

# UAB Sparkman Center for Global Health

## Annual Report 2016

*The vision of the Sparkman Center for Global Health is alleviation of health problems in less developed countries by increasing public health capacity. This vision reflects the global nature of population-level health issues, the impact of health on human development, and the need for collaboration in resolving major health issues of our time.*

*The mission of the Sparkman Center is to contribute to solutions of health problems in developing countries through undergraduate and graduate-level public health education, research, and training programs.*

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## **OVERVIEW**

The evolving reality for global health and global health programs at US academic institutions in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is that many/most potential partner countries, even those countries with very limited resources, have established public health training programs in various forms using multiple models including taking advantage of online offerings. Health care delivery systems have similarly evolved and advanced and few if any have developed unsustainable systems as we have in the US. With this, the more productive and respectful model of interactions and collaborations with both international academic institutions and ministries of health has become one of establishing priorities for training, research and service through dialogue and clearer understanding of local needs and systems. Once these priorities and needs are identified, a goal for a Center such as the Sparkman Center for Global Health (SCGH) is identifying synergies or facilitating collaborations outside of an individual's expertise and identifying key collaborators both internationally as well as within UAB or other partners with similar interests. The benefit of multidisciplinary approaches has also become paramount in effective public health and health care delivery work both domestically and internationally. With this background, the activities of the SCGH have evolved to optimize impact with targeted countries and programs.

This Annual Report for 2016 describes our ongoing activities and is built on the base built as described in the 2008-2014 summaries and 2015 Annual Report. The report is organized to be thematically similar to our prior reports.

We appreciate your feedback and questions. Do not hesitate to contact us at [sparkmancenter@uab.edu](mailto:sparkmancenter@uab.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "C. Wilson".

Craig Wilson, MD  
Professor & Director Sparkman Center for Global Health

## SCGH ANNUAL REPORT 2016

### SCGH UAB INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

- **HEALTH CARE WORKER TRAINING CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES**

These efforts are usually initially supported with SCGH funds and once established have been supported with NIH, CDC or USAID funding but now also include support from local Ministries, particularly for the African initiatives. Overall SCGH development strategies have been directed toward a small number of countries with initial connections or ongoing SCGH or other UAB programs. Evolution of programs has been driven by leadership and faculty interest on both sides and expansion has been driven predominantly by opportunistic availability of funding. Longer-term strategy is for evolution into joint programs or research collaborations and working with UAB leadership to identify a small number of long-term strategic partners for further work. Investment going forward would follow these same funding models.

**The Sparkman Center for Global Health developed relationships and several contracts with collaborators in the following countries:**

- **ZAMBIA ([HTTP://WWW.SPARKMANCENTER.ORG/ZAMBIA](http://www.sparkmancenter.org/zambia))**
  - University of Zambia
    - School of Medicine: completed the MEPI program in 2016 and meet with leadership to prioritize next stages of collaborative work; MEPI II application was not funded.
    - New School of Public Health: this will be established for opening in the next academic year (January, 2017); needs are not defined as yet but ongoing discussions with present leadership will establish priorities.
    - New School of Nursing: this will be established for opening in the next academic year (January, 2017); assistance with e-learning tools and platforms and possible faculty assistance are being discussed.
  - Chainama College of Health Sciences
    - Have been supporting staff development in Public Health, Basic Sciences and Leadership for transition of school to full University affiliate
    - Continue commitments which run through the end of 2017
    - Invested in e-learning platform for new campus at Kabwe.
  - CIDRZ
    - Re-established connections and discussed synergies and collaborations with leadership and new UAB Faculty (Sikazwe, Reid, Vinikoor, Bolton)
    - Discussing support for CIDRZ internship programs
    - Anna Helova has joined the SCGH staff and is working with Dr. Vinikoor on his projects in Zambia

- **Ethiopia (<http://www.sparkmancenter.org/ethiopia>)**
  - Addis Ababa University
    - MEPI program ended in 2016.
    - School of Medicine: Successfully competed for NIH Fogarty International Center continuation program (MEPI II) which is focused on junior faculty development of research skills; discussing subcontract for any activities
- **Jamaica (<http://www.uab.edu/sparkmancenter/jamaica>)**
  - Jamaica AIDS Support for Life, UNICEF, CVC, Eve for Life
    - Documentation of outcome data for HIV programs with NGO partners by supporting SPH interns
    - Analyzed existing data to assist local agencies put forth their work into the academic literature
    - Sparkman funded Motivational Interviewing training in Kingston, Jamaica which began in 2015 and completed in 2016. (<http://www.uab.edu/sparkmancenter/news/184-motivational-interviewing-training-in-kingston-jamaica>)
    - Ongoing internship placement sites.
- **Dominican Republic (<http://www.uab.edu/sparkmancenter/dominican-republic>)**
  - Centro de Orientación e Investigación Integral (COIN)
    - Assisting COIN in healthcare worker trainings for care and support of MSM and transgender populations.
  - Coalition for Vulnerable Communities, (CVC)
    - Funded Elaine McGlaughlin at CVC to support the CVC/UAB collaboration.
  - UNIBE School of Medicine
    - Newly initiated an MOU between UAB and UNIBE.
    - Secondary data analyses of countrywide transgender health outcomes and needs data.
- **Eastern Caribbean**
  - Coalition for Vulnerable Communities, (CVC)
    - Recent request for assisting with prevalence estimates in vulnerable populations in OECS countries supported by Global Fund funding – Drs. Budhwani, Turan, and Hearld.
    - OECS activities also now involve estimates of TB impact in prisons; connected leadership with Dr. German Henostroza
- **Belize**
  - Coalition for Vulnerable Communities, (CVC)

- UNDP application under review which would replicate the OECS population size estimates in Belize.
- **Trinidad and Tobago**
  - University of West Indies (UWI)
    - Responded to speaker request for medical association conference. Keynote delivered by Sir Michael Marmot, Chair of the World Medical Association.
    - Discussions on the development of a Fogarty D43 application.
    - Interest in expanding their public health educational programs.
- **India**
  - Avni Health Foundation
    - The SCGH continues to support Avni's efforts to reduce maternal mortality through the implementation and assessment of emergency obstetric care (EmOC).
    - In addition to collaboratively publishing on sepsis, a current student project is underway which examines geographic differences in a set of maternal outcomes.
- **Cameroon**
  - Dr. Alan Tita (SOM Ob/Gyn) and Dr. Jodie Dionne-Odom have longstanding connections with training institutions focused on maternal and child health outcomes, HIV care and malaria. Dr. Odom was the recipient of a K award for her work on malaria in 2016.
  - FIC training grant application submitted July 2016 with SCGH as partner was unsuccessful but will be resubmitted in 2017.
  - Visit in September 2016 with UAB SOM and SON leadership identified potential programs of mutual interest for development
  - Plans are being discussed for placing interns to assist with ongoing programs
- **Other Potential Collaborative Engagements**
  - South Africa: connections through UAB SOM to Kwazulu Natal Research Institute for Tuberculosis and HIV (KRITH) and the newly established medical school in Limpopo province, Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU). Working with SOM leadership to establish priorities and interests.
  - Haiti: Connections through CVC and COIN could lead to Implementation Science studies in Haiti working with the civil society sector.

**Other International Collaboration - <http://www.uab.edu/sparkmancenter/international-partners>**

- The SCGH continues to support Dr. Nalini Sathiakumar and her efforts in **Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan** in follow through of her ITREOH work predominantly in the environmental health area.
- **E-Learning Tool Development and Dissemination** -

<http://www.uab.edu/sparkmancenter/elearning-tool-development>

Interest in this area was driven by lack of textbook and library resources in most resource limited areas. Lack of internet access especially in rural areas directed our interest in development of the eGranary resource as a primary tool. Also most health care worker training programs have nationally approved curriculum and thus could be organized and common resources identified. This development was initially supported by SCGH funds and is now sustained with investments from development grants and profits from undergraduate level training programs.

- **eGranary Tool Development (SeP: Sparkman eGranary Project)-**  
<http://www.uab.edu/sparkmancenter/elearning-tool-development/egranary>
  - continuing to add content in areas of interest
  - established an agreement with eG developer to reorganize content onto a different platform
  - Zambian programmers working out Hackers Guild (<http://hackersguild.org>) have completed reprogramming of a new versatile template for adding local content <http://www.uab.edu/sparkmancenter/elearning-tool-development/elearning>
  
- **SeP Zambia**
  - Supporting an eG Associate to provide technical support and coordinate assessment of programs with all Ministries and Peace Corps; Associate can also independently sell and provide services to other interested parties (usually private schools)
  - Developed a model for delivery of Secondary School content that will be used to demonstrate the utility of model to the Ministry of Education in early 2017
  - Trained one associate on Moodle and now fully certified for local trainings
  
- **SeP Ethiopia**
  - Supporting a team for Ministry of Health and Education projects (<http://suped.org>); they have been trained by Zambian SeP team for local development of resources
  - Signed formal MOU with Ministry of Education in March 2016 who then turned over all Secondary School curriculum and locally developed materials. Grades 9-12 fully loaded.
  - SCGH agreed to support pilot project which should open in early 2017
  
- **SeP Zambia collaboration with Vanderbilt University**
  - Dr. Bantayehu Sileshi at VU has GE Foundation funding for establishment and dissemination of a Nurse Anesthetists training program in 5 East African countries. SeP Zambia personnel are completing organization of content and resources for this project and assessment of training sites in Kenya. Full curriculum and systems will be functional by September 1, 2016. Longer term plan is for dissemination to 4 more countries.

- **Virtual Microscopy Tool Development**
  - Early discussions with UAB Department of Computer Sciences for refining tool for standalone delivery and access with mobile devices
  - Have already added resources for veterinary sciences in collaboration with University of Zambia and Auburn University and are working to identify resources for plant pathology and geology.
  
- **Wilcox County - Bama Kids**
  - This initiative was led by Amy Badham with SCGH support and is consistent with a “Glocal”, (think global, act local) perspective adopted by the Center. Using community-based participatory research best practices SCGH has invested in the development and execution of health education curriculum for BAMA Kids, a non-profit afterschool program in Wilcox County, AL, focused on health issues of rural young men and women of color. Through the inclusion of undergraduate and graduate public health students, this work is serving dual purposes in that it is identifying and meeting the needs of one of the most vulnerable communities in Alabama while offering our public health students experiential learning opportunities in the field.

### **SCGH UAB EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

These programs and activities have predominantly been developed to be collectively self-sustaining with the activities enhancing the educational programs. Most faculty and staff who did not have appointments in the SOPH now have appointments in the Department of Health Care Organization and Policy (HCOP) and there are formal agreements for tuition reimbursement to the SCGH.

### **Graduate Certificate in Global Health (<http://www.uab.edu/sparkmancenter/graduate-certificate>)**

This program is self-sustaining at this point and we will continue to market it to any student enrolled in a graduate program at UAB, graduate level students outside of UAB enrolling either as non-degree seeking students or as professionals. Course offerings and instructors will be driven predominantly by the interest of students and availability of qualified instructors. Funds are used for instructor and staff support and extra funds are then available for SCGH programs.

### **Undergraduate Concentration in Global Health Studies (<http://www.uab.edu/sparkmancenter/undergraduate-concentration>)**

The SCGH will remain involved in the development and delivery of courses in this tract and SCGH is part of the Undergraduate Program Oversight Committee. Tuition revenue supports faculty participation. This will remain to be a major activity of the SCGH moving forward.

### **Other education activities**

- Undergraduate Global Health Service Learning Course - This course along with a

graduate level course were developed through an initiative supported by the Health Services Foundation. SCGH is responsible for identifying the local partners and identifying UAB faculty leaders for the groups. The tuition revenue comes back to the Center for this course and is predominantly used to support instructors, faculty leaders and support activities of the course.

- Graduate/Undergraduate Field Courses – (<http://www.uab.edu/sparkmancenter/field-courses>) The two courses offered through the SCGH are offered to both graduate students as part of the GH Certificate Program and to undergraduate students. The tuition revenue comes back to the SCGH and both programs. The Jamaica Public Health Field Course has not been offered the past two years. We are exploring options for alternative site delivery and content areas. The SIFAT Experience(s) remain very popular and we now offer a two-week May program and a one-week August program. These are break-even courses for the SCGH. These remain key offerings by the SCGH and are popular among the students.

### **Other Programs and Opportunities at UAB with SCGH Involvement or Leadership**

The ongoing campus wide programs initiated through SCGH faculty and staff and are supported with supplemental funding from the School of Public Health (\$15,000/yr.) through 2017 and Provost's Office (\$30,000/yr.) through 2016. Except for the Global Citizenship initiative, these programs will be supported with educational funds going forward.

### **SCGH UAB STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

#### **Global Health Case Competition**

The Global Health Case Competition (<http://www.uab.edu/sparkmancenter/2016-case-competition>) completed its 7<sup>th</sup> year at UAB with 67 participants. The 2016 Global Health Case was Child and Adolescent Sex Trafficking in Thailand - [http://www.uab.edu/sparkmancenter/images/2016\\_GHCC\\_Case\\_Final\\_Draft.pdf](http://www.uab.edu/sparkmancenter/images/2016_GHCC_Case_Final_Draft.pdf)  
2016 Team Presentations - <http://www.uab.edu/sparkmancenter/team-presentations>

#### **Peace Corps Master's International and Coverdell Fellowship Programs**

SCGH supported the Master's International (MI) and Coverdell Fellowship programs in the SPH and facilitates these same programs in Nursing, Education and Public Administration. SPH placements in 2016 for the MI program were Suzanne Newton (Peru 2016), and Beatrice Kelsey-Watts (Zambia 2016). SCGH also regularly sponsors Peace Corps recruitment activities at UAB and the greater Birmingham area. Late in 2016 we were informed that the Peace Corps would no longer support the MI program. We enrolled one student in 2016 and will support her through the end of her MPH training.

#### **Sparkman Fellows (<http://www.uab.edu/sparkmancenter/sparkman-fellows>)**

The Sparkman Fellows Program is intended for highly motivated and engaged students seeking to enhance their understanding of global issues in a stimulating learning environment. Fellows



will have the opportunity to engage with UAB faculty in a collaborative environment outside of the classroom as well as be mentored by faculty in the Sparkman Scholars program. In 2016, fourteen fellows were selected ranging from undergraduates to doctoral and medical students.

### **Student Groups – (<http://www.uab.edu/sparkmancenter/student-groups>)**

The UAB Sparkman Center for Global Health supports the following student organizations:

- Global Health Interest Group (GHIG): a student organization at UAB that aims to raise awareness about global health issues and inspire students to take action. Membership is open to graduate and undergraduate students at UAB.
- Universities Fighting World Hunger aims to end hunger, poverty, and social injustices locally and globally through outreach events, fundraisers and informational sessions
- School of Medicine Global Health Interest Group (SOM GHIG) is a group of medical students committed to spreading information and awareness about the global/ health community. With the opening of a Assoc. Dean for Global Health office in SOM, these activities will now be supported through that office.

### **Scholarships**

- The SCGH continued to support the *Moses Sinkala Zambia Scholarship* (<http://www.uab.edu/sparkmancenter/moses-sinkala-endowed-scholarship>) which provides financial assistance to students UNZA who demonstrate an interest in serving the public health needs of Zambia as was a priority of Dr. Moses Sinkala. The 2016 recipients were Kamvuma M. Kingsley with research proposal focusing on biomarkers of early infection in cancer patients and Mwango Mutale with research focusing on SmartCare utilization in Western Province. Each received a \$2,500 award.
- The SCGH also selects recipients of the *Moses Sinkala Travel Scholarship* <http://www.uab.edu/sparkmancenter/travel-scholarship> which is designed to assist UAB students complete an international internship or research opportunity. During 2016 five awards of \$1,000 each were made (\$5,000).
- Jared Sluss
- Jordan Hamilton
- Leonardo Carrubba
- Marissa Swanson
- Reshmi Mukerji

### **SCGH UAB CAMPUSWIDE ACTIVITIES – (<http://www.uab.edu/sparkmancenter/global-citizenship-on-campus>)**

#### **UAB Global Citizenship**

The UAB Campus Wide “Global Citizenship” Initiatives were established and Co-Chaired by Dr. Suzanne Austin, Vice Provost and Dr. Craig M. Wilson, Director of the Sparkman Center for Global Health. This group meets quarterly to pull together representation from all schools on campus and functional units supporting international endeavors.

#### **Sparkman Scholars**

Sparkman Scholars are part of a recognized network of UAB faculty working in the areas of

global health and development. This network aims to facilitate developing new collaborations with colleagues across campus, as well as making linkages with students interested in global health and development. Sparkman Scholars will have the opportunity to serve as mentors to Sparkman Fellows.

### **Sparkman Center Seminars**

The Sparkman Seminar Series was initiated in 2001 to provide a forum for UAB faculty, staff, and students to present/discuss their global health research, training, educational, and/or service efforts. The seminar series highlights the existing global health expertise and interest at UAB, but also includes invited speakers from outside the UAB community. During 2016, seven seminars were held. Topics were:

- TEDx –PlaceDesNations
- Human Trafficking: A Global Health Problem, Tajuan McCarty, Founder of The Wellhouse
- “Innovative Approaches and Opportunities for Disease Prevention and Health Care Delivery in Cameroon”, Drs. Tom and Edie Welty, Associate Director, AIDS Care and Prevention, Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services
- Presentation and discussion about Surveillance, Transparency and Democracy: Public Administration in the Information Age by Dr. Akhlaque Haque, Professor of Public Administration and Director in the Department of Government, Fulbright Scholar, Board of Alabama Fulbright Association.
- “Zika Virus Challenge 2016: overview and update”. Dr. Craig Wilson, Professor, Department of Epidemiology, University of Alabama at Birmingham
- “The role of health behaviors in infectious disease: perspectives from the field”, Dr. Joanna Gaines, Behavioral Epidemiology, Center for Disease Control and Prevention
- Results from a sample survey conducted in 2015 of Muslim women residing in the United states: from internalized stigma due to discrimination to utilization of contraceptives, Dr. Henna Budhwani, Associate Professor, Health Care Organization and Policy, University of Alabama at Birmingham
- Movie screening - First Lady of the Revolution
- Movie screening - King of Hearts