’s living condition and environment to the virtual classroom, thereby familiarizing students with the sociocultural aspect of medicine. These sessions start with a doctor-patient encounter but then follow the patient to their residence to show students the patient’s living condition. In addition, our colleagues around the world will have the opportunity to present their diagnostic dilemmas to each other for consultation and assistance.

Social Determinants of Health Among Children in Uganda
Dr. Maurice Okao

Boda Boda
Dr. Joseph Kalanzi

This project has been sponsored by a generous grant from Almira Family Charitable Foundation
Health System in Uganda
Scovia Nalugo Mbalinda

A case of a 25-year-old female
Dr. Joseph Kalanzi and Kimigishara

Katanga; A slum in Kampala
Norah Namirembe

Child Malnutrition and COVID19
Dr. Maurice Okao
Program Domestic Activities

Informational Session for Students in the Class of 2025

On Friday, September 17, the Global Health Leadership Team held an informational meeting for students in the class of 2025 who are interested in the Global Health Program. Fifty-four students were in attendance.
Internal Medicine Research Day, St. Mary's Hospital

As the keynote speaker, Dr. Sadigh presented “There is Always Light At The End Of The Tunnel: The Story Of A Virus” at the Internal Medicine Research Day on June 4th.

Left to right: Dr. Joseph Demayo, senior faculty; Dr. Sina Raissi, Chairman of the Department of Medicine; Dr. Majid Sadigh; Dr. Carolina Borz Baba, Associate Program Director; and Dr. Michael Simms, Infectious Diseases Chief Section.

Wednesday, October 20, 2021
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Virtual event via Zoom
Registration required:
Registrants will receive a confirmation and attendance link.

Dr. Sadigh and many other global health faculty from CT participated in UCONN’s Global Health Careers Night.
The III International Conference “School of Epidemiologists”

The III International Conference “School of Epidemiologists: Theoretical and Practical Aspects of Epidemiology” was held on March 12-13, 2021. The purpose of the conference was to inform specialists about the development of preventive areas of medical activities, the infection control during the COVID-19 pandemic, aspects of HAIs prevention, the development of a multidisciplinary approach and joint actions in the implementation of preventive and anti-epidemic measures, and medical care.

The conference presented 47 reports from specialists of medical and educational institutions from different regions of Russia, as well as from the United States and Uzbekistan. On the first day of the conference, 1,159 people joined the broadcast and the second day had 925 listeners. Among participants were epidemiologists, infectious disease specialists, pediatricians, head physicians, senior nurses, bacteriologists, virologists, family physicians, general practitioners, hygienists, forensic medical experts, pathologists, and laboratory doctors.

Dr. Majid Sadigh, Director of the NH/UVMLCOM Global Health Program, delivered a lecture titled “There is Always Light at the End of the Tunnel: The Story of a Virus” in which he presented the newest data about mutations and variants of SARS-CoV-2 and prognosis on the development of the pandemic. This session was translated by Assistant Professor and Global Health Scholar Maksim Kuznetsov.

Professor Gulshat Khasanova and Assistant Professor Saida Agliullina-Global Health Scholars Program alumnnae
A Symposium on Pulmonary Diseases in the Age of COVID-19

Stephen Scholand, MD

Associate Director of the NH/UVMLCOM Global Health Program

The First Annual National Emphysema Foundation (NEF) Symposium

The first annual National Emphysema Foundation (NEF) Symposium on Nov 18th, focused on pulmonary diseases in the age of COVID-19, was a fantastic success! This inaugural event was put on by the NEF in partnership with Walailak University in Thailand and with gracious assistance and support from the Nuvance Global Health Program.

We were happy to engage almost 90 participants from China, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, as well as our US physicians and healthcare workers. Ronald Nair, representing the NEF, closed out the event with a remembrance of Dr. Sreedhar Nair.

We look forward to the next NEF Symposium to continue his vision. Planning is already underway for summer 2022.
Meeting with the Deputy Principal of MakCHS

Toward Mutual Dependency in Global Health

To address the concerns centered on the decolonization of global health, we established the Nuvance Health/UVMLCOM Global Health Program Executive Board with domestic and international representatives from each partner site. The 18 members of the executive board, 4 from the Global North and 14 from the Global South, meet four times annually: three times via Zoom and once in-person for Global Health Day to collectively make decisions about the content, structure, and direction of the Global Health Program by consensus building rather than voting.

Toward the same goal, the Nursing Division of Global Health is in process of further developing the Nursing Executive Committee from a domestic to an international forum.

The International Nurse Executive Committee (INEC)

The International Nurse Executive Committee (INEC) has been established in developing global health nursing at Nuvance Health in collaboration with the program’s international and domestic partners.

For now membership includes the 2 nurses from Uganda and representatives from Nuvance Health (most are in the education department), with representatives from WCSU, and from SHU, 1 alumni, and 1 student nurse, a total of 14.
# New Awards and Scholarships

## Almira Global Healthcare Providers

The Almira Family Charitable Foundation has donated a generous grant to the Global Health Program to support residents and faculty to travel to international sites for capacity building of human resources and to invite junior faculty from international sites to the United States for clinical training. In addition, residents and scholars from international sites involved in research will have the opportunity to present their findings and perspectives in international or national medical conferences.

## The Nuvance Global Health Scholarship

**Definition of Global Health Scholarship:** Global health scholarship is an area for study, research, and practice that places a priority on improving health and achieving health equity for all people worldwide (Koplan, 2009). Global health scholars may focus their research on a lower-resource setting or a setting where health disparities are particularly evident, whether overseas or within the boundaries of the U.S.

## Trefz Medical Student Scholarship

This scholarship is in support of a one-year interdisciplinary fellowship program focused on health-related human rights and being of service to the underserved, either locally or overseas. Projects can involve community service, research, and/or advocacy for underserved populations. The program aims to support projects that pair students or residents with faculty mentorship. Individuals selected are awarded up to $5,000 over the academic year for students and residents to lead innovative, community-based initiatives that increase access to optimal health or well-being and address unmet health needs. The number of recipients will vary each year based on available funds.

## Faculty Scholarship

The scholarship is in support of a one-year interdisciplinary fellowship program focused on health-related human rights and being of service to the underserved, either locally or overseas. Projects can involve community service, research, and/or advocacy for underserved populations. The program aims to support faculty projects with the added value of trainee involvement, pairing students or residents with faculty mentorship. Individuals selected as Nuvance Global Scholars are awarded up to $25,000 over the academic year for faculty to lead innovative, community-based initiatives that increase access to optimal health or well-being and address unmet health needs. Monies may be distributed among costs of salary support and resources to accomplish the proposed project.

## New Award: Trefz Family Community Service Award

To be given annually to an individual whose work addresses the health needs and human rights of underserved and marginalized populations.
Welcome

Andrea Green, MD
Dr. Andrea Green as the new director of the Global Health Program in the UVMLCOM Department of Pediatrics.

Wendi Cuscina, BS, CPM, PACT
Wendi is the new manager of the NH/UVMLCOM Global Health Program

Sarah Cordisco
Sarah is a senior nursing student at the University of Vermont, who has joined the global health nursing division.

Elina Mukhametshina, MD
Elina is the New Coordinator of the Nuvance Health/ RUSM/AUC Global Health Program
CONGRATULATIONS!

To Robyn Scatena, Director the Global Health Program at Norwalk Hospital, for her appointment as Executive Director of the Dr. Patricia Tietjen Teaching Academy

To Pierce Gardner, MD, for earning the National Award for Vaccinology and Immunology

To Dean Núñez, for his appointment as Adjunct Associate Professor in the Volunteer Pathway in the Department of Surgery at UVMLCOM.

To Robert Kalyesubula, MD, for his appointment as Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Volunteer Pathway in the Department of Medicine at UVMLCOM.

...and for receiving the Vocational Service Award for his selfless service to humanity.

We congratulate our partner in India, the Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences (Deemed to be University), Wardha, for being accorded the status of “Scientific & Industrial Research Organization (SIRO)” by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (Ministry of Science and Technology), India. This status will entitle the DMIMS to avail of custom duty exemption on purchase of equipment, instruments, spares thereof, consumables, etc. used for research and development subject to relevant government policies in force from time to time.
To Dr. Tho, for making the front page of Forbes for her contribution to the fight against Covid19 in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam

To Hamidah Babirye Nsereko, Assistant Director of Contracts Management and Monitoring Office, Office of the Principal Makerere University, and CoDirector of the Linde Health Educators Without Borders, for acquiring a PhD in BA from Mandela University in South Africa.

TO RECIPIENTS OF NH/UVMLCOM SCHOLARSHIPS

Winners of Scholarship in

Emergency Medicine

Dr. Asiimwe Kemigisa and Dr. Andrew Matovu, first-year Emergency Medicine residents

Winners of Rudy Ruggles Scholarship in Global Mental Health

Dr. Jackline Karungi, Dr Claire Kwagala, and Aiyo Blessed Tabitha, second-year psychiatry residents

Winner of Scholarship in MPH

Ms. Norah Namirembe, Assistant Coordinator at MakCHS International Office

Winner of Scholarship in Nursing

Zahara Nabuyondo, nursing student

To Professor Harriet Mayanja-Kizza, Professor Reverend Samuel Abimerech Luboga, and Dr. Robert Kalyesubula, Mbchb, Certified by Public Opinions with the Uganda responsible Investment Mark of Excellence as one of the Best 15 Medical Specialists in Uganda and featuring on Public Awareness Poster of the Best 15 Specialists.
Congratulations to Anna Ziganshina, MD, who has successfully completed training in endocrinology at Albany Medical School.

To Majid Sadigh, Ayrat Ziganshin, and Swapnil Parve, for their appointments as Adjunct Faculty in the Department of Medicine of the Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences (Deemed to be University), Sawangi Meghe, Wardha, India.

To Jett Choquette, third-year medical student at UVMLCOM, whose essay won an honorable mention in the global health student category at CUGH 2022.

To Professor Samuel Luboga, and other leadership at St. Stephen Hospital in Mpererwe for its recognition as one of the top then most improved private hospitals in Uganda.

To Irene Sue, third-year medical student at UVMLCOM whose poster is a finalist for the honor of the Lancet Student Poster prize at CUGH 2022.

To Svanjita Berry, Salwa Sadiq-Ali, for acceptance of their poster by CUGH 2022.

To Dr. Claire, a Ruggles Scholar in Global Mental Health at MakCHS, for her marriage.

To Mitra Sadigh, who will be much in evidence at CUGH 2022 where she has organized a panel on decolonizing global health programs and submitted two abstracts which were accepted. In addition, she won the essay composition in the global health practitioner category, and will be reading her work at the virtual conference.

To Dr. Claire Kwagala, Ruggles Scholar in Global Mental Health and her husband Mr. Charles Kazooba.
Program Scholarly Activities

A manuscript titled “Transforming Global Health Communications During the COVID-19 Pandemic: International Partner Perspectives” authored by a team comprising of Mitra Sadigh, Swapnil Parve, Jamidah Nakato, Hamidah Babirye, and Majid Sadigh has been accepted for publication in the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) partner journal *Annals of Global Health*.

Scholarly Activities of Program at CUGH

Healthy People, Healthy Planet, Social Justice

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

March 28 – April 1st, 2022

Virtual Satellite Sessions: March 21st – 25th, 2022

CUGH 2022
Our panel proposal for the annual conference has also been accepted. The details of the panel proposal are:

Title: Decolonizing Global Health: The Path from Overshadowing to Illuminating at the Nuvance Health Global Health Program.
Panelists: Mariah McNamara, Rati Ndlovu, Noeline Nakasujja, Mitra Sadigh
Organizer: Mitra Sadigh
Moderator: Mariah McNamara

Meanwhile, six submitted abstracts have been accepted and invited for poster presentation. I am equally delighted to share that one of the abstracts (Irene Sue, Andrea Green) along with a handful of other selected abstracts will be published in the supplement of the prestigious journal The Lancet.

List of accepted abstracts:

1. Dynamic Nature of Medical Students’ Challenges During Clinical Global Health Elective Based on Students’ Weekly Reflections
   Authors: Svanjita Berry, Salwa Sadiq-Ali, Dilyara Nurkhametova, Majid Sadigh

2. The Impact of COVID-19 on Vermont’s Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Population
   Authors: Katie Wells, et al.

3. The History of Colonization and its Impact on Global Health Practice: An Educational Session
   Authors: Mitra Sadigh, Dilyara Nurkhametova, Majid Sadigh

4. Transformation of Global Health Electives for Medical Students Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic
   Authors: Dilyara Nurkhametova, Bulat A. Ziganshin, Majid Sadigh

5. Global Health Narrative Medicine Elective as a Tool for Improving Cultural Competency
   Authors: Irene Sue, Andrea Green, et al.

6. The Use of Simulation in the Training of Participants in Short-Term Global Health Electives
   Authors: Mitra Sadigh, Molly Moore, et al.

And lastly the following essays have received awards:

“A Radical Act” by Mitra Sadigh has been selected as a winner in the global health practitioner category.

“Human Experience Shaping Medical Needs” by Jett Choquette was selected for an honorable mention in the global health student category.
PUBLICATIONS
Praises for the 2020 Annual Report

Very impressive achievement at a very difficult time! Congratulations to you and all your colleagues!

Asghar Rastegar

What a spectacular report in a year of uncertainty! I consider this program the best in the country in its emphasis on capacity building of both international and national future global health professionals. It also is the leading example of collaboration of a hospital network with an academic center. Megacongratulations to all.

Pierce Gardner

What an extraordinary feat. I love the welcoming embrace of the term “New Americans” of which my parents once were.

Tom Duffy
I went over this phenomenal report of the equally phenomenal activities that transpired in the program during the past very difficult year. Truly inspirational.

Cyrus Kapadia

It is wonderful to see how much was accomplished despite the COVID-19 pandemic! We hope to join the virtual meetings that we missed last year! I suppose this is likely to be the new norm going forward.

Professor Chiratidzo E Ndhlovu, M Med Sci (Clin Epi), FRCP

I love the idea of health educators without borders. I pray we come out of hibernation soon.

Mahsheed Khajavi

The Global Health Program inspires humanity around the globe to follow their passions and ideas. Additionally, its support helps them reach their dreams and goals. The program’s prominent success makes me feel a happiness that is difficult to explain. I am proud to be a part of this community.

Elnaz Arab

It’s amazing. I am glad and honored to be a part of this family.

Subarnarupa Banerjee

Beautiful and inspiring words and work. I am proud to be a part of this team.

Wendi Cuscina

Really wonderful work. We are lucky to have such an accomplished group working with us.

MarieElena Cordisco

Thank you very much for this annual report. I want the world back to its old way of life. We look forward to our continued cooperation.

Young Song
Thank you so much for sharing this great report, full of good information – we even made it to the report! As quoted in the report, “thanks for what you and The Global Health Program are doing for others!”

Elvis Novas

As I perused the pages of another Annual Report, another year – I thought how incredible, how unbelievable. The world really changed – the disruption, the suffering, the destruction of so many things... Not just of hospitalizations, life or death, but plans, dreams, hopes, relationships. Yet the Global Health Program forged ahead, a constant Star of Hope in the madness around us.

Twice a week I referenced the Nuvance COVID-health updates to stay on top of the latest science. I disseminated this knowledge three times a week to nursing homes around the United States – they zoomed in to get the latest updates. We kept going, we did our best despite the adversity. And through it all, the Nuvance Global Health Program was there. I am so honored to be a small part of it.

Stephen Scholand

We are delighted to announce the launch of our newly designed website.

Visit us at www.nuvancegh.org.
## GLOBAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP

**NUVANCE HEALTH**
- Joanna Conklin, MBA
- Wendi Cuscina, BS, CPM, PACT
- Robert Jarrett, MD
- Grace Unhurd
- Elna Mukhametshina, MD
- Dilyara Nurkhametova, MD, PhD
- Majid Sadigh, MD
- Mitra Sadigh
- Robyn Scatena, MD
- Stephen Scholand, MD
- Mary Shah, MLS, AHIP
- Laura E. Smith, MScBMC
- Amanda Wallace
- Swapnil Parve, MD
- Catherine G. Winkler, PhD, MPH, APRN-BC

- Stephen Winter, MD
- Bulat Ziganshin, MD, PhD

**THE ROBERT LARNER, MD COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT**
- Benjamin Clements, MD
- Anne Dougherty, MD
- Audree Frey, MPH
- Andrea Green, MD
- Naomi Hodde, MD
- Amelia Kane, MD
- Judith Lewis, MD
- Mariah McNamara, MD, M.P.H.
- Majid Sadigh, MD
- Mitra Sadigh
- Katie Wells, MD
- Christa Zehle, MD

**MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
- Susan Byekwako
- Sr. Jane Frances
- Christina B. Gunther
- Robert Kayesubula
- Samuel Lubaga
- Darlene & Jonathan Melk
- Mariah McNamara
- Chiratidzo Ndhlovu
- Marcos A. Nuñez Cuervo
- Zahir Quazi
- Majid Sadigh
- Vincent Setthare
- Alexey Sozinov
- Uyen Tran
- Qin Yue

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### UNITED STATES

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   Coordinator, Global Health Program, Nuvance Health

2. **Wendi Cuscina, BS, CPM, PACT**
   Manager of the NH/UVMLCOM Global Health Program, Nuvance Health

3. **Randi Diamond, MD**
   Site Co-Director, St. Francis Naggalama Hospital

4. **Howard Eison, MD**
   Site Co-Director, St. Francis Naggalama Hospital

5. **Christina B. Gunther, M.A.**
   Director, Global Health Programs, Sacred Heart University

6. **Audree Frey, MPH**
   Coordinator, Global Health Program, UVLCOM

7. **Mariah McNamara, MD, M.P.H.**
   Global Health Program Associate Director, UVLCOM

8. **Jonathan Melk, MD, FAAP**
   Chief Executive Officer, Chiricahua Community Health Centers, Inc.

9. **Majid Sadigh, MD**
   Director, Global Health Program of Nuvance Health and University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine

10. **Robyn Scatena, MD**
    Director of Global Health, Norwalk Hospital

11. **Stephen Scholand, MD**
    Associate Program Director, Nuvance Health Global Health Program

12. **Laura E. Smith, MScBMC**
    Coordinator, Global Health Program, Nuvance Health

13. **Stephen Winter, MD**
    Senior Advisor, Nuvance Health

14. **Bulat Ziganshin, MD, PhD**
    Director of Research and Innovation, Nuvance Health Global Health Program

### BOTSWANA

15. **Vincent Setthare**
    Associate Professor of Family Medicine and the Head of the Department of Family Medicine and Public Health, University of Botswana

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16. **Fan Wang, MHM**
    President, Dalian Municipal Central Hospital

17. **Peishi Yan, MD**
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19. **Loraine Ameli de Abreu, PhD**
    Dean, International Relations, UNIBE

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21. **Tripti Srivastava, MD**
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22. **Shweta Parve, MD**
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23. **Syed Zahiruddin Quazi, MD, PhD**
    Associate Dean of Global Health and Director of Research and Development at Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences (DMIMS), Sawangi Meghe, Wardha

### FINLAND

24. **Dilyara Nurkhametova, MD, PhD**
    Coordinator of Nuvance Health/AUC/RUSM Global Health Program

### RUSSIA

25. **Alexey Sozinov, MD, PhD, D.Sc.**
    Rector, Kazan State Medical University

26. **Marat Mukhamedyarov, MD, PhD**
    Site Director, Kazan State Medical University

27. **Swapnil Parve, MD**
    Director of International Affairs at the NH/UVMLCOM Global Health Program

### THAILAND

28. **Prachyapan Petchuay, MD, PhD**
    Dean of Walailak University School of Medicine
UGANDA

29 Isaac Kajjo, MD, PhD  
Head of the International Office and Deputy Principal, Makerere University College of Health Science

30 Susan Byekwaso  
Coordinator, International Programs, Makerere University College of Health Sciences

31 Robert Kalyesubula, MD  
Founder, ACCESS

32 Estherlay Katali  
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33 Justus Ibrahim Twinomujuni  
Coordinator, Global Health Program, ACCESS

34 Samuel Luboga, MD, PhD, DSc  
Director, Uganda Partnership  
St. Stephen’s Hospital, Global Health Information Center, and Homestay

35 Sr. Jane Frances Nakafeero  
Director, St. Francis Naggalama Hospital

36 Jamidah Nakato, PhD  
Co-Director of Linde Healthcare Educators Without Borders

37 Catherine Nakibuule, MD  
Director, Global Health Program, St. Stephen’s Hospital, Kampala

38 Norah Namirembe  
Assistant Coordinator of the International Office at Makerere University College of Health Sciences

39 Hamidah B. Nseroko, PhD  
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40 Simon Otim, MD  
Medical Director, St. Francis Naggalama Hospital

VIETNAM

41 Tran Van Vu, MD  
Head of Training Department of the Training Center, Vice Head of Nephrology Department

42 Hoang Lan Phuong, MD  
Head of International Affairs, Cho Ray Hospital

43 Uyen Tran, MD  
Site Coordinator, Cho Ray Hospital

42 Duong Duy Khoa, MD  
Site director at University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Ho Chi Min

ZIMBABWE

45 Rangarirai Masanganise, MMedSci, FRCOphthal, MBChB  
Dean, University of Zimbabwe College of Health Sciences

46 Chiratidzo Ellen Ndhlovu, MMedSci, FRCP  
Director, Global Health Program, University of Zimbabwe College of Health Sciences
“When the groundhog casts his shadow
And the small birds sing
And the pussywillows happen
And the sun shines warm And when the peepers peep
Then it is Spring.”

Margaret Wise Brown