

# Tropical Medicine Education: From the classroom to the field

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# History of The Gorgas Memorial Institute



Gen. Gorgas at tim

# Dr. William C. Gorgas

- ▶ Native Alabamian, son of:
  - ▶ Josiah Gorgas, president of University of Alabama in 1878
  - ▶ Amelia Gayle Gorgas, namesake for UA main library
- ▶ Worked to eliminate yellow fever in Havana, Cuba, circa 1898
- ▶ Controlled malaria and yellow fever in the Panama Canal Zone, circa 1904



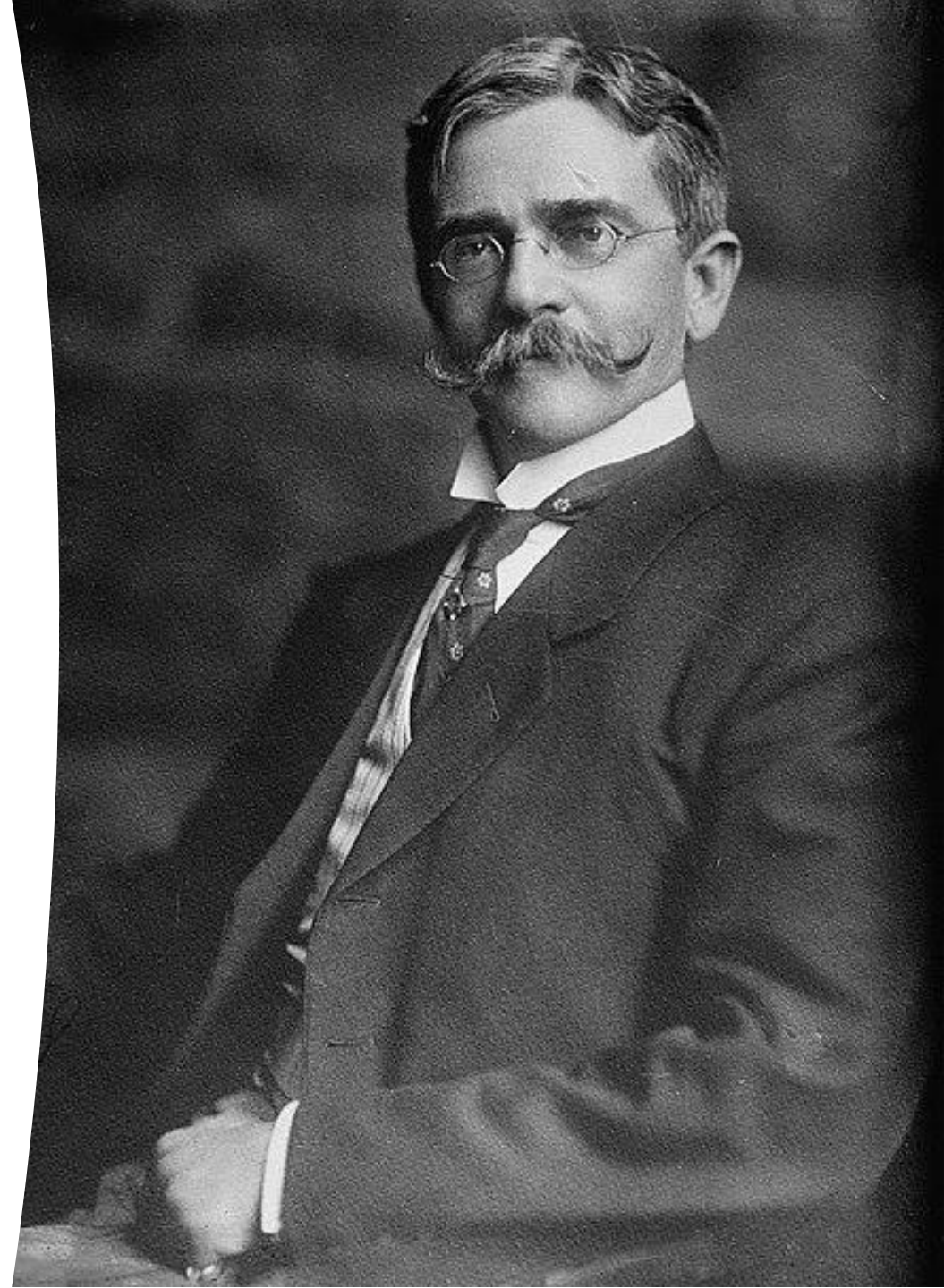
# Dr. William C. Gorgas

- ▶ Used basic public health measures:
  - ▶ elimination of standing water
  - ▶ control of mosquito population
- ▶ Became preeminent figure in public health and tropical medicine
- ▶ Surgeon General of US during WWI



# Gorgas Memorial Institute (GMI)

- ▶ Est. 1921 as a memorial to Dr. Gorgas
- ▶ Proposed by Belisario Porras, President of Panama
- ▶ Sought to study and control diseases of the tropical Americas
- ▶ Originally headquartered in Washington, DC



# Gorgas Memorial Laboratory (GML)

- Est. 1928 in Panama
- Acted as research arm of GMI
- Panama provided the land and building for laboratory research
- US provided annual funding for research
- GMI and GML maintained as such until 1989



# UAB and GMI

- ▶ Dr. Gorgas had family ties to University of Alabama
- ▶ Ties between UAB and GMI naturally developed
- ▶ Jan 1985 - Affiliation agreement signed by UAB president Dr. Charles McCallum, Jr. and GMI president Dr. Leon Jacobs
- ▶ Common interests:
  - ▶ Advancing scientific knowledge of tropical medicine
  - ▶ Provide collaborative training opportunities for scientists and physicians



# UAB and GMI

Jan 1985

- Affiliation agreement between UAB and GMI

Mar 1991

- GMI relinquishes DC offices, felt soon to dissolve  
- UAB offers to move offices to Birmingham, continue operations and the Gorgas name

Present Day

Current programs and initiatives

1985

1990

1991

1992

2012

Present

Sept 1990

- GML closed due to decreasing funding

July 1992

- Corporate bylaws rewritten to formalize GMI move to Birmingham

Mar 2012

- Agreement for collaboration re-established between UAB and ICGES –Dr Freedman (present-day successor of GML in Panama)





## Education in Clinical Tropical Medicine

Activities in:

- Peru
- Panama
- Dominican Republic
- Zambia



## Research and Clinical Scholarships

Five scholarships, offered to:

- Undergraduates
- Medical students
- Residents
- Fellows
- Junior faculties

Taking Clinicians abroad to learn  
parasitology and tropical medicine

# Introduction

- The Gorgas Course in Clinical Tropical Medicine  
DTMH
- Founded in 1996. ASTMH accredited
- Collaboration between Gorgas Memorial Institute  
– University of Alabama at Birmingham and  
Institute of Tropical Medicine Alexander von  
Humboldt, Lima Peru
- Dr. Eduardo Gotuzzo vision to teach trop med in a  
South to North collaboration

# Introduction - Objectives

- To train health care providers in Tropical Medicine in a ***multicultural educational program*** with ***international experts on the field***.
- To expose participants to a broad spectrum of tropical diseases and provide clinical knowledge and skills to recognize, diagnose, treat, and prevent them with a ***special emphasis on practicing in resource-limited settings***.
- To create a ***network of experts*** aiming to improve healthcare services for underserved populations around the globe.