

THE GLOBE

NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH | FALL 2008 | WWW.JHSPH.EDU/DEPT/IH



THE NEW JOHNS HOPKINS VACCINE INITIATIVE (JHVI)

IH FACULTY FORM THE INTERNATIONAL INJURY RESEARCH UNIT (IIRU)



Department News
and Highlights

Vaccine Day
September 19, 2008

Student Profile
and Awards



From the Chair

Robert Black, MD, MPH

Immunization to prevent disease is the quintessential public health intervention. In the 200 years since Jenner tested the first vaccine for prevention of smallpox, immunizations have become the cornerstone of public health globally. Recent decades have seen an explosion of the knowledge about the principles of immunization and the application of vaccines to prevent many diseases.

In 1985, our department established the Center for Immunization Research to provide new leadership in this growing field of research and study. This Center has made many contributions in the clinical evaluation of the safety and efficacy of new vaccines and related immunology and microbiology, directed at important world-wide infectious diseases, such as influenza, rotavirus, dengue and malaria.

Faculty of our department often conduct large-scale field studies and have done pivotal trials of vaccines to prevent H. influenzae type b, pneumococcal disease, respiratory syncytial virus, rotavirus, and enterotoxigenic E coli in the USA and in developing countries. These vaccines address the predominant global causes of respiratory and diarrhea mortality.

We rightly think of immunizations as preventing infections, but it is now clear that these infections can lead to cancer as well. Our faculty have contributed to the evaluation of vaccines to prevent two major causes of cancer, liver and cervical, through prevention of hepatitis and human papillomavirus infection.

Consistent with our public health mission, our faculty and students are not content to prove the efficacy of new vaccines, rather they are involved in all additional steps that will lead to full utilization of important existing and new vaccines. This includes work on the safety of vaccines, a common concern of the public and an area in which it is critical to identify the rare serious adverse effects and communicate the safety when this is the case to dispel misconceptions and encourage appropriate consideration of benefits and risks.

Our faculty's work also includes disease surveillance to direct vaccine development, assessment of the burden of disease attributable to potentially vaccine preventable diseases, cost-effectiveness analyses, ethical and legal considerations, technical support and evaluation of immunization programs in developing countries, development of new financing mechanisms for vaccines and advocacy for vaccine research and application.

I am pleased that our department now has a broad-based program of vaccine research and offers many related courses and opportunities for students. I am further pleased that the Dean and our school have made the commitment to this area by the establishment of the Johns Hopkins Vaccine Initiative with the intention of promoting even broader and deeper interdisciplinary and interdepartmental research and academic programs in the School.

It seems fitting to close with a quote from Louis Pasteur, the developer of the second vaccine, for rabies, 80 years after Jenner: "Science knows no country because knowledge belongs to humanity and is the torch which illuminates the world." Vaccine science is important for global public health and is a priority for our department in collaboration with others in the University and around the world.

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The Johns Hopkins Vaccine Initiative (JHVI) commences with Vaccine Day and its new Web site

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Cover photos from top left: © 2007 Naveed Khan, Courtesy of Photoshare, Kashmir, Pakistan; Vaccine delivery photos by Terrence Lo, Bangladesh, 2006, WHO Stop Transmission of Polio program; RSV dosing at clinic site, courtesy of the Center for American Indian Health

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

From a modest beginning in 1961, the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health's Department of International Health has grown into a global leadership role in health research, policy analysis, and program implementation. The Department is divided into four areas: Global Disease Epidemiology and Control; Health Systems; Human Nutrition; and Social and Behavioral Interventions. We offer master's and doctoral level training in these areas of international health, as well as doctoral training in public health practice.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS VACCINE INITIATIVE (JHVI)

--IH FACULTY HELP LAUNCH NEW INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE
VACCINE RESEARCH AT THE SCHOOL

September 19, 2008, marks the launch of the Johns Hopkins Vaccine Initiative (JHVI), a new effort to promote collaborative and interdisciplinary vaccine research, education and implementation efforts at the School. JHVI will mark its commencement with the first annual Vaccine Day on September 19, 2008. The Day's activities will celebrate the vaccine research efforts by faculty, staff and students. More information can be found at <http://www.jhsph.edu/vaccineinitiative>.

JHVI's Beginnings

The School's faculty members, and particularly IH faculty, have been highly successful in pursuing and obtaining funding for discrete vaccine-related research activities. The Johns Hopkins Vaccine Initiative will continue to promote and enhance these programs, but will also identify new opportunities in vaccine research and policy development that require a coordinated multidisciplinary approach.

IH FACULTY HAVE BEEN
HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL
IN OBTAINING FUNDING FOR
VACCINE-RELATED
RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The School is unique in that it has substantial and unusual strengths in the areas of vaccine policy, finance, implementation, ethics, and vaccine safety, as well as the more traditional areas of preclinical and clinical vaccine research. The Initiative will provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and for project development by individuals with expertise in various disciplines. This will help the School

- ensure that it remains competitive in its traditional areas of strength
- facilitate the development of new research programs
- continue to provide exceptional training opportunities on campus and around the world
- enhance the competitiveness of JHSPH faculty for funding in vaccine research and policy-related areas.

JHVI's Mission

Vaccine efforts have always been an important part of the Department of International Health. Many IH faculty consider vaccine-related work to be a central component of their research and teaching efforts. In addition, the Department is home to the Center for American Indian Health, the Center for Immunization Research, the HiB Initiative, the Institute for Vaccine Safety, and the Pneu-

Ruth Karron, MD Professor, GDEC

Director, Johns Hopkins Vaccine Initiative
Director, Center for Immunization Research



Dr. Karron is trained in pediatric infectious diseases and virology and has a particular interest in respiratory viruses and respiratory virus vaccines.

She was a member of the FDA's Vaccine and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee from 2003 to 2008, and served as chair from 2006 to 2008.

Dr. Karron conceived of the Johns Hopkins Vaccine Initiative about two years ago. "When it comes to vaccine research and teaching, the School of Public Health has unique strengths. We are missing opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration by not fully capitalizing on these strengths. I am grateful to the Dean and to Dr. Black for supporting this initiative."

moADIP, each of which is internationally recognized for its role in vaccine research, education, and/or implementation.

Yet, even within our own Department, vaccine researchers aren't always aware of others' work due to the sheer number of projects based here. Furthermore, many innovative projects are housed in other departments and schools in the University, which compounds the potential for missing opportunities to collaborate. JHVI will address this issue by providing information about faculty research interests grouped by vaccine-related discipline:

- preclinical vaccine development
- phase I and II clinical trials
- field trials, implementation
- vaccine safety
- vaccine ethics

Individual projects will be highlighted, and regular updates about funding opportunities will be provided.

JHVI will also promote awareness of the impressive scope of vaccine research conducted at the School. Very few vaccine research institutions can boast that they work in the full range of vaccine development, from pre-clinical trials, to finance and implementation, to safety and ethics. However, there has never been a unifying identity within the School that can highlight



A health worker prepares to start his delivery route in Bangladesh. Photo credit: Terrence Lo, 2006, WHO Stop Transmission of Polio program.

this advantage, and no structure has existed to build on this institutional strength.

JHVI will not only serve faculty interests. Many of its efforts will be geared to helping students find funding and gain experience. On top of conducting cutting-edge research, the School, and the Department in particular, offers unsurpassed training in all areas of vaccine development.

Over the last year, Laveta Stewart MPH, MSc, research associate, GDEC, has been working closely with Dr. Karron and other IH faculty and staff to launch JHVI. Please join the JHVI team in kicking off the Initiative on Vaccine Day—September 19, 2008. Also, pay close attention to the Wall of Wonder—the large screen on the first floor of the Bloomberg School. It will be showcasing current and past milestones in vaccine development at Hopkins.

JHVI Coordinating Committee Members and Staff

Ruth Karron, professor, GDEC, is the director of JHVI and the Center for Immunization Research.

Ruth R. Faden, is the Philip Franklin Wagley Professor of Biomedical Ethics and Executive Director of Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics.

Neal Halsey, professor, GDEC, is the director of the Institute for Vaccine Safety.

Orin Levine, associate professor, Health Systems, is the executive director of the Pneumococcal Accelerated Development and Introduction Plan (PneumoADIP).

Kate O'Brien, associate professor, Health Systems, is the associate director of Infectious Disease Studies for the Center for American Indian Health and the deputy director for the Pneumococcal Accelerated Development and Introduction Plan (PneumoADIP).

Fidel Zavala, is a professor in the Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology.

Laveta Stewart, research associate, GDEC, is the program manager of JHVI.

JHVI PROMOTES COLLABORATIVE AND
INTERDISCIPLINARY VACCINE RESEARCH, EDUCATION,
AND IMPLEMENTATION EFFORTS TO IMPROVE HEALTH
WORLDWIDE.

Affiliated Centers and Institutes

The Berman Institute of Bioethics consists of more than 30 core and affiliated faculty from the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, School of Nursing, Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences. Faculty work collaboratively on scholarship and teaching in the Institute's five areas of focus: biomedical research and discovery; clinical ethics; public health ethics and health policy; research ethics; and global health ethics and research. <http://www.bioethicsinstitute.org/>

The Center for American Indian Health works in partnership with American Indian tribes to raise the health status and self-sufficiency of American Indian people to the highest possible level. <http://jhsph.edu/caih/>

Center for Immunization Research (CIR) was established in 1985 by Dr. Mary Lou Clements-Mann. CIR investigators are experts in the conduct of phase I and II vaccine trials and in training in Good Clinical Practice related to vaccine trial conduct. <http://www.jhsph.edu/cir/>

The Institute for Vaccine Safety was established in 1997 in order to provide an independent assessment of vaccines and vaccine safety to help guide decision makers and educate physicians, the public and the media about key issues surrounding the safety of vaccines. <http://www.vaccinesafety.edu/>

Johns Hopkins Malaria Research Institute (JHMRI), established in 2001, uses a multidisciplinary approach to understanding the Plasmodium parasite, the Anopheles mosquito, the genes and proteins involved in the transmission of malaria and the immune response. <http://malaria.jhsph.edu/>

Pneumococcal Accelerated Development and Introduction Plan (PneumoADIP) strives to improve child survival and health by accelerating the evaluation of and access to new, lifesaving pneumococcal vaccines for the world's children. <http://www.preventpneumo.org/index.cfm>

The HiB Initiative, composed of investigators from Johns Hopkins University, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the World Health Organization, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, aims to expedite and sustain evidence-informed decisions at the global, regional and country levels regarding the use of Hib vaccination to prevent childhood meningitis and pneumonia. <http://www.hibaction.org/>

JHVI Resources & Events

Vaccine Day, Website, Wall of Wonder



The JHVI Website banner. <http://www.jhsph.edu/vaccineinitiative/>

Website

The JHVI website is a resource for Hopkins researchers, current and prospective students, and the vaccine-research community at large. More than a mere portal to the various vaccine centers and institutes at the School, it will also

- Post the latest vaccine news at the School
- Collect and publicize funding opportunities at the School and elsewhere
- List courses in one place and by key topic area
- Organize faculty by topic area and link to faculty pages and projects

Training and Education

JHVI will post vaccine training opportunities at the Bloomberg School including regular courses, institutes and special seminars. IH faculty are the lead instructors in each of the four fundamental courses:

1. Vaccine Development and Application—Neal Halsey
2. Vaccine Policy Issues—Orin Levine
3. Biologic Basis of Vaccine Development—Anna Durbin
4. Clinical Vaccine Trials and Good Clinical Practices—Karen Charron

In addition, a sample of master's and doctoral theses completed by students will be listed on the site, which will both underscore the breadth of the work done at the School and be a useful reference to prospective and current students.

Vaccine Day

September 19, 2008, will be the first annual Vaccine Day at the School. The program is an exciting mix of formal presentations and poster presentations in Sheldon and Feinstone Halls. The event is designed to foster collaboration within the School and start conversations among faculty and students who work in various areas of vaccine development.

Wall of Wonder

As part of the launch of JHVI and to mark Vaccine Day, the main screen on the ground level of the Bloomberg School will feature a slide show of vaccine milestones at the University. Many faculty from the Department will be featured. Look for a host of IH researchers including Karen Charron, Anna Durbin, Clayton Harro, Neal Halsey, Orin Levine, Larry Moulton, Kate O'Brien, David Sack, and Mathuram Santosham.

VACCINE DAY

SEPTEMBER 19, 2008

Keynote Speaker

David Heymann, MD, WHO Assistant Director-General for Health Security and Environment, and Representative of the Director-General for Polio Eradication. His speech entitled, "Diplomatic Immunity: Improving Global Access to Vaccines and Good Health," will describe new efforts to control polio and meningococcal disease, and to develop in-country capacity for the manufacture of pandemic influenza vaccines.

Dean's Medal

Dean Michael Klag, MD, MPH, will honor Dr. Heymann with the Dean's medal, which has also been awarded to the likes of Princess Srindahorn of Thailand and Queen Noor of Jordan.

Faculty and Student Presentations

Faculty from International Health, Molecular Microbiology and Immunology, and Health Policy and Management will provide brief overviews of work being conducted in each of the following areas: preclinical vaccine development, phase I and II vaccine trials, field trials, vaccine implementation, vaccine safety, and vaccine ethics.

Following the formal presentations, a poster session (with refreshments) will be held in Feinstone Hall. Students, staff and faculty are strongly encouraged to submit abstracts for poster presentation consideration. Funding is available to cover printing costs for students, and a prize will be awarded for the best student poster. Email abstracts to: jhvi@jhsph.edu by September 5.

WALL OF WONDER

One of the many slides with accompanying text that will be shown on the large screen on Vaccine Day.

The Institute for Vaccine Safety (IVS) promotes disease prevention using the safest vaccines possible.

IH Professors Neal Halsey and Larry Moulton and other IVS members help guide decision makers and educate physicians, the public and the media about key issues surrounding the safety of vaccines.



NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

Faculty Recognition



William Brieger, DrPH, MPH, Professor, Health Systems, received the 2008 Award of Merit for Contribution to the Development of Public Health in Africa. The Faculty of

Public Health, College of Medicine at the University of Ibadan, presented the award to him at the university's National Conference, "Public Health in Nigeria and the Challenges of Achieving the Millennium Development Goals."

Adnan Hyder, MD, MPH, PhD, Associate Professor, Health Systems, will be the James W. Bartlett Visiting Professor for 2008 at the University of Rochester (and Strong



Memorial Hospital) in Rochester, New York. He will also be presenting Grand Rounds on behalf of the Department of Psychiatry focusing on "intentional injuries."



Jean Nachege, MD, PhD, Associate Scientist, GDEC, was appointed Professor Extraordinary in the Department of Medicine, Division of Internal Medicine, Stellenbosch University

where he is the Director of the Centre for Infectious Diseases.

Youfa Wang, MD, PhD, MS, Associate Professor, Human Nutrition, was appointed by the Governor of Maryland to the State Advisory Council on Physical Fitness. Dr. Wang



also recently received a 3-year research grant from the Nestle Foundation to study the assessment and promotion of healthy eating among adolescents in China.

New Faculty

Frederick (Skip) Burkle, MD, MPH, DTM, Senior Associate, Health Systems



Mary Cwik, PhD, Assistant Scientist, Health Systems, Center for American Indian Health, advising in Social and Behavioral Interventions (SBI).

Sean Fitzwater, MHS, Research Associate, Health Systems

Ingrid Friberg, MHS, PhD(c) Research Associate, Health Systems



Bobi Janelle Morris, MHS, Research Associate, Health Systems

Laura K. Murray, PhD, Assistant Professor, Health Systems



Julia M. Powers, Research Associate, Health Systems, Center for American Indian Health, advising in SBI

Prasanthi Puvanachandra, MB BCHIR, MA, MPH, Research Associate, Health Systems

Beulah Sabundayo, Pharm.D., MPH, Research Associate, Global Disease Epidemiology and Control

Pamela Surkan, ScD, PhD, Assistant Professor, SBI



Lauren Tingey, MPH, MSW, Research Associate, Health Systems, Center for American Indian Health, advising in SBI



Antonio Trujillo, PhD, Assistant Professor, Health Systems



Andrea Wilson, MS, Research Associate, Health Systems



Peter Winch, associate professor and SBI Program Director. Dr. Winch presents results during a dissemination meeting for the GRA/WHO zinc study in Sikasso, Mali.

NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

Student Awards

Global Health Scholarships

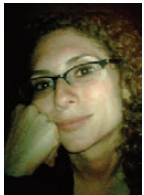
The Johns Hopkins Center for Global Health awarded eight scholarships in 2008 to master of public health, master of health science, and master of science students with a demonstrated interest in the global health field. The recipients were selected in a competitive process open to all full-time students accepted into the MPH, MHS, and MS programs. A Global Health Scholarship covers full tuition for the 11-month MPH program and for one year of the MHS and MS programs. The awards are offered on an annual basis.



Shegufta Shefa Sikder
MHS student,
GDEC



Jenna Rose
MHS student,
GDEC



Jennifer Cohn
MPH student



Olga Helena Joos
MPH student



Gifty Kwakye
MPH student

Other Scholarships & Awards

Maria Au, DrPH student, received a Johnson & Johnson Community Health Scholarship.

Kathryn Berndtson, MHS student, SBI, received the Janice Eddy Mickey Award and the Berman Family Award.

Liwei Chen, PhD student, Human Nutrition, received the Richard and Barbara Hall Award.

Amy Desai, MHS student, Human Nutrition, won the Center for Human Nutrition MHS Academic Achievement Award.

Britt Ehrhardt, MHS student, SBI, received the Dean's Alumni Advisory Council Scholarship.

Brandon Brown, MPH, PhD student, GDEC, received the Carol Eliasberg Martin Scholarship in Cancer Prevention, which supports an outstanding doctoral student whose work holds promise for preventing cancers that affect women.

Lynne Harris, DrPH student, received the Lillian Hiss-Ethel Crosby Scholarship.

Rebecca Merrill, PhD Student, Human Nutrition, won the Harry J. Prebluda Fellowship in Nutritional Biochemistry, which fosters the careers of outstanding young scientists focusing on nutritional biochemistry and metabolism.

Monica Mispireta, PhD student, Human Nutrition, received the Harry D. Kruse Fellowship, which supports a continuing doctoral candidate in nutrition who has displayed outstanding achievement and promise.

Danielle Pillsbury, MHS student, Human Nutrition, was awarded the Center for Human Nutrition MHS Excellence in Internship.

Muge Qi, PhD student, Human Nutrition, won the Elsa Orent Keiles Fellowship.

Hee Lee Seung, PhD student, Human Nutrition, received the Bacon Field Chow Memorial Fellowship. The fellowship supports outstanding doctoral students working in the area of human nutrition research.

Framework Program in Global Health

Deadline: November 17, 2008

The Framework Program offers students short-term research experience to address global health issues. The program includes \$3,000 for undergraduate students or up to \$5,000 for graduate students to support travel and field research. More information: <http://www.hopkinsglobalhealth.org/>

IH Students Awarded Center for a Livable Future Predoctoral Fellowships for 2008-2009

Carmen Arriola, DVM, GDEC

Field of study: The status of pig farming in Peru: a comparative analysis of the public health and environmental impact of small-, medium-, and large-scale pork production.

Doctoral advisors: Drs. Lawrence Moulton and Robert Gilman, International Health and Dr. Ellen Silbergeld, Environmental Health Sciences



Edward Broughton, MPH, Health Systems

Field of study: The association between Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and integrated poultry/aquaculture facilities, including evaluation of the effectiveness and costs of HPAI risk-reduction measures mandated by national policies.

Doctoral advisor: Dr. Damian Walker, International Health.

Dr. Manjunath Shankar, Health Systems

Field of study: The impact of kitchen gardens on women's empowerment and food security using the capability approach framework developed by Amartya Sen.

Doctoral advisors: Drs. Alan Sorkin and Carl Taylor, International Health.



Alumni News

Kristen Hurley, PhD, Human Nutrition, was appointed Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at University of Maryland Medical Center, Division of General Pediatrics.

NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

Research in Brief

Adnan Hyder, MD, MPH, PhD; **Maria Merritt**, PhD; and **Nhan Tran**, PhD, MHS, were co-authors from IH of “Integrating ethics, health policy and health systems in low- and middle-income countries: case studies from Malaysia and Pakistan,” published in the *WHO Bulletin*. The paper describes the ethics processes in play when public-health mechanisms are established in low- and middle-income countries. It found that, while ethics are gradually being integrated into public-health policy decisions in many developing health systems, ethical analysis is often implicit and undervalued.

Youfa Wang, MD, PhD, was a lead author of “Tracking of blood pressure from childhood to adulthood: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis,” which was published by *Circulation: Journal of the American Heart Association*. According to Dr. Wang, “Our meta-analysis reinforces the concept that blood pressure tracks from childhood to adulthood and that elevated blood pressure in childhood is likely to help predict adult hypertension.”

Abdullah Baqui, MBBS, DrPH; **Jennifer Bryce**, EdD; and **Robert Black**, MD, MPH, were IH co-authors of “Care at first-level facilities for children with severe pneumonia in Bangladesh: a cohort study,” published in *The Lancet*. The study recommends modifying the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) guidelines on pneumonia treatment. The authors found that local health facilities are able to correctly treat and manage severe childhood pneumonia.

Luke Mullany, PhD; **Joanne Katz**, ScD; **Steven C. LeClerq**, MPH; and **James M. Tielsch**, PhD, were IH co-authors of “Maternal and Birth Attendant Hand Washing and Neonatal Mortality in Southern Nepal,” published in the *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*. The study found that washing hands with soap and water in preparation for delivery significantly reduced the risk of death for infants within the first month of life.

Lead author **Je Hyuan Rah**, PhD graduate in Human Nutrition, along with IH co-authors **Drs. Parul Christian** and **Alain Labrique**, published “Pregnancy and Lactation Hinder Growth and Nutritional Status of Adolescent Girls in Rural Bangladesh” in the *Journal of Nutrition*. The study was part of the JiVitA Project which is funded by USAID, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Sight and Life Research Institute.

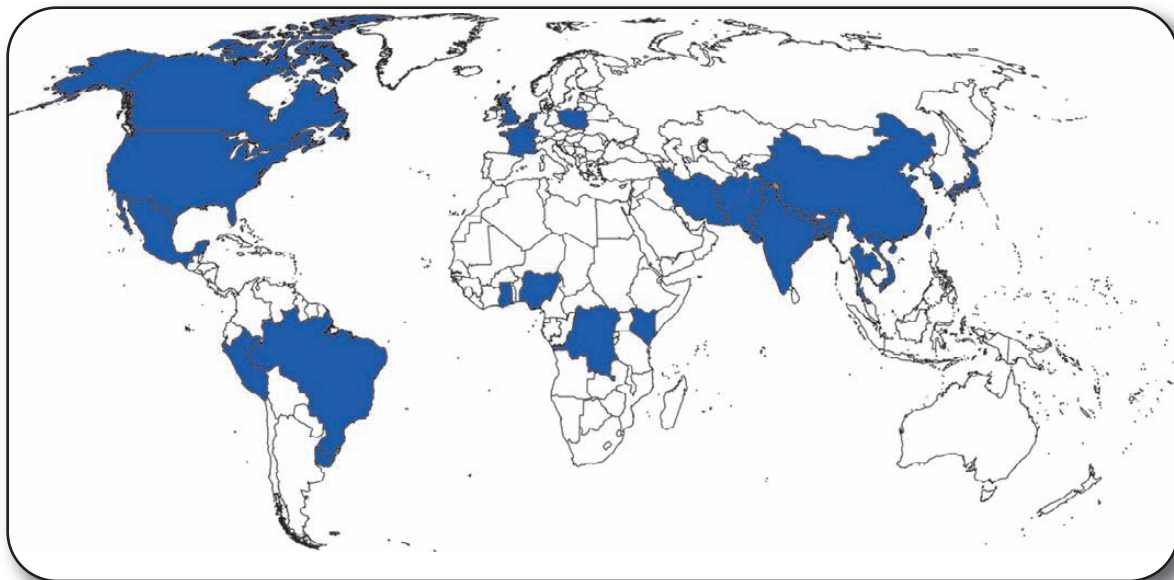
Congratulations Successful Thesis Defense

Shannon Grahek, GDEC, Epidemiology, Etiology, and Disease Manifestations of Travelers’ Diarrhea (TD) Occurring among U.S. Visitors to Guatemala and Mexico: Implications for Future Intervention Trials

Jennifer Moisi, GDEC, Mortality, Morbidity, Immunization Coverage and Distance to Health Facilities in Kilifi District, Kenya

Mei Wen, Health Systems, Road Traffic Injuries in China: Time Trends, Risk Factors and Economic Development

Home Countries of New and Returning IH Students



NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

New Staff

Dilalat Bello, Research Program Coordinator, Human Nutrition

Yvonne Davis, Research Program Coordinator, Center for American Indian Health

Thomas Durkin, Administrative Coordinator, Human Nutrition



Zunera Gilani, Research Data Analyst, Health Systems

Mari Griffioen, Research Nurse, GDEC

Barbora Hnizda, Research Technologist, GDEC

Tanya Jones, Research Assistant, Center for American Indian Health

Staci McGonigal, Research Program Coordinator, Human Nutrition

Rose Reis, Communications Associate, Health Systems



Vanessa Rodas-Eral, Financial Manager, GDEC



Debra A Rukstelis, Financial Manager, Human Nutrition



Cristina Salazar, Academic Program Administrator



Stephanie Saylor, Research Assistant, Human Nutrition

Samuel Shillcutt, Senior Research Assistant, Health Systems

Adrienne Suggs-Coleman, Research Program Assistant, Human Nutrition

Danielle Tsingine, Training Coordinator, Center for American Indian Health

Join the Center for Global Health on Facebook

The Johns Hopkins Center for Global Health now has a group on Facebook. Everyone is welcome!

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=18986494363>

Meet each other, keep up on events going on at the university, discuss current global health topics.



Dr. Santosham meets with Bill Gates and officials from the India Ministry of Health.



Dr. Gilbert Burnham presenting as part of the School's World Refugee Program, June 20, 2008.

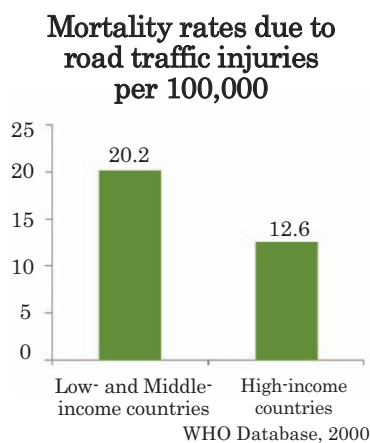
IH FACULTY FOUND THE INTERNATIONAL INJURY RESEARCH UNIT (IIRU) CONVENES FIRST INTERNATIONAL INJURY PREVENTION SYMPOSIUM

Department faculty, led by Associate Professor Adnan A. Hyder, recently founded the International Injury Research Unit (IIRU) whose mission it is to reduce injuries and promote safety in underserved populations of the world. Based in the Department of International Health, the IIRU draws on expertise from departmental faculty, and is affiliated with the Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research & Policy.

Today, the injury-related death rate is over 1.5 times higher in low- and middle-income countries than in wealthy countries. And unlike in high-income nations, injuries are among the top ten causes of death in all age categories. To better confront these inequities—and to help prevent the millions of deaths caused annually by injuries—IH faculty decided to formally organize their commitment and skills into the IIRU. The structure and composition of the Unit is designed to respond deftly to a wide range of needs, from research and evaluation to programming and policy.

First International Injury Prevention Symposium

One of IIRU's first activities was hosting an inaugural International Injury Prevention Symposium in June. WHO's Department of Violence and Injury Prevention and Disability (WHO VIP) and the Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy co-sponsored the event. The Symposium, entitled Strengthening Capacity in Violence & Injury Prevention: Global Perspectives, provided a rare opportunity for professionals from around the Mid-Atlantic region to concentrate exclusively on violence and injury prevention needs around the world. The event attracted a diverse audience, including representatives from the WHO, UNICEF and USAID. National public health professionals interested in improving their countries' injury monitoring and prevention efforts, such as advisers to ministries of health, and staff from prominent NGOs, including Safekids and Handicap International, were also in attendance.



In addition to IH faculty Prasanthi Puvanachandra, Nhan Tran and Adnan Hyder, experts from WHO (David Meddings) and Aga Khan University, Pakistan (Junaid Razzak) presented on issues of capacity development in international injury research and programming. The meeting



A billboard in Gaborone, Botswana, promotes safe driving. © 2007 Lee Mantini, Courtesy of Photoshare.

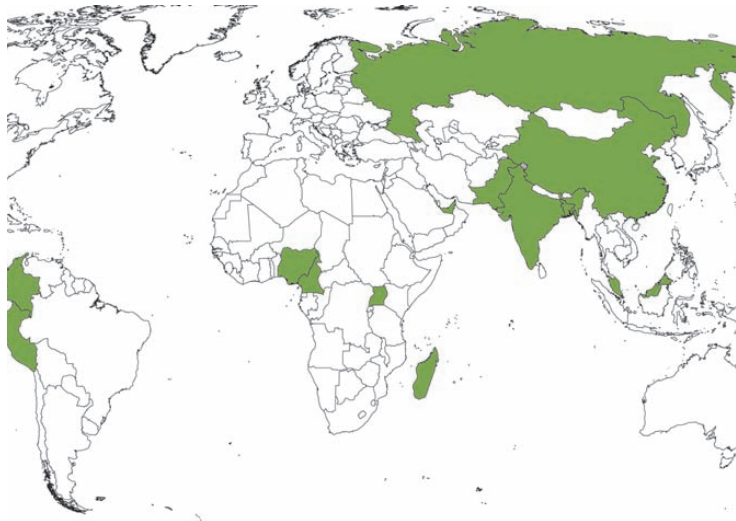
resulted in several new opportunities for IH faculty to collaborate with NGOs, governments, and donor organizations. The symposium also served to further strengthen and support the relationship between JHU and WHO. Recent efforts by WHO to strengthen capacity development in injury prevention were highlighted through its MENTOR-VIP initiative. This is an innovative and inexpensive program to train public health professionals on injury monitoring, evaluation and policy and program implementation.

Current Work

The IIRU currently works in Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Middle East and focuses on the following four key areas:

- 1) **Promotion of Strategic Research:** to understand and document injury burden and risks, as well as to better understand communities' beliefs and perception related to injuries and disabilities
- 2) **Implementation of Field Trials and Evaluation Studies:** to conduct and to understand the effectiveness and process of implementing interventions
- 3) **Economic and Policy Analysis:** to document the economic burden of injuries as well as to evaluate the cost-effectiveness and benefit-to-cost ratio of interventions for injury prevention.
- 4) **Research Capacity Development:** to ensure the long-term sustainability by working with research institutes, academic institutions, and other partners to develop the capacity of local researchers

International Injury Research Unit Project Map



Future Plans

The IIRU plans on convening similar symposiums on a quarterly basis throughout the year, with the next one to be held during the latter half of 2008. Planned topics for these symposia include trauma registries in low- and middle-income countries and injury surveillance systems.

Selected Faculty Affiliated with IIRU:

Adnan A. Hyder, MD, MPH, PhD—Unit Director

Nhan T. Tran, PhD, MHS—Lead Faculty, Research & Evaluation

Prasanthi Puvanachandra, MD, MPH—Lead Faculty, Programs & Policy

Timothy Baker, MD, MPH—Health Planning/Injury Prevention

David Bishai, MD, PhD—Health Economics/Cost-Effectiveness

Abdul Ghaffar, MD, MPH, PhD—Joint Faculty, Health Policy/Health Management

Richard Morrow, MD, MPH—Epidemiology/Quality Assurance

For more information visit

http://jhsph.edu/dept/IH/Centers/Injury_Research
or email: ppuvanac@jhsph.edu

The 6th International Symposium on Pneumococci and Pneumococcal Diseases

The 6th International Symposium on Pneumococci and Pneumococcal Diseases (ISPPD -6) was held this year June 8–12 in Reykjavik, Iceland. It was co-hosted by the Department's PneumoADIP together with Wyeth, GSK, Merck/MSD, Intercell AG, PATH, deCODE Genetics and Sanofi Pasteur. The largest ISPPD conference yet included a total of 37 invited speakers, 43 oral presentations, 500 posters, and 980 participants from 86 countries.

The symposium topics ranged from historical aspects of pneumococcal disease to state-of-the-art advances in the field.

IH Department students and staff of the PneumoADIP presented nearly 20 posters, many of which can be found on the PneumoADIP website at: <http://www.preventpneumo.org/resources/isppd6.cfm>

In addition, PneumoADIP Executive Director, Orin Levine co-chaired a session entitled “Global implementation of pneumococcal vaccines and the value of vaccination” as well as giving a talk on the subject.

Deputy Director of Research, Kate O'Brien, gave the conference's opening talk on global epidemiology of pneumococcal disease. Jennifer Moisi, a surveillance officer for PneumoADIP who recently successfully defended her PhD in the Department, presented a talk on the diagnosis of pneumococcal meningitis. Health Systems Director, Mathu Santosham, co-chaired a session entitled “Use and effects of pneumococcal polysaccharide and conjugate vaccines.” Abstracts from these presentations can be found on the conference website: <http://www.congress.is/ISPPD-6/>
--Julie Buss, Communications Manager, PneumoADIP



PneumoADIP students and staff in Reykjavik, Iceland. From left to right: Divya Parmar (MHS student), Joe Agostino (Financial Analyst), Benedicta Kim (Communications Manager), Zunera Gilani (PhD student), Matt Coles (Research Service Analyst), Lindsay Grant (PhD student), and Emily Henkle (PhD Student)

Gwenyth Lee, MHS '08

New PhD Candidate in GDEC

Student Profile

A few years ago Gwenyth Lee thought she would now be conducting experiments in a chemistry lab, or maybe working her way through medical school. Returning from a public health internship in Peru was certainly not on the horizon. Even 3 years ago, she didn't foresee herself entering a PhD program. But now, a trainee under Joanne Katz's International Maternal and Child Health grant, she starts the year knowing this is exactly what she wants to be doing.

Like many students Gwen was a Peace Corps volunteer before enrolling in the MHS program. And like many others she had a background in the sciences. But there was no set course that would lead her to Hopkins or to public health. In fact, her decision to volunteer in Cameroon meant that she was putting medical school, which she had been accepted to, on hold. The Department of International Health at the Bloomberg School wasn't even on her radar, yet.

Peace Corps in Cameroon

Her main assignment in Cameroon was to teach chemistry and biology at a secondary school. Teaching in the classroom, however, didn't seem to be enough, so she sought out other ways to serve. She discovered that local youth health groups needed mentors to help run their programs. These groups were designed to help young people learn decision-making skills so they could make safe and healthy choices as adults. This approach—developing skills rather than teaching only facts—appealed to her. Gwen ended up leading several youth groups, including one that wrote and produced its own telenovela-like melodrama that the young people performed at local fairs and events. The drama proved to be an entertaining format for sparking discussions about sensitive health topics affecting youth.

Colleagues who noticed her enthusiasm told her that she might be interested in a career in public health, a field she knew very little about at the time. The more she learned about and saw first-hand what public health was all about, the more she was drawn to it. And so, as her time in Cameroon came to an end, she decided to apply to the Hopkins MHS program in Global Disease Epidemiology and Control (GDEC).



Gwenyth Lee, MHS '08 and PhD candidate, GDEC, in Cameroon as a Peace Corps volunteer.

MHS at Hopkins

The MHS program was an ideal degree for Gwen: she could still make use of her science background, but it also afforded her more hands-on application, something she realized she wanted during her time in the Peace Corps. After finishing her coursework, her internship took her to Peru, where she was able to conduct her own research study—a daunting challenge but one that would help her decide which direction to go in next. The internship proved to be another pivotal moment in Gwen's career path. While she was invigorated by the hands-on opportunities of public health, she saw that she loved the research aspect of it as well.

Gwen's research project assessed the relative accuracy of daily versus bi-weekly survey tools for monitoring childhood diarrhea in Peru. She worked within a larger multi-site project run by Prof. Bob Gilman, GDEC. Gwen developed a research plan and daily survey tools whose results could be compared to the bi-weekly data. She also organized the staff and helped collect the data in the field. The data are still being analyzed, but they indicate that the recall bias is more pronounced for symptoms in younger children and for more severe symptoms.

Advice for New Students

Although she's a new PhD student, she is an MHS grad and was willing to offer some advice to new students. First and foremost, she recommends talking—to professors, other students, and visiting scholars and speakers—because it's a great way to figure out what your interests are and to find opportunities for pursuing them. In the same vein, she thinks work-study is an excellent opportunity to see how coursework relates to real world situations. "Even if you're not analyzing the data yourself, you're working next to people who are. And that makes the coursework seem all the more real," she explained.

Gwen's desire to work in a more applied field like public health has, she noted with a sense of irony, taken her nearly full circle back to research. But the experiences in the field are what drive her now and she is looking forward to combining research and practice whenever she can.



THE GLOBE FALL 2008

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