

Global Health Showcase

Summer 2015



Global Health Studies

Yale University



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November 2nd, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

WLH 117

100 Wall Street

Welcome!

Learn more about opportunities in global health from faculty advisors and students from all disciplines who have completed projects in summer 2015.

If you hope to participate in global health work in this coming summer, you may explore opportunities for fellowship support on Yale's Student Grants Database (studentgrants.yale.edu/). In this book you will find descriptions of summer projects conducted with funding from global health fellowship awards, as well as projects conducted by Global Health Fellows using alternate awards. This booklet contains abstracts that were submitted before the summer, thus actual experiences might differ slightly. We hope that you will speak with these students about their experiences and seek out their advice regarding your own future work.

Thank you for attending the 2015 Global Health Showcase!

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Joanna Radin

Richard Skolnik

Africa

Africa

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Asia & Pacific Islands

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Caribbean & United States

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Latin America

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Middle East

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Ethiopia

Student: Rehab Abdelwahab

Project: Ethiopian Red Cross Society Internship: Health Education Curriculum in Secondary Schools

Funding: YC Fellowships for Research in Health Studies; Wendy Blanning Memorial Fellowship

Abstract:

I will be spending eight weeks this summer in Ethiopia interning with the Ethiopian Red Cross and working on a new initiative to implement health education courses in secondary schools within Mekelle, Ethiopia. During my time in Ethiopia, I will be working closely with Berhanu Mekonnen who is the Head of Administration and Finance of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society Tigray Regional Branch. I will be both an intern with administrative duties and a field worker training teachers and assisting students at Atse Yohannes High School.

Ghana

Student: Jana Lohrova

Project: The Impact of the Annual Deworming of School-Aged Children on the Prevalence and Intensity of Hookworm Infection in Untreated Adults in Kintampo, North Municipality, Ghana

Funding: YC Fellowships for Research in Health Studies; Global Health Fellows 'Seed' Funding Award

Abstract:

Hookworm is a soil-transmitted helminthiasis which affects 740 million people worldwide, most of them in Sub-Saharan Africa, and causes large morbidity. Hookworm is targeted by mass drug administration. In many places, including Ghana, the treatment of choice is a single dose of albendazole, administered yearly to all school attending children (SAC) without the need to test for hookworm. Ghana has implemented this approach as a part of a national campaign in 2007. While MDA targeting SAC is a sound choice for many other

parasitic diseases, it may be an ineffective approach in hookworm, which affects adults to a similar degree as it does SAC. In such situations, adults may serve as a reservoir of hookworm and contribute to the ongoing cycle of infection. We therefore propose an epidemiological study to take place in North Kintampo Municipality in Ghana in the summer of 2015. The study will evaluate the epidemiology of hookworm infection in children as well as adults and compare the status of individuals in households which were a part of a previous longitudinal hookworm study to control households. Comparing these two groups, we will attempt to shed light on whether the measures of MDA targeting SAC are effective in decreasing infection in adults and thereby in the broader population.

Rwanda

Student: Aalyia Sadruddin

Project: Aging, Caregiving and Health: Grandparents in Post-Conflict Rwanda

Funding: Yale-GHI Field Experience Award

Abstract:

A majority of anthropological and global health research conducted on late-life caregiving in sub-Saharan Africa has focused on the burdens that grandparents have inherited following the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Very little attention in the region, however, has been paid to how late-life caregiving magnify the challenges of aging. The goal of my study this summer is to understand the dimensions of caregiving in old age and the pathways by which providing care may influence grandparents' mental and physical health in Rwanda. I will achieve this goal by piloting a survey on caregiving modalities, work responsibilities, and health in Rwanda's Kigali Province. This is the first time caregiving information on caregiving grandparents will be systematically collected in the country since the genocide in 1994. This research is crucial for deepening our understanding of the changing nature of grandparents' roles as caregivers in adverse settings and assesses how their responsibilities can impact their health in old age.

South Africa

Student: Ann Sarnak

Project: Research and Community Service with Agincourt

Rural Health Transitions Unit

Funding: Thomas C. Barry Travel Fellowship

Abstract:

I will work with the Agincourt Research Unit in a rural province in east South Africa, across the border from Mozambique. This research center collects data on epidemiological settings in rural, low-resource healthcare settings, and uses this data to drive policy decision making and programmatic planning. During my time there, I will 1) participate in community engagement activities, gauging the receptivity of the community to various research projects and ensuring that community members benefit from research conclusions and 2) provide research assistance and support for projects involving refugee health that investigate the effects of migration patterns on physical and mental health.

Student: Vivek Vishwanath

Project: Evaluating Capacity Development Among Community Health Workers Conducting Integrated Home-Based Disease Screenings in Rural South Africa

Funding: YC Fellowships for Research in Health Studies; Global Health Fellows 'Seed' Funding Award; Howard W. Hilgendorf Memorial Fellowship

Abstract:

This study aims to evaluate the feasibility of a broadened but defined scope of CHWs conducting integrated screenings for TB, HIV, diabetes and hypertension in impoverished rural households of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. This is a mixed-methods study consisting of both qualitative and quantitative components to evaluate capacity development in and understand the roles of Community Health Workers undertaking new household integrated screening responsibilities. I am taking the spring semester off to work as the project coordinator for this pilot from January-August 2015.

Tanzania

Student: Pavane Gorrepati

Project: Perspectives of Women Smallholder Farmers on

Access to Land Tenure in the Kagera Region of Tanzania

Funding: YC Fellowships for Research in Health Studies; Yale-GHI Field Experience Award; Global Health Fellows 'Seed' Funding Award

Abstract:

Background: Gender equality is one of the most important determinants of food security. In many low-income countries, a major source of discrimination that women face is access to land. Despite recent equal-rights legislation in Tanzania, customary norms seem to continue to limit female ownership and control of land. However, there is very little known on the relationship between gender and land tenure. Methodology: This study seeks to establish a qualitative investigation using semi-structured, in-person interviews with women smallholder farmers registered in the Community Based Legal Aid Program in Kagera Region, Tanzania. Interviews will be conducted in English or Swahili with the assistance of an oral interpreter. The interview guide will be designed to probe the perceptions and experiences of land tenure based acquisition with respect to gender. The transcripts will be collected and the responses systematically coded into discrete categories in order to arrive at a consensus regarding predominant themes that become apparent in the data. Significance: The data obtained in this study will fill a knowledge gap and communicate the experiences of women smallholder farmers in obtaining land in Tanzania – a nation that has equal-rights legislation in place. The study will help gain an understanding of current and common cultural practices and barriers.

Asia & Pacific Islands

Bangladesh

Student: Lindsey Hiebert

Project: Communication for Development Project Intern – BRAC University

Funding: Yale GHI Field Experience Award

Abstract:

This summer I will be an intern at the BRAC University James P. Grant School of Public Health working on the Communication for Development Project, a

UNICEF-funded initiative, with the aim to change key social attitudes and health behaviors that contribute to poor health outcomes. My tasks will include implementing a program monitoring and evaluation strategy, previously designed, by leading a mixed-methods data collection team in one of seven total project districts, contributing to the development of overall data analysis methods, and producing training materials for local NGO staff to continue the evaluation procedures in the future.

China

Student: Lan Jin

Project: Traffic-Related Air Pollution and Congenital Heart Defects in Lanzhou, China: a 3D Land Use Regression Modeling Study

Funding: Yale GHI Field Experience Award; Multiple Awards

Abstract:

In this study, I will investigate the relationship between traffic-related air pollution and congenital heart defects in Lanzhou, China. Even though air pollution levels and prevalence of heart defects are both high in China, the studies investigating the impact of air pollution on adverse birth outcomes are sparse. Understanding the intra-urban variability of traffic pollutants are essential for assessing maternal exposures and its related risk of heart defects. Due to the lack of complete regulatory monitoring system, it is necessary to conduct project-specific monitoring campaigns to collect information on traffic pollution. Data from monitoring campaigns, information on traffic, land use types, meteorological conditions, and topography will be used to build land use regression models to estimate maternal exposures to traffic pollution. In this project, I will add one more dimension—building heights—to the traditional land use regression model. This updated model will account for vertical variation of traffic pollutants on different building heights, which is especially important for urban areas concentrated with high-rise buildings. Information on congenital heart defects, maternal social economic status, and life style choices has been obtained from a Lanzhou Birth Cohort Study, directed by Prof. Yawei Zhang at School of Public Health. Information on roads, land use types, and topography have been collected. In addition, I have conducted some preliminary measurements last summer. This proposed study will fill in the gap of existing literature by providing evidence of the associations of traffic pollution with adverse birth outcomes in China.

Fiji

Student: Eri Togami

Project: Infectious Disease Surveillance and Outbreak Investigation in the South Pacific (Fiji)

Funding: Yale GHI Field Experience Award

Abstract:

Small bite, big threat. The World Health Day slogan by WHO in 2014 succinctly highlights the enormity of the impact of vector-borne diseases on health and economic development worldwide. This summer, I will be joining the Emerging Disease and Surveillance Response Unit at the World Health Organization, West Pacific Regional Office in Suva, Fiji. This unit is responsible for monitoring cases of infectious diseases such as dengue fever, influenza and typhoid fever. There are three parts to my project: management of the Pacific Syndromic Surveillance System, outbreak investigation (field work) and communications and emergency response. This internship will be a significant contribution to global health in that learning from successful management and maintenance of this simplified surveillance system can be extrapolated to places in the world where applying expensive, state of the art methods is not a feasible strategy. My career goal is to become an infectious disease epidemiologist at WHO. Through this project, I will not only gain insight on the structural operations at the organization for which I hope to work in the future, but will also receive training directly from medical epidemiologists who are already experts in the field. Furthermore, I will be in close collaboration with numerous culturally diverse Pacific Island countries and organizations. I will benefit substantially from honing negotiation skills, in order to achieve my goal as a Japanese public health professional; to introduce effective public health systems from developed countries to the Asia Pacific region so that it is accepted in its unique culture.

India

Student: Sarah Merchant

Project: Population Foundation of India

Funding: Thomas C. Barry Travel Fellowship

Abstract:

To address the need for improved efforts in reproductive, child, maternal,

and urban health, I will engage in research and evaluation tasks during a ten-week research internship from May 25th to July 31st 2015 at the headquarters of the Population Foundation of India in New Delhi. Working under the supervision of Mr. Alok Vajpeyi, the Head of the Core Grants and Knowledge Management department, I will evaluate two projects that are funded by PFI and implemented by the NGOs Agragami and the Jagori during the first five-weeks of the project. I will first develop a case-study methodology and research questions for these projects and then visit these organizations and project sites to compile, analyze, and report project data. During the next five-weeks of the project, I will conduct research on early marriage, delayed pregnancy, birth spacing, and national health indicators using secondary sources to highlight PFI's priority areas.

Student: Girish Motwani

Project: Population Foundation of India

Funding: Yale GHI Field Experience Award

Abstract: Translating Research into Policy: Improving Health Care Access

At the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), a public-private partnership founded with the purpose of building public health capacity in the country, I will be working with Dr. Devaki Nambiar on two projects that she is contributing to. In both projects I will be using data collected in previous years to perform analyses and propose policies to, in broad terms, increase the equitable distribution of and access to health care services in India. In the first project I will work with PHFI and the Indian National Urban Health Mission to write a chapter on urban health with a focus on the social exclusion of the poor from health care resources as well as develop the health profiles for thirty-one cities in India, specifically addressing the gaps in health care that exist in these cities. For the second project I will be contributing to PHFI's function as a technical consultant on universal health coverage implementation to the Indian State of Kerala and will be tasked with researching innovative solutions to the state's health system's issues. I have and am currently taking courses that are building my knowledge base and technical skills for this internship. I also have relevant past work experience that will prove to be an asset during the summer. My internship with PHFI is an important step in my path to my ultimate career goal of becoming a public health entrepreneur in India, a country that I have been drawn to not only culturally but also because of its great health system needs and the scope that it provides for personal growth.

Student: Tyler Petrochko

Project: Back-End Web Developer Intern

Funding: InnovateHealth Yale: Internships in Social Entrepreneurship

Abstract:

This internship would allow me to work with Khushi Baby in Northern India to implement a better system for Seva Mandir health workers to store and track beneficiaries' vaccine records, along with a system to automate voice calls reminding mothers of upcoming vaccination clinics for their children.

Nepal

Student: Priyankar Chand

Project: Sickle Cell Nepal: A Grassroots Education Project in Western Nepal

Funding: Global Health Fellows 'Seed' Award; Robert C. Bates Summer Traveling Fellowship

Abstract:

The purpose of this project is to educate Tharu communities in western-Nepal about sickle cell disease. This eight week grassroots education campaign will be conducted alongside BASE in five districts. The campaign will focus on educating the Tharu community directly, using the media for a larger broadcasting of information, and creating preliminary facilities where individuals can seek further information.

Caribbean & United States

Dominican Republic

Student: Emma Banchoff

Project: Lived Experience of HIV/AIDS and Comorbidity with Depression in the Dominican Republic: A Mixed Methods Study

Funding: Global Health Fellows 'Seed' Funding Award; Howard W. Hilgendorf Memorial Fellowship

Abstract:

The proposed project is a mixed methods study on the comorbidity of HIV/AIDS and depression among Dominican adults. It will combine a survey with semi-structured interviews.

United States of America

Student: Rebecca Bakal

Project: "Innovations in Reentry: The Birth Justice Project Doula Training Project" & Internship at ANSIRH

Funding: YC Fellowships for Research in Health Studies; Shana Alexander Research Fellowship in WGSS; Yale College Public Service Research Grant

Abstract:

I will spend three months at the center for Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSIRH). While there, I will participate in qualitative data collection and analysis on a research project. The aim of the project is to measure the efficacy of a birth doula training program for previously incarcerated women. I will utilize data from the project, as well as independently collected data, to develop my senior essay in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies major.

Student: Michaella Baker

Project: ABC News Medical Unit – Global Health Intern

Funding: Global Health Fellows 'Seed' Funding Award

Abstract:

From global epidemics to everyday personal wellbeing, medical journalism has the potential to reach and influence the behavior of many people. As an intern at the ABC News Medical Unit, I will assist producers, editors, and reporters in covering health-related stories as well as help expand the Medical Unit's global health project. While working at the Medical Unit, I will also have the ability to shadow other areas of ABC News, including World News Tonight with David Muir produced by Yale School of Public Health graduate Susan Schwartz. The vast amount of experience I will get while working at ABC News will give me great insight into medical journalism and writing about global and public health.

Student: Adam Beckman

Project: Achieving Accessible and High-Quality Healthcare for Financially Vulnerable People in the United States

Funding: Yale College Public Service Research Grant

Abstract:

This summer, I propose to work on two studies that investigate problems of access to healthcare with the Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation (CORE), a leading health outcomes research center at Yale. I have designed a 10-week summer experience with my mentors that would enable me to dive deep into the organization's high-impact work.

Latin America

Argentina

Student: Shalila de Bourmont

Project: Understanding the Choice Between Traditional and Official Medicine Among Toba Mothers in the Argentinian Chaco Region

Funding: YC Fellowships for Research in Health Studies; Global Health Fellows 'Seed' Funding Award; Howard W. Hilgendorf Memorial Fellowship

Abstract:

A sharp disconnect between Western biomedical health care and traditional medicine has worsened the health situation of children among the Toba people of Argentina. Although official Western medicine is available, it is not completely understood why Toba mothers resort to it only when traditional medicine proves ineffective. The selection process of a particular health system for children is particularly important as delays in care during infancy have significant and long-lasting repercussions. In response to this knowledge gap, this project aims to qualitatively study the factors that ultimately determine the selection of a health care system by a Toba mother for her children. Through semi-structured interviews, this study will address both psychosocial and cultural aspects as well as

study will address both psychosocial and cultural aspects as well as previous experiences with different health systems, as factors that may influence the decision making process.

Student: Laura Goetz

Project: Reproduction and Consumption: Iron Deficiency After Nutritional Transition in Adult Indigenous Women in Argentina

Funding: YC Fellowships for Research in Health Studies; Yale-GHI Field Experience Award; Yale College Class of 2004 Travel Research Fellowship; Yale College Dean's Research Fellowship in the Sciences

Abstract:

This project will aim to elucidate potential links between reproductive history and iron deficiency anemia in adult women of an indigenous population (Toba of Namqom in Argentina) with a contemporary diet high in calories, but low nutrients. The study will involve testing the hemoglobin concentration and fasting blood glucose level of participants and collecting a 24-hour food recall and various data about the participant's fertility (including number of births and age at first birth). We predict there might be a negative correlation between parity and iron concentration and a positive correlation between traditional food consumption and iron concentration. The proposed timeline for the study is 2 months and it will include approximately 250 participants. The results could offer information about potential public health problems and interventions.

Nicaragua

Student: Darby Herkert

Project: Delivery Mode and Breastfeeding Outcomes among Women Giving Birth at a Major Teaching Hospital in León, Nicaragua

Funding: Yale-Collaborative Action Project (Y-CAP); Yale College Class of 2004 Travel Fellowship

Abstract:

Through Student Partnerships for Global Health I will be travelling to León, Nicaragua in order to perform research on the correlation between mode of delivery (cesarean section, vaginal birth) and breastfeeding initiation. This research is based on the negative impact of late-initiation breastfeeding or lack of initiation at all, and the conflicting existing research regarding the correlation between mode of delivery and breastfeeding initiation. I will also carry out a service component in which we provide sexual health and relationship and abuse education to women through a partnership with the program ProMujer.

Student: Sara Kiani

Project: Delivery Mode and Breastfeeding Outcomes among Women Giving Birth at a Major Teaching Hospital in León, Nicaragua

Funding: Yale-Collaborative Action Project (Y-CAP); Yale College Class of 2004 Travel Fellowship

Abstract:

This project aims to study the interaction between C-sections and Breastfeeding in León, Nicaragua where the rate of C-sections is over 30%. This is considered incredibly high and can have negative consequences on the mother, child, and community as a whole. I will be focused on conducting interviews with new mothers, while another team member will be focused on providing a quantitative survey. My research could have an important impact on future policy in Nicaragua and elsewhere, and therefore is incredibly important.

Middle East

Jordan

Student: Teresa Logue

Project: Violence in Jordan: Determinant Factors and Consequences

Funding: Yale-GHI Field Experience Award

Abstract:

This summer, I hope to examine the problem of interpersonal violence in Jordan and describe its relationship to substance abuse, working under the guidance of Dr. Sukaina Alzyoud at Hashemite University in Zarqa, Jordan.

Student: Sara Smith

Project: Palliating the Epidemic: A Qualitative Study of Experiences and Etiologies of Cancer in Jordan

Funding: Yale-GHI Field Experience Award

Abstract:

This pre-dissertation research project is a qualitative study of how oncologists, patients, and their families in Jordan experience cancer and conceptualize its causes in the face of an emerging "cancer epidemic" in the Middle East. The primary purpose of this preliminary study is to contribute new knowledge to both the medical anthropological and global public health literatures concerning how patients and physicians themselves relate the damages of political conflict to how cancer and its causes are understood and experienced throughout the course of daily life. In so doing, this study will generate insights about patient's palliative needs, which are critical for the design of global health interventions in a context where palliation is only just emerging as a mode of care for patients and families.

Lebanon

Student: Kirsty Clark

Project: A Qualitative Analysis of Factors Influencing Low Utilization of HIV Testing Among Women in Lebanon through the Lens of Key Informants

Funding: Yale-GHI Field Experience Award

Abstract:

This qualitative study will attempt to gain insight from Key Informants from a variety of different backgrounds, including infectious disease doctors, OBGYNs, VCT staff, sexual health NGO workers, and policy makers, on the barriers and facilitators that shape awareness of and access to HIV testing in Beirut, Lebanon among women

