As the Director of the Sparkman Center for Global Health, my top priority is to advance the Sparkman vision of making substantive and sustainable contributions to the achievement of health equity and social justice in resource-limited settings around the globe. I aim to promote meaningful and lasting engagement of the UAB community in the support of global health and development. I believe we can make an impact by working collaboratively with and learning from people around the globe, and utilizing the knowledge, skills, and creativity of our faculty, students, and staff. We promote the use of innovative and rigorous research and evaluation methodologies to assure we are selecting and implementing the strategies that will have the greatest impact on major global health challenges. I am thrilled about having the opportunity to connect diverse people and resources for global health at UAB. I see a great deal of passion and enthusiasm around global health and I am excited about what this means for the future.

This Annual Report describes our activities during 2020, most of which were heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. I am proud of what we were able to accomplish despite the challenges in 2020, embracing virtual ways of connecting locally and globally. We were also able to embark on a strategic planning process in 2020, which resulted in the updated vision, mission, shared values, mission pillars, and foundations that you see reflected in this report.

We appreciate your feedback and questions. Do not hesitate to contact us at sparkmancenter@uab.edu
Our vision:
To make substantive and sustainable contributions to the achievement of health equity and social justice in resource-limited settings around the globe by working collaboratively to increase public health knowledge and capacity.

Our mission:
We develop sustainable approaches to advance global health equity and social justice through support for cutting-edge interdisciplinary education, research, global health practice, and community engagement in collaboration with international and domestic partners.
Despite many challenges, travel bans, and financial obstacles, the Sparkman Center was able to carry out most of our planned activities for 2020, including educational, research, community, and global health practice projects, even if it involved many adjustments and a virtual format. I am proud of our Sparkman family - UAB faculty, staff, and students, as well our local and global partners, for exhibiting resilience and ability to adapt.

As the new Deputy Director, I am most excited about my role in the implementation of our newly developed Strategic Plan, specifically, its mission: "To develop sustainable approaches to advance global health equity and social justice through support for cutting-edge interdisciplinary education, research, global health practice, and community engagement in collaboration with international and domestic partners."

I am looking forward to guiding the development of platforms for collaboration and knowledge exchange, tips on the most effective and best global health research practices for both UAB scholars and students across campus, as well as the Sparkman Center's partners, to support the development of Global Health research. I also plan to incorporate activities that will lead to the diversification of the Sparkman Center's resources and partnerships to create more opportunities for UAB faculty, students, and staff, as well as domestic and international partners in education, research, and global health practice.

I hope you enjoy reading the 2020 Annual Report and the stories of resilience amid the COVID-19 pandemic. We value your support and partnership as we build upon the 41-year legacy of the Sparkman Center.
SPARKMAN CENTER TEAM

KATIE ADAMS
Program Manager

HENNA BUDHWANI
Director of Caribbean Programs

MEREDITH GARTIN
Program Director of Global Health Studies

LEAHGRACE SIMONS
Graduate Student Assistant

ALLISON SPENSLEY
Graduate Research Assistant

SAMANTHA WHITFIELD
Events and Promotion Coordination

SPARKMAN CENTER EXTERNAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

GAIL REED, MS - Co-founder, Medical Education Cooperation with Cuba (MEDICC)

MUKTAR ALIYU, MD, DrPH, MPH - Associate Professor, Associate Director of Research, Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health

STEN VERMUND, MD, PhD - Professor of Pediatrics, Lauder Professor of Public Health, Dean of the Yale School of Public Health

DAVID O. FREEDMAN, MD - Professor Emeritus of Infectious Diseases, UAB

ADNAN A. HYDER, MD, PhD, MPH - Professor of Global Health, Senior Associate Dean for Research, George Washington University

RICARDO IZURIETA, MD, DrPH, MPH, DTM&H - Associate Professor of Public Health, University of South Florida
Throughout 2020, we put great effort into upholding local and international partnerships while continuing to offer both support and knowledge exchange whenever possible. In this spirit, we developed a Sparkman Center Strategic Plan, including the re-shaping of the vision and mission, values, foundations, and pillars that guide the work we do.

**Collaborative Organizational Culture:**
Fostering respect, openness, and teamwork in an organizational culture that thrives on inclusive and equitable participation, and supports education, research, community engagement, and global health practice.

**Fiscal Responsibility and Resource Development:**
Practicing fiscal soundness and appropriate use of resources, as well as fostering organizational development, to ensure a diverse and sustainable resource portfolio.

**Interdisciplinarity:**
Involving and fostering partnerships across all disciplines at UAB and beyond.

**Mission Pillars:**
- **Education:** Graduate and undergraduate global health educational programs and opportunities for UAB students, faculty, and community.
- **Research:** Support for research and scholarship conducted by UAB faculty, staff, and students in collaboration with global partners.
- **Global health practice & community engagement:** Training, empowerment, knowledge dissemination, capacity building, and workforce development in global partner countries and the UAB community.

**Foundations:**
- **Collaborative Organizational Culture:**
- **Fiscal Responsibility and Resource Development:**
- **Interdisciplinarity:**
STRATEGIC PLANNING

OUR SHARED VALUES

**Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion:** Celebrating diversity of societies, cultures, and individuals across the globe while promoting social justice and human rights.

**Ethical Behavior and Integrity:** Adhering to the highest ethical standards of integrity and transparency in our work with partners and communities to eliminate global health inequities.

**Collegiality and Collaboration:** Practicing respect and accountability in the workplace and modeling professional and equitable global partnerships.

**Academic Excellence and Freedom:** Pursuing evidence-based scholarship in all endeavors through free exploration in research, education, community engagement, and global health practice.

**Global Citizenship:** Contributing to efforts to enhance the ways that UAB and the broader community think and act as global citizens.

**Sustainability and Environmental Protection:** Promoting sustainable economic development and solutions that contribute to environmental justice and reduce negative impact on the global environment.

UAB GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

SCGH is a major partner in UAB campus-wide global initiatives. Initially with Dr. Suzanne Austin, former UAB Senior Vice-Provost and Senior International Officer, and subsequently with Dr. Majd Zayzafoon, UAB Assistant Provost, International Education, Dr. Janet M. Turan, Director of the Sparkman Center for Global Health, co-led the development of a comprehensive UAB Global Strategic Plan.

This plan was collaboratively developed over a period of months by a committee with representation from all schools and units on campus, and includes pillars of 1) education 2) research, scholarship, and creative activity and 3) community engagement. The strategic planning process was also supported by Dr. Anna Helova and Ms. Allison Spensley of SCGH. The UAB Global Strategic Plan was completed in 2020, to be presented to leadership bodies at UAB in 2021.
In 2020, SCGH quickly adapted to the ‘COVID-19 reality’ in areas of education, research, and global health practice.

Online Courses
Under the leadership of Dr. Meredith Gartin, SCGH underwent new course development and adaptation to the remote delivery format, e.g., a new course, Global Health Technology & Innovation, was developed and offered in place of the in-person Southern Institute for Appropriate Technology (SIFAT).

Virtual Activities
Following the suspension of all UAB-supported travel due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Sparkman Center shifted to virtual programming in March 2020. This included the development and offering of remote internships, the transition from in-person presentations to webinars, virtual scholar and fellow collaborations, and the sponsorship of attendance at online conferences. The Sparkman-supported student organization, Global Health Interest Group (GHIG), organized virtual group meetings, trivia nights, and panels to continue engaging students in global health.

COVID-19 Resource Sharing
In late March, SCGH hosted a round table discussion and information sharing opportunity for UAB global health researchers and partners on UAB’s international activities and adjustments due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Additionally, we compiled, maintained, and shared resources related to the COVID-19 Pandemic with the Sparkman Center community, including international reports, international and regional dashboards, training and webinars, stigma, ethics, epidemiology, vaccines, and mental health.

Keeping Connected and Active
Throughout 2020, SCGH continued to maintain close relationship and contact with its domestic and international partners, and continued to build new partnerships. Sparkman Center scholars, staff, and fellows have been involved in countless ways in the fight against the COVID-19 Pandemic domestically and globally since day 1. On the next page are just a few of many examples of the involvement of the Sparkman Center community in the fight against COVID-19.
Dr. Magdalena Szaflarski has been studying COVID-19 experiences in the US and Poland: perceived threats, views on government responses, and perception of healthcare workers.

Drs. Anna Helova and Zdenek Hel advised the Czech government and educated the public in their home countries, Czech Republic and Slovakia, by publishing articles in magazines, and participating in interviews with Czech TV and radio stations.

Dr. Sadeep Shrestha advised on the fight against the COVID-19 Pandemic in Nepal through panels and talks.

Dr. Janet Turan and the Jamii Bora team in Kenya prepared supplemental data collection regarding how the pandemic affected HIV testing and counseling, and the HIV research team.

Drs. Alan Tita, Waldemar Carlo, and Elwyn Chomba collaborated with the University of Zambia Teaching Hospital on a serologic study of COVID-19 in pregnant women to determine prior infection, as well as a clinical trial of intrapartum azithromycin and signs and symptoms of COVID-19 in women and their newborn infants.

Dr. Albert Manasyan was asked by Armenia's Ministry of Health to join their COVID-19 task force and assist with development and revision of guidelines around testing, treatment, monitoring and contact tracing.

Dr. Akhlaque Haque, joined the Bangladesh TV program Tritio Matra to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on democracy, governance, & technology.

Dr. David Schwebel published in the journal Burns on COVID-19 and self-immolation suicide risk in Iran.

Dr. Paul Erwin and student Mary Anne Powell compared approaches to the COVID-19 pandemic in Cuba and the United States.
INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

International Partners
Southeast Asia Region
Eastern Mediterranean Region
Western Pacific Region
European Region
Region of the Americas
Sub-Saharan Africa Region
Stigma and Health among Syrian Refugees in Turkey

Funded by a Sparkman Pilot Grant, this collaboration between researchers at Koç University in Turkey and UAB aims 1) to develop multi-item scales to assess different dimensions of stigma related to living as a refugee in Turkey and 2) to examine the associations that different dimensions of stigma related to living as a refugee show with mental health and health service use.

This project will contribute to solutions of health problems of Syrians and other developing country citizens who are forced to migrate as refugees to other countries due to dire security and economic situations in their home countries.
Uganda - Sunrise Centre

Founded in 2004, the Sunrise Centre vision began with a preschool, and over time evolved, as family and friends joined together to build a primary school. As the years passed the need for affordable health care services in the community became apparent. Mothers were dying while giving birth, children were suffering from preventable diseases, and many families were affected by HIV and AIDS. Grace Family Health Centre was built in 2010, with a goal of reducing maternal, infant, and child mortality rates.

Our collaboration with Sunrise Centre is evolving. In 2020, we completed a memorandum of understanding and connected two students who completed remote summer internships. We look forward to this continued collaboration.
The Sparkman Center continues to support the Zambian Moses Sinkala Scholarship established in honor of the late Dr. Moses Sinkala, which provides financial assistance to postgraduate students from University of Zambia Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Public Health, & Health Sciences, who demonstrate an interest in serving the public health needs of Zambia.

Dr. Sinkala was a graduate of the UAB School of Public Health and a leader in policy and research for implementation of healthcare delivery in his beloved country of Zambia. To pay tribute to the research and service programs between UAB and Zambia to which Dr. Sinkala was deeply committed, the fund resides at and is administered by UAB under the direction of an external selection committee.

2020 Recipients

**OLIVER MWESO**
Prevalence of Deep Vein Thrombosis among Adult Patients Admitted with Swollen Lower Limb at the University Teaching Hospital, Lusaka, Zambia

**NKOMBA CHIMILEKE**
Diagnostic Accuracy of Urine Cytology for Bladder Cancer Detection at the University Teaching Hospital, Lusaka, Zambia

CIDRZ HealthCorps Fellowship

The Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ) HealthCorps Fellowship provides an opportunity for early and mid-career public health professionals to receive one year of health practice training helping them identify their research and career interests.

CIDRZ Fellows gain hands-on experience in program and data management, analysis, and development in the areas of professional presentations and manuscripts. The fellowship period is also dedicated to help fellows nurture their career development ideas, with special attention given to PhD training.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, SCGH was unable to sponsor our customary 1 - 2 CIDRZ fellows in the 2020 funding year, but hopes to resume this opportunity in the future.
INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS
Region of the Americas

Belize
- Belize Family Planning Association
- United Belize Advocacy Movement

Barbados
- University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus

Caribbean Region
- Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition (CVC) - Belize, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica
- Organization of Eastern Caribbean State

Cuba
- Escuela Latinoamericana de Medicina (ELAM)

Dominican Republic
- El Centro de Orientación y Investigación Integral
- Universidad Iberoamericana

Jamaica
- Eve for Life
- Jamaica AIDS Support for Life
- UNICEF Jamaica
- University of West Indies, Mona Campus
- Western Region Health Authority

Pan American Health Organization
- PAHO/WHO Collaborating Center for International Nursing

Peru
- Gorgas Institute for Tropical Medicine
- Communities of Miraflores, Lince and Los Olivos

St. Lucia
- United and Strong; Ministry of Health in St. Lucia

Trinidad and Tobago
- University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus

United States of America
- Alabama Interfaith Refugee Partnership (ALIRP)
- Behavior Change Consulting
- Medical Education Cooperation with Cuba (MEDICC)
- Peace Corps
- Southern Institute for Appropriate Technology (SIFAT)
Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition (CVC) is a coalition of community leaders and non-governmental agencies that are advocates and service providers, working with and on behalf of Caribbean populations who are especially vulnerable to HIV infection or often forgotten in access to treatment and healthcare programs.

These groups include men who have sex with men, persons of trans experience, sex workers, people who use drugs, orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV, migrant populations, persons in prison and ex-prisoners, and youth in especially difficult circumstances. These groups are subjected to high levels of stigma and discrimination.

CVC is working to remove barriers of stigma and discrimination and to reduce the prevalence of HIV among the key populations. We take action to ensure increased access to services, to promote a human rights framework for policy and programs at national and regional levels, and to build the capacity of the most vulnerable populations for effective self-advocacy.

In summer 2020, we virtually placed two interns at CVC in Kingston, Jamaica. The principal goal for this specific internship/practicum is to expose interns to the realities of conducting public health practice and studies in resource-constrained settings with highly-stigmatized populations.
The Alabama Interfaith Refugee Partnership (ALIRP) supports refugees and asylum seekers through advocacy, education, and direct support. ALIRP services refugees as well as others seeking legal humanitarian immigration status such as: asylum petitioners, unaccompanied minors, temporary protected status (TPS) applicants, or other special immigrant status. ALIRP partners with other organizations serving immigrants and provides education and information to policy makers to advocate for just policies for asylum seekers and refugees in Birmingham and beyond. ALIRP has a unique competitive advantage providing direct support through individual care teams and long-term sponsorship for asylum-seeking and refugee families. The kind of care provided ranges from the basic needs, like food, water, and shelter, to more specialized needs, including legal fees, language support, and medical care.

In summer of 2020, Dr. Gartin began volunteering with ALIRP, and by the fall semester, was elected as a board member and began chairing the Advocacy Committee. She has also served ALIRP by providing cultural competency trainings to their volunteers and partner organizations. Dr. Gartin spoke at a series of education programs co-sponsored by the SCGH and UAB Human Rights Institute and has served as the faculty and community advisor with a number of public health student interns working with ALIRP.

One intern, Maria Docal, was enrolled in the MPH program and the Global Health Certificate. Throughout the summer, Maria coordinated a number of education programs and developed both training and orientation materials for ALIRP volunteers. All programs that Maria coordinated have been archived, and are used to train new volunteers and interns. Upon graduation, Maria was hired as a medical training coordinator for the African Peacekeeping Rapid Response Partnership (APRRP), a US Department of State managed program.

We look forward to more collaborations and opportunities for students and faculty in the upcoming years.

"I was so fortunate to work with experts in Global Health during my time at ALIRP. I was able to gain hands-on experience in the global health field. I learned so much from those at ALIRP, and it was inspiring to see the dedication and passion the ALIRP volunteers have in their work. Now, in my current position, I apply many of the skills and experiences I gained as an intern."  
- Maria Docal, RN, MPH, Global Health
UAB SPARKMAN CENTER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH

UAB CAMPUS-WIDE ACTIVITIES

Educational Programs
- Global Health Studies Certificate
- Global Health Internships

Consortium of Universities of Global Health (CUGH)

Coverdell Fellowship

Global Health Case Competitions

Sparkman Fellows

Sparkman Scholars

Research Pilot Projects

Sparkman Seminars
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Global Health Studies (GHS) Certificate Courses

In 2020, we conducted an audit of all of the certificate programs offered in US institutions and administered a survey with current and former GHS students to identify gaps in the curriculum. As a result of this research, all GHS courses were revised, and two new courses were added to the program: GHS 601: Global Health Partnerships and Development (to be offered in 2021) and GHS 603: Immigrant Migrant Refugee Health.

In 2020,

31 new students admitted
6 students completed GHS Certificate
37 current and actively enrolled students

Andrew Vines | MEng, Sustainable Smart Cities

"I am most interested in how global and public health align with creating resilient, sustainable communities. The global approach of this program really drives home the inequities in healthcare around the world, and also highlights the amazing (successful) strategies used by various governments, NGOs, and community leaders to tackle these issues."

DeAndrea Brown-Tuyishme | MAEd, Community Health

"Enrolling in Critical Issues in Global Maternal and Child Health was the catalyst for establishing the trajectory of my entire career path...I went on to become a trained Birth Doula in 2016, serve as an international volunteer with Eve for Life, and serve as a Maternal and Child Health Peace Corps Volunteer in Rwanda."

Haley Greene | MPH, Epidemiology

"I started the MPH program with a passion for infectious diseases of global health significance...the MPH program, in conjunction with the GHS certificate, opened my eyes to similar issues that I can pursue both domestically and internationally"
Enrollment in our Fundamentals of Global Health course (GHS 600) doubled with an increased interest in global health across campus. In 2020, we saw more non-GHS certificate students taking courses than we have seen in the past. Many of those students choose to enroll in the certificate after taking one of the global health courses.

**Note:** Southern Institute for Appropriate Technology (SIFAT) numbers include undergraduates who participated in the program. Please also note SIFAT was cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020 and a special course was offered in its place. See next page for description.
When SIFAT was canceled due to the pandemic, Dr. Gartin developed a short, Maymester course on Global Health Technology and Innovation. The goal of the SIFAT program is to consider low-cost technologies that can be easily implemented in cross-cultural contexts.

Building upon this goal, the course focused on a variety of topics including: the development of vaccines and cold chain technology; innovations in maternal and child health, water and sanitation, food production, and alternative sources of energy; and ways to evaluate different kinds of global health innovations and technologies based upon key indicators of global health.

Throughout the course, students were challenged to:

• Identify various forms of innovative management practice, business and non-profit foundation models, and other key global health actors.
• Evaluate the application of new tools and interventions in addressing critical issues in global health.
• Distinguish how technologies can enhance service delivery, distribution systems, in-service training, and medical education in low-resources areas.
• Discuss the major ethical issues of introducing technologies in resource-poor regions.

What students had to say...

"Global health is a huge, confusing, and an amazing thing that takes a lot longer than 4 weeks to completely appreciate and understand. I wished I had longer with this material. However, that being said, the knowledge I gained from this class is INVALUABLE."

"Even with no background or previous interest in technology, this course has made me want to invent something!"

"Great course. I know that it was added due to COVID but for working professionals who would not be able to enroll in the hands-on course it is a wonderful option. I learned so much in the course and it gave me a broader perspective of the world that I most certainly can apply the content in my daily work."
GLOBAL HEALTH INTERNSHIPS

As in previous years, SCGH offered global health internships for UAB students in 2020. With continued travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Sparkman Center team, students, and our international partners had to quickly pivot in order to offer high quality, engaging, and educational experiences in a remote format.

The following five students engaged in virtual global health internships with partners in three countries. These students also participated in supplemental Canvas-based training modules led by Dr. Helova & Katie Adams focused on global health practice, ethics, flexibility, cultural humility and more.

**Sunrise Centre | Mukuono District, Uganda**

"I am now more confident in not just preparing training material for public health projects like the Sunrise Early Start Home visit program but also has a deep understanding of the entire process from planning, to implementation, to evaluation of such like projects."
- Benjamin Ngumbi | MPH, Maternal & Child Health Leadership & Policy

"I pursued an MPH so that I could better integrate comprehensive health education and address health care access as a physician in the future. As a current medical student, it is easy to get lost into the rigorous clinical science coursework, forget my public health education, and miss out on community involvement. Through this internship, I had the opportunity to communicate with local personnel regarding community needs, and critically think about the target population for my work products, all of which I hope to do in the future."
-Shefa Suhaila, MPH | 2nd year MD student

**Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition | Kingston, Jamaica**

"My effort in developing educational material for the TRANSIT project, helped me understand the process of making materials for a specific group. I now understand that to address the needs and alleviate the struggles that people with trans experience face, health programs should emphasize social justice and social mobility."
-Bridget Awolowo | MPH, Health Behavior

"The biggest skill I gained was to take an existing global health tool...and condense that information to create comprehensive training materials in order to reach the target population in an engaging way. Identifying what information to include...and how to modify professional academic information to understandable, contextualized information and actionable items was challenging but also very interesting and rewarding."
-Tayyaba Khan | BS, International Health & Human Rights

**Kenya Medical Research Institute | Nairobi, Kenya**

"I gained new insights in global health practice and communicable disease research. With the pandemic, many of the Jamii Bora study protocols were naturally changed. For instance, the pandemic affected how participant surveys for home visits were filled out given the limited circumstances for patient confidentiality."
-Amy Jasani | BS, Neuroscience & MPH, Health Behavior
The Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) is an organization of over 170 academic institutions and other organizations from around the world engaged in addressing global health challenges. CUGH was established in 2008 with generous funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and The Rockefeller Foundation.

CUGH supports academic institutions and partners to improve the wellbeing of people and the planet through education, research, service, and advocacy. Because UAB is an institutional member of CUGH, anyone with a UAB email can join CUGH at no cost. We encourage all students, staff and faculty interested in global health to become involved with the many resources and connections CUGH offers.

**Student Abstracts Accepted for CUGH Conference**

Even though the 2020 Annual CUGH Conference was cancelled due to the pandemic, we want to recognize the students whose abstracts were accepted for the planned conference.

Blue names denote Sparkman fellows and scholars. First authors are fellows who submitted these abstracts and would have received travel awards from Sparkman to attend the conference.

- **Abdullah Alanazi, Eric Ford** - Global Substance Use among Youth: Transcultural Diffusion and Clash of Norms
- **Jami Anderson, Pauline Kavita, Anna Helova, Pamela Musoke**, George Owino, Abigail Hatcher, Lynae Darbes, Zachary Kwena, Elizabeth A Bukusi, Janet M Turan - "I Decided to Turn My Back on Fear:" Adoption of Gendertransformative and HIV-prevention Messages in a Home-based Couples Intervention in Kenya

**Sparkman Team Members on CUGH Committees**

- **Anna Helova** - Global Health Operations Committee; **Meredith Gartin** - Subcommittee on Master's and Undergraduate Degrees in Global Health; **Katie Adams** - Advocacy & Communications Committee
The Paul D. Coverdell Fellows program is a graduate school scholarship for returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs). SCGH supports Coverdell Fellowship recipients in the SOPH.

SCGH also regularly sponsors Peace Corps recruitment activities at UAB and in the greater Birmingham area.

2020-2021 Coverdell Fellows

Christy McDonald
MPH, Environmental & Occupational Health
RPCV Cambodia, Community Health Educator

Nicole Cooper
MPH, Health Behavior
RPCV Belize, Health Resource Volunteer

INTERNATIONAL EMORY GLOBAL HEALTH CASE COMPETITION (GHCC)

The International Emory GHCC happens yearly in mid-March, meaning the 2020 competition approached just as schools were sending everyone home for the first round of COVID-19 shutdowns. Emory quickly shifted the competition to a virtual format, allowing student teams to participate safely from a distance.

Six UAB students who had placed among the top teams in the Fall 2019 UAB GHCC came together for the Emory competition. They tackled the topic of "Government Policies and Effective Initiatives for the Eradication of Measles" in Syria with support from the Sparkman Center team and UAB faculty mentors.

Team Members (L to R):
Arshnoor Grewal International Relations & Psychology Undergraduate Student
Olivia Watts Kinesiology and Nutrition Science Undergraduate Student
Madhru Molletti Public Health Undergraduate Student
Anveetha Matta Neuroscience Undergraduate Student and Fast-Track Public Health Graduate Student
Gopiann Shah Neuroscience Undergraduate Student and Fast-Track Public Health Graduate Student
Shreya Pokhrel Public Health Undergraduate Student
Sparkman Fellows are highly motivated UAB students seeking to enhance their experience with global health work through engagement with the SCGH and mentorship with a Sparkman Scholar faculty member.

The 2020 Fellows cohort consisted of 17 students representing undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and professional programs across four UAB schools. Here we’ve highlighted a few of their collaborations.

**Fellow: Mari Yukawa**  
**Scholar: Dr. Ada Markaki**  
Collaboration: Mari’s projects are supporting Dr. Markaki’s work as co-director of the PAHO-WHO Collaborating Center. Mari assisted in developing a 4-module asynchronous distance accessible course for healthcare professionals with topics like trauma-informed care and domestic violence against women.

**Fellow: Mary Anne Powell**  
**Scholar: Dr. Paul Erwin**  
Collaboration: Mary Anne has been able to apply her studies in both Spanish and Public Health by working with Dr. Erwin to compare the responses to COVID-19 in the US and Cuba. Mary Anne learned how to conduct a literature review, which they will use to draft a manuscript in 2021.

**Fellow: Hassan Abu Nurah**  
**Scholar: Dr. Eric Ford**  
Collaboration: Hassan studies global disparities in respiratory therapy practice and critical care rehabilitation. Dr. Ford is mentoring Hassan on qualitative and quantitative research methods, especially developing questions to use in qualitative research with healthcare providers.

**Fellow: Madhuri Molletti**  
**Scholar: Dr. Lisa Sharlach**  
Collaboration: Madhuri has been learning how to conduct health policy research on interpersonal violence in Pakistan, South Africa, and Peru. She is working with Dr. Sharlach on this research with the goal of updating a chapter of Dr. Sharlach’s book on this topic.
Fellow: Hassanatu Blake  
Scholar: Dr. Jodie Dionne-Odom  
Collaboration: Hassanatu is working with Dr. Dionne-Odom to look into the use of social media for HIV prevention among female sex-workers in Cameroon. Dr. Dionne-Odom is also mentoring Hassanatu through the Fulbright-Fogarty application process.

Fellow: Tim McWilliams  
Scholar: Dr. Martin Rodriguez  
Collaboration: As a medical student, Tim has enjoyed learning from Dr. Rodriguez about his specialty in infectious diseases. They are working alongside Dr. German Henostroza on a research project related to HIV and TB comorbidities in Panama.

Sparkman Fellows  
Teresa Boitano  
Hannah Comstock  
Norah Madden-Lunsford  
Anveetha Matta  
Jessica Morgan  
Brianna Patterson  
Sunya Reddy  
Emma Kate Sellers  
Shefa Suhaila  
Angelina Aduke Toluhi  
Pandora White

Scholar Mentors  
Dr. Jayme Locke  
Dr. Tina Kempin-Reuter  
Dr. Chris Kyle  
Dr. Wally Carlo  
Dr. Grace Jepkemboi  
Dr. Ria Hearld  
Dr. Lynn Matthews  
Dr. Meredith Gartin  
Dr. James Johnston  
Dr. Janet Turan  
Dr. Sadeep Shrestha

The Sparkman Fellows program would not be possible without the dedication of Sparkman Scholars who serve as mentors. We appreciate the time and effort these faculty members spend sharing their expertise and guidance with global health minded students.
SPARKMAN SCHOLARS

Sparkman Scholars are part of a recognized network of UAB faculty working in the areas of global health and development.

The Sparkman Scholars program facilitates the development of new collaborations with colleagues across campus. These Scholars serve as ambassadors for the school by engaging in global health research and practice, and assisting students who are interested in learning more about global health and development.

Sparkman Scholars have the opportunity to serve as mentors to Sparkman Fellows. Many Scholars get involved in the mentorship and judging of the Global Health Case Competitions. In 2020, Scholars included faculty members from across UAB’s campus. Geographically, Sparkman Scholars are active in all six WHO regions.

Geographic Focus Regions

In 2020,

- 2 Scholars receiving Sparkman Pilot Grant Funding
- 8 scholars working in Kenya
- 36 countries with more than one scholar
- 67 countries where faculty have experience
- 64 current Sparkman Scholars

New Sparkman Scholars in 2020

Pictured left to right:
- Nancy Borkowski, DBA - School of Health Professions
- Waldemar "Wally" Carlo, MD - School of Medicine
- Holly Richter, PhD, MD, FACOG, FACS - School of Medicine
- Michael Straughn, MD - School of Medicine
For the second year in a row, the Sparkman Center provided funding for a new cohort of internal UAB pilot grantees. In 2020, SCGH funded two applications of $15,000 each.

These pilots include research projects, public health practice, and global health and development projects that support the Sparkman Center’s mission. Projects must include a strong collaboration with international partners and co-investigators. The request for applications opens yearly in the fall.

2020 AWARDEES

"Stigma and health among refugees in Istanbul, Turkey"
Pl: Bulent Turan, PhD - UAB College of Arts and Sciences
Co-investigators: UAB - Kaylee Crockett & Ibrahim Yigit; Koc University - Ceren Zeynep Acarturk & Sibel Sakarya

"Characterizing the burden of congenital cytomegalovirus in Uganda"
Pl: Nitin Arora, MD - UAB School of Medicine
Co-investigators: UAB - Drs. Suresh Boppana, Lynn Matthews, Lisa BeBell; Mbarara University of Science and Technology - Drs. Julian Adong and Joseph Ngonzi
SPARKMAN SEMINARS

The Sparkman Seminar Series provides a forum for visitors from around the world, as well as UAB faculty, staff, and students to present and discuss their global health research, training, educational, and/or service efforts. The seminar series highlights existing global health expertise and interest at UAB, but also includes invited speakers from outside the UAB community.

In 2020, we hosted one pre-pandemic in-person event. The rest were virtual seminars that can be viewed our YouTube channel.

Nashulai Conservancy as a Human Rights Incubator
Nelson and Maggie Reiya, Maasa Mara, Kenya
Co-hosted by UAB Institute for Human Rights

Fly Ash Exposure and Infant Neurodevelopment in Sri Lanka**
Dr. Meghan Tipre of UAB School of Medicine
**2019 Sparkman Center Pilot Project Awardee

Examining a Culturally Relevant Patient-Level Intervention to Promote Colorectal Cancer Screening in Egypt**
Dr. Lori Bateman of UAB School of Medicine,
Dr. Ahmed Nawwar of Alexandria University, and
Somaia Khamess of Alexandria University
**2019 Sparkman Center Pilot Project Awardee

Pilot Project Application Workshop
Dr. Janet Turan and Dr. Anna Helova

Global Cancer Epidemiology Research: Challenges and Opportunities from the Experience of CEESP Students
Dr. Amr Soliman, CUNY School of Medicine
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Publications

Finances

Ways to Give
PUBLICATIONS
Selected 2020 global health and development publications, oral presentations, and abstracts by faculty, staff, and students affiliated with SCGH.
Bolded names indicate those associated with the Sparkman Center.


The Sparkman Center was established as an endowed center in 1979 with Congressional Appropriation in honor of US Senator John J. Sparkman. In 2020, the endowment installments totaled $193,220, about one third of previous allocations due to the adverse financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the year, we were guided by one of the SCGH foundations, fiscal responsibility, and made fiscal adjustments where necessary to adapt to the unprecedented economic situation worldwide while continuing to carry on most of our programs, many in a cost-effective virtual format.

Additional revenues included GHS program tuition ($72,361), the Moses Sinkala Endowed Memorial Award in Zambia Public Health account annual endowment installments and gifts to support The Sparkman Center activities ($6,576).

Annual expenses ($297,578 total) include*:

- administrative operations ($181,146)
- expenses related to the UAB on-campus education ($42,800)
- Global Health research, mainly pilot research grants ($62,582)
- international training, including UAB student travel scholarships, Global Health Case Competitions, seminars, CIDRZ fellow training, and other Global Health training ($8,778)
- expenses related to the new partnership development ($2,272: <1%)
WAYS TO GIVE TO THE UAB SPARKMAN CENTER

This Annual Report shows the impact your contribution has on our Sparkman community. Your support is especially critical in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To donate to one of these funds, please visit: https://www.uab.edu/give/now/. Click the "Give Now" button at the top of the page, then select "Search, Schools, Colleges, and Units" and type the title of fund mentioned below you’d like to support.

Sparkman Center GIFT Account

**Purpose:** support a variety of initiatives, including but not limited to: Global Health Case Competitions, Sparkman Scholars, Sparkman Fellows, the Coverdell Fellows scholarship, the student organization Global Health Interest Group, Sparkman Community Partners, and the Global Health Seminar Series.

Sparkman Center International Student Opportunities

**Purpose:** support UAB students completing an approved international experience. Internships, research projects, and public health practice opportunities all qualify.

Moses Sinkala Endowed Memorial Award in Zambia Public Health

**Purpose:** provides much needed financial assistance to deserving students in the University of Zambia Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Public Health, & Health Sciences who demonstrate an interest in serving the public health needs of Zambia as was a priority of Dr. Sinkala.

SparkEd

**Purpose:** support adaptation and distribution of SparkEd, an innovative software package for organization and delivery of educational content for use in areas with no internet and restricted access to textbooks or library resources.
Developing sustainable approaches to advance global health equity and social justice through support for cutting-edge interdisciplinary education, research, global health practice, and community engagement in collaboration with international and domestic partners.

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