

UAB Sparkman Center for Global Health

Annual Report 2015

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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Message from the Director

Since its inception in 1979 in recognition of the late Senator John J. Sparkman's global understanding about the linkage between health and human development, and the important role that the United States could play in collaborating with less developed countries, the Sparkman Center has successfully collaborated with institutions abroad in implementing graduate-level educational and training programs in public health. We have collaborated with, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia in Peru, Chiang Mai University in Thailand, University of West Indies in Jamaica, Universidad del Valle in Colombia and the International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR) to implement public health training programs. In addition, the Center collaborated with the WHO and PAHO and sponsored numerous short-term training programs in these and various other developing countries during its early history. Since that early history programs supported by the Sparkman Center focused on nutrition and then moved to a focus of the health work force needs related to HIV epidemic including researchers.

In 2003, in the context of many developments and evolving perspectives and challenges in the areas of international development and global health, the vision and mission of the Sparkman Center were changed with the approval of the UA Board of Trustees to those included in this report. The name was also changed to the UAB John J Sparkman Center for Global Health.

Since 2007, we have guided the SCGH activities based on prior partnerships and opportunities. We have also taken on expanded education programs based on interest and demand both within the school and across the UAB campus. Many of the UAB and community activities supported by the SCGH are designed with a "Glocal" approach, i.e. "think global, act local". These activities are summarized in this report as this is the first collated report since 2008. Collectively we are proud of what we have been able to accomplish and look forward to continued developments in the SCGH and with our international and local partners.

Fifteen years into the 21st century, the need for a global vision of health remains true. The last two decades of the 20th century witnessed the devastation brought about by emerging and re-emerging diseases. Diseases of pregnancy, childhood, diarrhea, malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV continue to exact a heavy toll on men, women, and children throughout the world. As many developing nations undergo change, they confront an increased burden of chronic diseases including diabetes, cancer and heart disease, as well as preventable injuries. In today's interdependent global economy, the need for cooperation between governments, international agencies, organizations, and institutions in mitigating global health issues has increased. We at the SCGH remain committed to the original vision and mission as we work diligently to improve health outcomes globally.

We appreciate your feedback and questions. Do not hesitate to contact us at sparkmancenter@uab.edu.

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

OVERVIEW

This is the first annual report since 2008. With this in mind a summary of the accomplishments of the Center since the change in leadership in 2007 is included below. Both reports have listings of International Initiatives and UAB Educational Programs. The UAB based programs have been substantially increased since 2007. In the interim since 2007, web based cataloguing and promotion has become more common. With that, many activities will be referenced to the SCGH website in this report.

INTERIM REPORT FOR 2008-2014

SCGH INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

- **Established New MPH Programs** (in collaboration with Dr. Nalini Sathiakumar with NIH FIC support)
 - Manipal University, Manipal, **India**, 2010
 - University of West Indies (UWI), St Augustine Campus, Port of Spain, **Trinidad and Tobago**, 2010 (SCGH supported only)
 - Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan (Environmental Health tract), 2010
 - University of Kelaniya, Colombo, **Sri Lanka**, 2011
 - Facilitated final stages of Environmental Health tract integration into MPH training program at UWI, Mona Campus in **Jamaica**
- **Health Care Worker Training Capacity Building Initiatives**
 - Invested in assessment of health care worker training capacity in Zambia with partial support from USAID focused on the University of Zambia (UNZA), Lusaka, **Zambia**; Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI) (\$1.7M/yr. 2011-2015) was ultimately funded
 - Copperbelt University, LAMU University, Cavendish University medical schools in **Zambia**, UNZA MEPI (all established since 2011; have linkages with all Schools and Deans)
 - Chainama College Health Sciences, Lusaka, Zambia: support for staff development for Clinical Officer training program and overall staff development
 - Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, **Ethiopia**, MEPI collaborator; plus 3 other SOM's in AAU consortium (Hawassa University, Haramaya University, and Defense College) with 8 others receiving trainings (Gondar University, Debrabor University, Adama University, Debrebirhan University, Mekelle University, Jimma University, Wachemo University, Wallita University).
 - **Zambian** Educational Partnership for Advanced Care and Training in collaboration with UNZA, University of Maryland and Vanderbilt University
 - Established HIV Nurse Practitioner training program with MOH and multiple partners
 - Established national HIV resistance testing programs
 - Collaborated with UAB SON on US State Department grant for Interprofessional Global Health Fellows linking UNZA, U of **Malawi**, UCSF and UAB faculty
 - Assisting with outcome evaluation for health care delivery for University of Kathmandu, Dhulikhel Hospital in Eastern **Nepal**

- **Jamaica: HIV Care delivery facilitation**
 - Regular intern placements with 4 CBO's and main HIV care clinic at the University of West Indies since 2013
 - Broad trainings for skill development of clinic staff (introducing Motivational Interviewing) in collaboration with 2 CBO's and in collaboration with MOH (application submitted December 2014 to expand evaluation component)
 - Trained foot-soldiers, HIV advocates on CDC programs – Many Men Many Voices (3MV) and Prevention with Positives (PWP) in **Jamaica**
- **Honduras:** supported development of a program on family violence and women's shelter in Santa Rosa de Copan in collaboration with the UAB SON and local NGO (Central American Medical Outreach) (2007-2011)

E-LEARNING TOOL DEVELOPMENT

- eGranary
 - eGranary platform development (www.widernet.org/egrinary); added significant content for health care worker training (public health, nursing, medicine, health administration, community health worker health promotion materials) and now Zambian primary and secondary school materials) with total content now approaching 6 Tb
 - 9 medical school installations (**Zambia, Ethiopia**)
 - 12 nursing school installations (**Zambia**)
 - 18 Teachers training college and resource installations (**Zambia**)
 - Pilot project installation of 12V units in three rural settings (**Peace Corps Zambia**)
 - Procurement order for 600 units for installation in all secondary schools in **Zambia** in collaboration with Ministry of Education under discussion
 - Support local NGO development with focus on IT training and also technical support for eGranary projects in Zambia
- Virtual Microscopy (in collaboration with Dr. Peter Anderson, UAB Dept. of Pathology)
 - 4 medical school installations and trainings in **Zambia**; now established at UNZA main campus for basic science trainings
 - Trainings and installations in 12 **Ethiopian** medical schools (see above)
 - Trainings and installations in medical schools in **Mozambique (3), Botswana, and Namibia and Nepal** (7 Medical schools in Dhulikhel consortium), and **Cameroon** (3 placements coordinated with Dr. Alan Tita)
 - PowerLab tool installations (Basic science training) 2 installations in **Zambia**

SCGH UAB Education Initiatives

The development of the Graduate Certificate and Undergraduate programs described below were each developed with initial investment funds from the SPH Dean's Office. These investments were repaid once the programs were viable and these two programs are now self-sustaining. The service learning courses and field courses were each developed by the SCGH and are feature programs of the Center. These courses are also now offerings for those enrolled in the Global Health education programs as well as other UAB students.

- Graduate Certificate in Global Health (<http://www.sparkmancenter.org/gradcertificate>)
 - transitioned the program from being only available in UAB SOPH to campus-wide and professional program and all on-line delivery
 - also had initial support for this as part of the NIH FIC Framework grant
 - 75 active enrollees in 2014-2015 academic year (63 student, 12 professional)
 - about 120 graduates since program initiated

- New undergraduate Major in Public Health with Global Health concentration (started in Fall 2014): (<http://www.sparkmancenter.org/education/undergraduate>)
 - SCGH staff contributed to the organization and establishment of the program along with SPH leadership
 - SCGH leadership joined the Undergraduate Program Committee since its initiation
 - The Global Health concentration was popular since the initiation of this program with the majority of those choosing a concentration choosing Global Health
 - Supported development of all courses and identification of instructors for the concentration
 - Over 80 students declared for GH concentration prior to 2015-2016 academic year

- Established Multidisciplinary Global Health Service Learning program with HSF funding in 2012 and courses are now run through SCGH (graduate/professional and undergraduate levels) (<http://www.sparkmancenter.org/IGHSL>)

- Field Courses:
 - Jamaica field course (10 days in country with HIV/STD, water/sanitation and vector control as focus areas) (<http://www.sparkmancenter.org/courses/jamaica>)
 - SIFAT (Southern Institute for Appropriate Technology) residential (Lineville, AL) courses in May and August with training in water/sanitation, nutrition, sustainable and urban gardening, clean cook ovens, (<http://www.sparkmancenter.org/SIFAT>)

SCGH ANNUAL REPORT 2015

SCGH UAB INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Zambia (<http://www.sparkmancenter.org/zambia>)

- **University of Zambia (UNZA)** Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI) YR 5
 - Completed tasks for establishment of Masters programs in basic sciences
 - Assisted with application for MEPI II
 - Facilitated establishing degree courses onto Moodle platform
- **UNZA** School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) and Department of Computer Sciences
 - Conducted trainings for virtual microscopy for undergraduate program use
 - Facilitated collating and scanning of slides for histology and pathology training for the SVM for establishment of a digitized library
- Facilitated assessment of HIV Nurse Practitioner program as final activities of ZEPACT funding
- Initiated discussions with newly designated **UNZA** Schools of Nursing and Public Health
- Supported 3 faculty from **Chainama College of Health Sciences** in advanced degree training programs in pharmacology, public health and management

Jamaica (<http://www.sparkmancenter.org/news/motivational-interviewing-training-kingston-jamaica>)

- Identified skill building programs for HIV health care workers and supported further trainings in 2015 (Many Men Many Voices (3MV) and Prevention with Positives (PWP))
- R01 (Budhwani) submitted Dec 2015 for further dissemination and evaluation of program for Motivational Interviewing
- Documentation of outcome data for HIV programs with NGO partners (Jamaica AIDS Support for Life, UNICEF, CVC, Eve for Life) by supporting SPH interns
- Analyzed existing data to assist local agencies put forth their work into the academic literature
- Engaged UWIHARP and the UWI CHARES Clinic for public health practice and internship endeavors.

Ethiopia (<http://www.sparkmancenter.org/ethiopia>)

- **Addis Ababa University (AAU)** MEPI YR5
 - Completed tasks around e-learning and use of tablets to deliver content
 - Assisted with application for MEPI II (successful)
 - Initiated tasks for YR6 extension for MEPI including updates for videoconferencing system software
- Initiated discussion with the MoH IT group discussing future developments for standardization and dissemination of common curriculum
- Developed plan with MoE and local partner, Support Education (<http://suped.org>) to collate all available materials for primary and secondary school education in Ethiopia and catalogue for dissemination

Dominican Republic

SCGH initiated discussions in mid-2015 with an organization with pan-Caribbean presence, Coalition for Vulnerable Communities, (CVC) and Centro de Orientación e Investigación Integral (COIN) which is one of the lead partners in the Jamaica initiatives. The following has been accomplished to date:

- Supporting development of an HIV training program for non-specialist physicians.
- Provision of administrative and organizational support by partially funding a UAB MPH graduate to work in the DR
- Developed manuscripts from the organization's programmatic data to increase their visibility and share the public practice work being done in the DR

Wilcox County - Bama Kids

This initiative is 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.

Other International Collaboration

- Discussions have been initiated with the **Eastern Mediterranean Regional Offices of WHO** to support health care leadership trainings and outcome measurements at universities in their sphere.
- SCGH was able to establish connections through UAB School of Medicine with the newly established medical school, Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU), in **South Africa**. Drs. Craig Wilson and Rubin Pillay from UAB met with leadership of SMU to discuss collaborations for development and enhancement of Public Health and Health Administration training.
- Discussions were initiated with Dr. Alan Tita and his Cameroon Health Initiative partners for work focused on maternal and child health in the Cameroon, Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services (CBCHS) and the University of Buea. An NIH FIC application for faculty and doctoral training was submitted in July 2015 with SCGH as a partner. Plans for placing interns for facilitating work are being developed.
- 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.
- The planned projects in **Nepal** were placed on hold following the earthquake. SCGH coordinated donations from the SOPH for the relief effort through Dhulikhel Hospital.

E-Learning Tool Development

- Support for overall content development in eGranary continued with a focus on organization and content for English as a Second Language (ESL) Learning/Teaching and resources for dental training.
- Bongo Hive (<http://www.sparkmancenter.org/zambia>) or

<http://www.sparkmancenter.org/news/dr-craig-wilson-visits-bongohive-innovation-depot-offices-zambia>

- Subcontracted for eG technical support in country with a focus on the Peace Corps and Kasama area projects (<http://www.sparkmancenter.org/zambia>)
- Subcontracted for reprogramming of eG to be more flexible for dissemination
- Subcontracted for development of dissemination technologies for education content (<http://worldpossible.org/>) (<https://outernet.is/>)
- Per above, in collaboration with Dr Peter Anderson of UAB Dept of Pathology and UNZA SVM developed resources for veterinary sciences teaching of histology and pathology

SCGH UAB EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Graduate Certificate in Global Health (<http://www.sparkmancenter.org/gradcertificate>)

Development and delivery of this program remained an initiative in 2015 and there were 75 active enrollees (63 students, 12 professionals), with approximately 120 graduates since the program was initiated.

Undergraduate Concentration in Global Health Studies

(<http://www.sparkmancenter.org/education/undergraduate>)

The Public Health major continued to develop with leadership at the Assistant Dean level and aligning the courses and faculty through SPH departments including those delivering courses in the GH concentration. Overall there were approximately 250 declared Public Health undergraduate student majors and approximately 100 of those declared a Global Health concentration. Dr. Budhwani remained significantly engaged with these programs.

Other education activities

SCGH continues to organize and run the Global Health Service Learning developed with HSF funding (<http://www.sparkmancenter.org/IGHSL>) course as well as the SIFAT field course (<http://www.sparkmancenter.org/SIFAT>) for undergraduates and graduates.

SCGH UAB STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Global Health Case Competition

The Global Health Case Competition (<http://www.sparkmancenter.org/ghcc>) completed its 6th year at UAB with 67 participants. The 2015 Global Health Case was challenges associated with sanitation and open defecation in Uttar Pradesh, India. (<http://www.sparkmancenter.org/2015ghcc>)

Peace Corps Master's International and Coverdell Fellowship Programs

SCGH continues to support 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 2015 for the MI program were Urszula Stankiewicz (Mozambique 2015-15), 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.

Sparkman Fellows (<http://www.sparkmancenter.org/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 2015, fourteen fellows were selected ranging from undergraduates to doctoral and medical students.

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.
- *Timmy Global Health*: (<http://www.sparkmancenter.org/studentorgs>) exists to advocate, serve, and fundraise in support of health care equality both in Birmingham and worldwide.
- *Universities Fighting World Hunger*: (<http://www.sparkmancenter.org/studentorgs>) aims to end hunger, poverty, and social injustices locally and globally through outreach events, fundraisers and informational sessions.

Scholarships

- The SCGH continued to support the *Moses Sinkala Zambia Scholarship* (<http://www.sparkmancenter.org/travelscholarships>) 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 2015 recipients were Frances Mupeta with research study focusing on TB and Christopher Newton whose study focusing on HPV. Each received a \$2,500 award.
- The SCGH also selects recipients of the *Moses Sinkala Travel Scholarship* which is designed to assist UAB students complete an international internship or research opportunity. During 2015 ten awards of \$1,000 each were made (\$10,000). These awards are partially supported with funding from the Provost's office.

SCGH UAB CAMPUSWIDE ACTIVITIES

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 2015, seven seminars were held. Topics were:

- “Making every death count: Electronic tracking systems for maternal death review in India” Mr. Ajey Bhardwaj, Director, AVNI Health Foundation, Mumbai, India
- “Responding to the exceptionally high burden of HIV and TB in Swaziland - the role of research, monitoring and evaluation”, Dr. Peter Preko, Senior Care and Treatment Specialist, CDC, UAB Minority Health International Research Training Program (MHIRT)
- “Funding Study Abroad” Dr. Brian Johnson UAB Education Abroad
- “Reducing Perinatal Infections in Cameroon: The Cameroon Health Initiative at UAB” Dr. Jodie Dionne-Odom, Assistant Professor, UAB Department of Medicine
- “Scaling up hepatitis B virus treatment and prevention in sub-Saharan Africa” Dr. Michael Vinikoor, Assistant Professor, UAB Department of Medicine
- “Immigration & Health: Paradoxical Health Outcomes of those with Lower Income, Wealth , and Health” Dr. Henna Budhwani, Health Care Organization and Policy
- “Social Marketing to Improve Health: Opportunities for Cervical Cancer Prevention” Dr. Heather White, Technical Adviser, PSI