Leadership

Through 6 School-wide events, assembling over 300 participants, GHI has helped to promote activities that focus on the core tasks of promoting external visibility of the School’s global health work and strengthening internal communications. Further through enhanced communication channels, such as Enhancing Synergy in Global Health and the Columbia Global Health (MSPH blog), and the Crisis Coordination Response Group (see below), GHI continues to seek opportunities to disseminate information about the collective knowledge, expertise and innovation of the Mailman School and its partners. In the next year, we seek to engage faculty further through Global Health Survey for MSPH Faculty; updated Mailman Around the World map; and other updated website features.

2011-2012 School-wide Events

- Book Launch, *No Time to Lose: A Life in Pursuit of Deadly Viruses*, Dr. Peter Piot
- CU International Administrative Working Group: *Key Issues Related to International Operations*
- NCDs in Africa: Promoting Sustainable Progress
- NCDs and the Middle-East: Principles, Priorities and Partnerships reception with Ministry of Health representatives of the MENA region
- CU Global Experience Pre-Departure Symposium
- Participation in *Consortium of Universities in Global Health* activities

Crisis Coordination Response Group

Drawing upon expertise of MSPH and its key partners in the area of humanitarian crisis, the Crisis Coordination Response Group (CCRG) serves as a mechanism for convening around disaster response. Comprised of an informal group of key MSPH faculty, Communications Department and GHI, the CCRG convened for the first time following the 2011 emergency in Japan. Outcomes included:

*Perspectives on the Current Crisis in Japan*, with remarks and comments by MSPH Dean Linda P. Fried; Drs. Irwin Redlener (NCDP); David Brenner (CUMC Center for Radiological Research); Yasuko Nagamatsu (St. Luke's College of Nursing, Tokyo); Richard Garfield (NCDP, MSPH PopFam)

*Japanese Emergency Medical Response, Report from the Field*, with Dr. Robert Bristow, Medical Director, Emergency Management, New York Presbyterian Hospital; Director, Disaster Medicine, CU College of Physicians and Surgeons
Interdisciplinary Science

GHI encourages cross-disciplinary research that links expertise within departments at the Mailman School and other schools at Columbia to promote new thinking about critical global health challenges, particularly in the areas of Health in Crisis and Health Systems Science. To this end, GHI focused on the following activities with the aim to enhance collaboration between MSPH departments and CU schools:

Seminar Series

5 seminars, bringing together over 100 faculty and students, included

- **Health in Times of Crisis: Preparing and Responding Effectively**
- **HIV and Aging in Africa**
- **Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing of Child Soldiers in Nepal**
- **Psychosocial Capacity Building in Response to Disaster**
- **Family-Based Mental Health & Prevention Program for South Africa to Support HIV-Infected Youth and their Families**

(*) Co-sponsored with Global Mental Health Program

Research Activities:

- The **Gates Grand Challenges Award** for development of a cholera bio-sensor, involving researchers from across MSPH Departments of Environmental Health Sciences, Population and Family Health and Health Policy and Management, working with researchers from CU’s Department of Chemistry

- GHI awarded its first **Small Scale Interdisciplinary Research Awards** to enable small research activities that would supplement significant research efforts related to Health in Crisis. Project awards include:
  
  o **Quasi-experimental evaluation of nurse-led verses physician-led HIV care and treatment in Swaziland.** Drs. Marita Murrman (ICAP/SMS) and Robin Flam (ICAP/EPI) address the critical issues: the shortages of human resources for health and the urgent need to treat, manage, and prevent HIV infection in high prevalence settings.

  o **The Impact of Crisis-Mapping on Measures of Social Capital.** Drs. Robert Fullilove (SMS) and John Allegrante (Teachers College) lead team of faculty and students from MSPH, Teachers College, and the Kazakhstan School of Public Health.
Health in Crisis: A Critical Interdisciplinary Global Health Challenge

N. Bosty, D. Loy, K. White, A. Ager, and W. Di-Savo. Director, Program on Focused Migration and Health and Co-Convener, Health in Crisis TWG. Director, Columbia Climate & Health Program and Co-Convener, Health in Crisis TWG. Senior Program Officer, Global Health Initiative. Executive Director. Global Health Initiative. Director, Global Health Initiative at Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University.

BACKGROUND

Health in Crisis represents an acute emerging issue in the field of global health. Until recently, crises, and their impact on health and healthcare systems, have largely been conceptualised in relation to the specific characteristics of crisis onset. While work in distant areas such as natural disaster, conflict, migration and climate change will continue to be of value, there is emerging awareness of the close association of such risks with respect to population health both causally and conceptually.

OBJECTIVES

The Global Health Initiative (GHI) established the Health in Crisis (HC) Working Group to leverage perspectives and experiences from programs and disciplines across the University and four-stemmed collaborators to humanise and develop strategies to mitigate the impact of human health crises in human development communities. The key objectives were to mobilize discussion regarding the approaches required for cross-crisis analysis and initiate joint planning of research and capacity strengthening.

PROCESS

A seminar series was held to examine the conceptual linkages across crises; identify relevant methodologies for understanding crisis and recovery processes; and develop an integrated re-conceptualisation of health in crisis suitable for informing research and practice.

Seminars addressed the following themes:

- Social Ecology of Crisis: Human, Social & Cultural Capital as the Basis of Relief and Recovery
- The Literature of Health in Crisis: The Impact of Data on Human Well-Being
- Linking Knowledge and Action to Reduce Climate-Related Disasters

Additionally, special seminars were convened to review specific crisis events:

- Pakistan Floods: Prevention & Preparedness To Guide Humanitarian Action in Future Crisis, 2010
- Perspectives On The Crisis in Japan, 2011

Seminars brought together a total of over three hundred participants spanning students, faculty and agency representatives. Further, a number of seminars were video-taped to support preservation of discussions. Research groups have developed lived experiences into critical analyses of the GHC, Climate and Health; the National Center for Disaster Preparedness and Interdisciplinary Initiatives for Sustainable Development and Social Change. Agencies included in the consultations included CDC, USAID and UNICEF.

CONCLUSION

The HC group has effectively mobilized interdisciplinary expertise in the analysis of the complex interplay of socio-economic, political, and human-related factors in health crises. The group has also developed research and practice regarding addressing population health needs in crisis-affected settings.

Mapping the emerging agendas of global public health: findings of an international expert consensus exercise

A. Ager*1, G. Yu*1 & S. Hermosillo*2. Executive Director, Global Health Initiative, *1Department of Biostatistics, *2Department of Epidemiology, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University.

BACKGROUND

Processes of globalization have encouraged conceptualization of the field of global health as a rapidly evolving discipline. This is the earlier paradigms of international health and global health. However, there remains significant debate regarding the appropriate scope of research in this field. Relevant themes within this debate include the juxtaposition of public health and dimensions in assessing global health priorities and solutions and the empowerment of voices from the global South in a genuinely democratic discourse.

METHODS & MATERIALS

A survey of global health experts attending the invited meeting ‘The Changing Landscape of Global Public Health’ provided a means to map – across diverse stakeholders key issues perceived to be shaping emerging global public health agendas. A survey of attendees at an invited meeting ‘The Changing Landscape of Global Public Health’ provided a means to map – across diverse stakeholders – the key issues perceived to be shaping the global public health agenda.

A total of 162 practitioners completed the pre-meeting survey, each proposing three major issues that they judged will have the most significant impact on the field of global health in the coming years. For each addressly you obtained the resultant 286 response items, with VOS analysis then used to produce a composite two-dimensional map depicting the overall pattern of items, which accounting for 89% of total variance.

RESULTS

Figure 1 shows the map, with thematic labels attached to clusters following content analysis of grouped items. Thematic clusters were readily identified within the four major domains. Determined through joint consultation at the meeting (see Figure 2), shaping health & prevention needs (15% of items), globalization & global health governance (10% of items), transforming health care delivery (9% of items), and improving health & community resilience (23% of items). A total of 286 items across domains was not significantly influenced by the primary professional affiliation of participants (P=0.29, V=2.6, p=0.07). The domains of health & prevention needs, globalization & governance, and health care delivery were each identified as having important and complementary roles in shaping the future of global public health.

CONCLUSION

There are clear limits on generalization of findings given the nature of the sample for this exercise. However, the results of a survey to identify and make key issues shaping global health. The focus of this analysis on the integration of environmental factors with other elements of the emerging global public health agenda is clearly warranted.
Global Partnerships

GHI aims to broaden and institutionalize long-standing partnerships, as well as identify other potential synergies that advance strategic collaboration.

**CU Middle East Research Center (CUMERC):** With the aim to provide a base for MSPH-wide collaboration with institutions and programs in the region, GHI has lead a number of efforts to launch specific activities with CUMERC based in Amman, Jordan, including:

- Establishment of CUMERC’s Public Health Program
- Reception for delegates to UN Summit on NCDs in New York
- Collaborations between MSPH (Program on Forced Migration & Health, Population & Family Health and Institute for Human Nutrition) and local/regional entities:
  - RHAS (Royal Health Awareness Society) - Nutrition/School Feeding Program
  - East Jerusalem Clinic Network - Integrated Health Development in East Jerusalem
  - UNICEF – Child Protection
  - UNRWA (UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees) – Family health

**GHI’s Global Partnership Institutions:** GHI seeks to broaden long-standing partnerships with key global health institutions by exploring opportunities for collaboration in the following areas:

- Research: Development of collaborative research projects.
- Training: Design and coordination of joint academic activities, such as short courses, seminars, lectures.
- Education: Exchange of students for practicum or other educational programs, as well as the exchange of faculty for teaching assignments.

Together with our partners, GHI has identified a number of activities that would provide preliminary focus for continued partnership. Through mutually agreed upon priorities and goals, such activities seek to capitalize on strengths, opportunities as well as immediate needs of each institution.

A Scope of Work has been established with James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University in Bangladesh, with several potential endeavors including but not limited to the areas of urban health and health systems strengthening; training of BRAC students through distance learning and short courses with potential scholarships for eligible and qualified BRAC students; and practicum placements opportunities for MSPH students.

Currently, a similar SoW is being developed for Ifakara Health Institute in Tanzania. Focus collaboration will likely include the development of curricula for Ifakara’s MSc Program in Public Health Research Methods; potential distance learning and other short course trainings with potential scholarships.
Innovative Education Programs

GHI seeks to support MSPH in creating a wide range of education and training opportunities with the goal to prepare the next generation of global health leaders. Key activities in the last year include:

- Support the development of MSPH Globalization and Global Health module of new MPH curriculum
- Support for the ASPH Global Health Competencies Project – MSPH faculty, Drs. Alastair Ager (PopFam) and Marita Murrman (SMS), chaired subgroup
- Fundamentals of Global Health Course for Undergraduates - Introduced in 2009-10 as the second undergraduate class offered by MSPH, and the first with a PUBH code (Instructors included Drs. Lisa Bates (EPI); Joe Graziano (EHS); Les Roberts (PopFam); Marni Sommer (SMS); Alastair Ager (PopFam); Linda Fried (EPI); Anne Paxton (EPI/PopFam); Wafaa El-Sadr (EPI/ICAP)
- Collation of practicum opportunities for MPH students across global partner sites
- Distance learning education in collaboration with partners in the global south
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS
as of August 2, 2012

☐ 2012 Global Health Survey for MSPH Faculty (anticipated launch in September)

☐ 2012 Small Scale Interdisciplinary Research Grants (September)

☐ Leadership Training: Tools and Strategies for Managing the Development of Public Health Programming in the Middle-East
Short course in Amman, Jordan facilitated by MSPH Professors Alastair Ager and Jamie Eliades, in collaboration with CUMERC and American University in Beirut (September)

☐ GHI Seminar Series 2012

  ▪ SAVE THE DATE - September 25 - The Rise In Health Diplomacy: A New Relationship Between Health and Foreign Policy, with Dr. Ilona Kickbusch, Director of the Global Health Programme at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva
  ▪ Topic: Violence on Women (October)
  ▪ Topic: Community Health Workers (November)