

Report from the Executive Director

Holiday Greetings to our Friends of Global Health!!



Rodney Finalle, M.D.
Executive Director

I am so excited to provide you with an update on the incredible work that has been done this year in the developing world on behalf of our Global Health programs. In large part thanks to the generous contributions we receive, we provided primary healthcare to more than 1,000 children living in the poorest communities of the Dominican Republic and many more children suffering from the AIDS pandemic in Africa.

Though our name changed in 2008, our mission to improve children's health in poor countries and communities did not. Our programs continue to steadily grow as additional supporters recognize the value of the work that we do. Our pediatricians, nurses and other healthcare staff serve in two countries now - the Dominican Republic and Botswana. Our clinicians in the DR continue to travel long distances to remote villages reaching children and their families to provide urgently needed medications and vitamins.

This year, we began a second initiative in Africa offering medical care and training to a country ravaged by one of the highest AIDS rates in the world. Most children in Botswana are affected by HIV, either carrying the infection themselves, or being orphaned by the disease. Our global health volunteers have joined a multi-national/multi-organizational endeavor to improve the lives of these African children.

Two other major developments occurred in 2008, namely the establishment of our Global Health Fellowship and the First Annual Global Health Symposium held in November. These two new enterprises represent noteworthy achievements. First, these programs signal our entry into a much broader and truly international community of global health providers; and second, both these endeavors have developed new friendships, alliances and partnerships here locally, in the US and around the world.

In 2009, we hope to continue our growth. Our strategic plan is ambitious and we trust that in striving to meet our objective we will not only touch the lives of more disadvantaged children, but more importantly, make a positive and significant difference in these lives. We know that we can only meet such goals by sustaining and expanding our collaborations with our colleagues in other countries, and by seeking support from you and others that share our hope for a world where children's health is a primary concern. Please read and share this update on our programs. Please too, consider our request for a contribution to our annual giving fund.

To close, I extend our sincere gratitude on behalf of all the children whose health and wellbeing benefited directly from your generous help of time, talent and treasure this past year.

Rodney Finalle, M.D.

CHOP GLOBAL HEALTH 2008 WHAT A YEAR!

The past year brought some major and exciting developments including the incorporation of AIM in a new Global Health unit at Children's Hospital. Two other major developments include the institution of a Global Health Fellowship and the launching of a Pediatric Global Health Symposium. Brief descriptions of each follow below.

Children's Hospital's Global Health Department

On July 1, 2008, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia officially established a Global Health department as one of the pillars of its 2010 Strategic Plan that seeks to expand and enhance the hospital's international medicine profile. Recognizing the Alliance for International Medicine's (AIM) ongoing programs in the Dominican Republic and Botswana, the large number of hospital staff involved in its activities, and AIM's projected initiatives, Children's Hospital leadership appointed Dr. Rodney Finalle as Director of Global Health and charged him with giving vision and structure to the resultant programs that will achieve the goals of this strategic plan component.

The mission of Global Health is to champion children's health via clinical care, education and research and thereby reduce global pediatric deaths. Global Health plans to develop and grow targeted, sustainable, collaborative partnerships and interventions in resource scarce communities in developing countries. To achieve this vision, Global Health recognizes the need for a wide range of professional expertise and the concomitant multidisciplinary approaches required to address the pressing and challenging problems that jeopardize the health of children in poor communities in developing countries.

Global Health is charged, as well, with recognizing and incorporating initiatives of Children's Hospital staff that have engaged in healthcare work outside of the borders of the United States. A significant number of CHOP professionals: physicians, nurses, allied health professionals and non-clinical staff, have all visited and provided their programs and services to care for children and advance the mission of the Hospital.

David N. Pincus Global Health Fellowship

David Pincus, a friend and benefactor of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and international philanthropist, recently bestowed a generous gift to the Global Health department to establish **The David N. Pincus Global Health Fellowship**. The Pincus Fellowship not only adds an international option to the already prestigious catalog of Graduate Medical Education academic...
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Visit the website at:

<http://www.chop.edu/globalhealth>

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DOMINICAN REPORT

OCTOBER 2008 TRIP SUMMARY

Debra Voulalas MD and Barbara Dion RN led the eighth CHOP Global Health visit to Consuelo. During the two weeks of service, the team led and participated in workshops for health promoters, provided primary care to children in fourteen bateyes, and made a joint visit with another clinical team, Queskaya that also provides care to children at Barrio Filio in Consuelo.

The 815 persons seen were the highest for any CHOP group and unusual for a fall visit. Consuelo medical director, Dr. Fran Vasquez attributed the large number of children seeking care to many of the children having gripe and other minor illnesses this fall. At the Barrio Filio session both children and adults were seen. Providers with adult expertise were part of the team on this occasion. The number of individuals (100 children, 24 adults) seen during the joint visit with Queskaya was a record for that Centro de Salud Clinic team as well. The team was not aware of any government sponsored clinics at the bateyes, but did not inquire as to their existence.

During visits to the bateyes the health promoters were noticeably engaged in activities of the clinic. Health promoters assisted with measuring and weighing the children, referring children to the therapists and participating in the visits of some high risk families. In one noteworthy example, the health promoter's participation was essential because the mother had cognitive limitations and the child had significant developmental delays. The health promoter knew the family well and by taking part in the child's visit she could follow-up to assure the clinical care recommendations were met.

Nutrition data is somewhat similar to findings from October 2007. One difference is the number of children scoring as moderately malnourished in the acute assessment, a seeming significant increase. Acute Malnutrition was seen in 33% of patients followed compared with 27% in 2007. The largest numbers of children identified with malnutrition were seen at Vasca, one of the bateyes most distant from Consuelo. At this particular clinic session, 91 children were seen with reports that some of them were from two adjacent bateyes. On a positive note, chronic malnutrition was observed in 9% of the 613 patients being followed compared to 16% identified in the fall of 2007.

Nurses on this team intended to survey mothers of children less than 12 months old to determine breastfeeding prevalence and duration. The results are limited due to the small number of mothers who came to clinics with infants and also the demands of the sessions did not allow for the nurses to take time to complete many surveys. Three bateyes were surveyed with a total of seven infants. All seven mothers initiated breastfeeding, but only one mother of the five with infants less than six months was exclusively breastfeeding. Six mothers were feeding their infants formula and breastfeeding to a limited extent. Formula in the supermarket is approximately \$10.00 for a can of the powdered product. Reasons for stopping breastfeeding were only elicited on one occasion and the reason given was "not enough breast milk". Clearly this is an area that deserves more attention to determine why mothers switch to formula even though they have a high initiation rate of breastfeeding. Anecdotally, one of the therapists observed that the formula fed infants were visibly malnourished.

Continued in next column

GLOBAL HEALTH TO OPEN PEDIATRIC PRACTICE IN CONSUELO

When Global Health Director, Rodney Finalle and Caribbean Director Geri O'Hare successfully hired a pediatrician, a nurse and a coordinator, they launched a new clinical practice for infants, children and teens. The practice is an expansion of the partnership with the Centro de Salud Divina Providencia, the central health clinic in Consuelo providing primary and secondary care for the community. All three of the new staff are Dominicans and residents of the community. One of the Pincus Global Health fellows will be the CHOP GH staff assigned to work and oversee the practice on a daily basis reporting to Rodney and Geri.

The establishment of a year around practice promises to significantly enhance care. Structural improvements can be achieved such as accurate, complete and consistent clinical records as well as uniform and current clinical care protocols. Additionally, an on site team can increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the bi-annual team visits. Important preparatory work can be completed such as having equipment ready and in working order, and having sufficient materials of the appropriate medications and medical supplies. Most importantly, vital follow-up work is facilitated especially in tracking nutrition needs and children with serious chronic illnesses.



Fall 2008 Team Members with Centro de Salud staff and a Health Promoter

As with the previous trips, the most frequent diagnosis found was parasites. Upper respiratory infections were again the second most prevalent. During this trip, anemia, dental caries and malnutrition all ranked higher than for fall 2007 and reflect continuing issues with nutrition. Other common diagnoses included: rule out sickle cell disease, dysmenorrhea, nonspecific vaginitis, failure to thrive, knee trauma, developmental delay and hernia.

As is standard with team visits, Health Promoter Workshops were held. A new and well received topic covered the physical changes of adolescence, the first in a series concerning adolescence health that is to include psychological issues. Other topics included; risk of injuries for under fives, critical thinking and problem solving, wound care and nutrition. The Fall Team members are listed on page four.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL LAUNCHES GLOBAL HEALTH FELLOWSHIP

With the generous gift of Mr. David Pincus, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia recently announced the establishment of a Global Health Fellowship. The David N. Pincus Fellowship addresses the need for future leaders in the field of pediatric global health by providing training that focuses on direct service, program development and leadership and clinical research.

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's mission to "strive to be the world leader in the advancement of healthcare for children" is supported by the Pincus Fellowship that will create and maintain collaborations among health care professionals global partners committed to pediatric healthcare. The Fellowship provides opportunities for clinical care, education and research that advance the knowledge relative to children living in developing countries. Upon completion of a two-year commitment, Pincus Fellows will be equipped to continue in careers dedicated to children's health in resource scarce communities.

The Pincus Fellowship is a truly a collaborative effort that includes Children's Hospital, the Columbia University International Family AIDS Program, Sparrow's Village in South Africa, the Botswana-UPenn Partnership and the Centro de Salud Divina Providencia. in the Dominican Republic. The Fellowship's comprehensive global health care approach addresses the needs of children living in poverty through expanded access to healthcare services and improved pediatric health education for families, communities and health systems. Additionally, it supports the critically important process of training the next generation of internationally focused pediatricians and healthcare professionals. Global Health Fellows will work in either the Caribbean, namely the Dominican Republic or in Africa; Botswana and South Africa. Both locations include collaborative work with local partner health delivery systems.

The two year Global Health training model combines clinical service in a developing country, the development and delivery of educational materials, and opportunities to study and complete clinical research under the mentorship of Children's Hospital faculty. The Fellows' clinical experience is focused on diseases particularly common in resource poor regions of the world such as malnutrition, water related illnesses, acute respiratory disease, diarrhea, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. Tropical diseases, too, play a large role in the causes of childhood diseases.

The Global Health Fellows will work collaboratively with in-country professional colleagues having ongoing primary pediatric clinical responsibilities. The range of clinical services includes: primary and urgent ambulatory care, outreach and home visits, office visits for acute and preventive services, and inpatient pediatric care performed at the level of a general inpatient pediatric hospitalist. Fellows will be expected to connect with and augment existing health care systems in their communities with the guidance of the Fellowship faculty. They will serve to make available wide ranging healthcare in areas of minimal resources. They will develop and improve their diagnostic skills by practicing medicine in areas with limited diagnostic resources.

Research will be stressed and supported with training in research design, use the principles of clinical epidemiology and evidence based medicine and to understand statistical analysis. The acquisition of research skills will be a part of the curriculum for each Fellow. Individualized mentoring will allow each Fellow to choose to explore research interests with a Faculty member.

GLOBAL HEALTH PLANS TO APPLY MODEL IN BOTSWANA

CHOP Global Health leaders visited Botswana last September to continue a discussion with its current allies there, the Penn-Botswana Partnerships and the Botswana Ministry of Health regarding children's health needs. While the capital city of Gaborone has significant international support, other smaller cities and rural areas have considerably less. Beginning this year, under CHOP Global Health Africa Director, Dr. Andrew Steenhoff, funding was secured to hire two pediatricians for a TB/HIV care effort in Francistown and the surrounding regions.

With this foothold and a receptive Ministry of Health, CHOP Global Health plans to apply its service model that has been successful in the Dominican Republic. That program design builds collaborations with local health providers; employs, trains and nurtures community residents to serve as health educators; and organizes volunteer teams of experienced professionals to provide direct care and sustain the relationships with local practitioners through mentoring and shared initiatives. CHOP Global Health Director Dr. Rodney Finalle will bring a team to Botswana next spring to continue this groundwork laid over the last half year.

Another key Botswana initiative is the **Nurses Supporting Nurses Program** led by Global Health Africa nursing coordinator Denise Ramsden. That effort seeks to assist nurses in developing nations by establishing relationships with nurse leaders, gathering information about nursing structure, leadership, and gaining insight into their strengths and challenges. During three visits, CHOP GH nurses are struck by the commitment of the Botswana nurses and their desire to update and improve their pediatric nursing skills.

In response to requests from frontline nurses, nurse educators and Ministry of Health officials in Botswana, CHOP Global Health is developing a program to provide sustainable pediatric nurse education and training, which is mutually beneficial. The bottom line goal is improve the health of children in Botswana by decreasing childhood morbidity and mortality in ways that are meaningful and respectful of local healthcare systems. A team of nurse delegates are in the planning phase of curriculum and research development. A global health nurse advocacy fellowship and fund-raising efforts are underway to support this mission. An initial timetable of biannual trips begins in March 2009.



Children's Hospital Nursing Staff in Botswana – Planning Future Programs

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 2008

Throughout the year, many individuals made many, many contributions to Global Health at CHOP. Here are just a few.

October 2008 DR Trip Team Members:

Debra Voulalas, MD, Team Leader
Barbara Dion, RN, Team Leader
Camille Henry, MD, PL-3
Eric Kurzenberger, OT
Angie Miller, RN
Anna Rives, PhD Medical Student
Chrissy Steinbacher, PT
Leonele Toledo, MD
Howard Topol, MD, PL-3
Caroline Truchel, RN

Fund Raising Captains, 2008

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| Ruth Frey, CRNP | Film, Berwyn United Methodist Haverford Kids First, CHOP |
| Wendy Wallace, DO | Film, Calvary Lutheran West Chester Kids First North Hills, CHOP |
| Krista Iobbi, PT | Film, St Augustine, Philadelphia Children's Seashore House, CHOP |
| Deb Voulalas, MD | 2008 Vitamin Drive Primary Care, CHOP |
| Jim Vagnoni, MSW | Phillies Outing Special Immunology, CHOP |
| Howard Topal, MD Deb Voulalas, MD | World Café Night Resident MD/Primary Care |
| Eric Kurzenberger, OT Chrissy Steinbacher PT | Global Health Tee Shirts Children's Seashore House, CHOP |

Pediatric Global Health Symposium Committee

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Shirley Huang, MD | Associate Medical Director, Healthy Weight Prog. The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia |
| Neal Nathanson, MD | Associate Dean, Global Health Programs School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania |
| Geri O'Hare, CRNP | Director, Caribbean Program, Global Health The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia |
| Sally Poliwoda, BSN | Community Nursing Advocacy Fellowship The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia |
| Olivia Prebus, BA | Quality Assurance Coord. Special Immunology School of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania |
| Jim Vagnoni, MSW Committee Chair | Program Director, Special Immunology The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia |

Pediatric Global Health Symposium Advisors

Ann Hagan, Continuing Medical Education, Children's Hospital
Barbara Dion, Education Nurse Specialist, Children's Hospital
Mary Battle, Abramson Conference Center, Children's Hospital

Pediatric Global Health Symposium Staff

Shana Allyene University of Pennsylvania
Amada Foote University of Pennsylvania
Sahaba Gill Swarthmore College
Zita Mvula Rosemont College
Randi O'Neill University of Pennsylvania
K'Shelle Waller University of Pennsylvania

FUND RAISING OR JUST FUN

Newsletter readers are probably wondering, "How can I do something both enjoyable and rewarding?" The people associated with Global Health at Children's Hospital might just have the answer.

Since its inception in 2004, AIM/Global Health has relied on volunteers to serve as health providers on the service trips to the Caribbean and now Botswana. These truest of volunteers not only give their time, they cover the cost of their travel and living expenses. To defray costs, team members sponsor small fund raising events that not only bring in needed money, but also allow friends, family and friendly folks to participate in these worthwhile missions.

After doing a couple events, people organizing and attending these gatherings realized they also had lots of FUN doing them. The most common of activities is the Happy Hour. Of course, Happy Hours by their very nature are enjoyable but in retrospect all the organizing, networking, and working with each other – whatever the financial outcome – many smiles and many laughs later, the planners feel fulfilled and joyful! They had lots of fun!

The types of fund raising activities are evolving. This year, three folks, at their churches, showed the film, The Price of Sugar that depicts people's lives in bateyes in the Dominican Republic; attendees made contributions and purchased refreshments. A Children's Hospital organized Vitamin Drive saved the expense of buying these vital nutrition boosters. For the October trip, a 300 plus showing at a Phillies game raised \$1,700 and helped the Phils win a championship. Also, for October, a duo organized a night at the World Café and yet another team member designed and sold T-Shirts.

Now any fun loving readers motivated to organize a fund raiser, give in to your urges and give Rodney a shout and he'll get you the help you need. Everyone else, look out for and come out to the Global Health fund raisers in 2009.

Global Health 2008 (fellowship) - continued from page 1

...programs offered at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, but also expands our global health programs, extends our healthcare impact beyond the borders of the United States and facilitates the development of new global partners.

Two fellows are currently being recruited to participate in this two year fellowship that commences in July 2009. One fellow will work and train in the Dominican Republic, the other in Botswana. The Fellowship, housed in the Division of General Pediatrics, is a remarkable first both for CHOP and for Pediatric Academic training across the United States.

Pediatric Global Health Symposium

Global Health at Children's Hospital hosted an exceptionally successful **First Annual Pediatric Global Health Symposium** on November 26th, 2008. Although the plan and venue limited attendance to 110, 124 persons registered and another 24 registrants signed up the day of the symposium. The Symposium was co-hosted by Penn's Global Health Department at School of Medicine. Neal Nathanson, MD, the Penn-Med GH Director spoke and served on the planning committee. The outstanding faculty included keynote speaker Helene Gayle, MD MPH, current CEO of Care USA, and former head of HIV and TB efforts at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Centers for Disease Control. Outstanding audience evaluations (4.6 out of 5) confirmed the Symposium met its objectives to define the characteristics of global health, to delineate needs and issues, to alert practitioners and institutions of existing efforts and promising interventions, and to inform the CHOP-Penn communities of the dire need for global health interventions.