

Report from the Director

Rodney Finalle, M.D.



For the last several years, I feel like I have been “riding high” as they say. From our modest beginnings in 2003, a mission trip to Haiti and the formation of AIM, the Alliance for Internal Medicine as the forbearer to our present status as the Global Health department, we have been part of what seems to be colossal growth in programs, services and staff. More importantly, we are providing increasing access to health

care to children in two regions of the world and likely more locations in the future.

First, I am awed by our growing network of supporters. When I think of the mounting number of people who have sought us out to help, I sometimes feel overwhelmed. Most of these folks are employees at Children's Hospital but many others are caring people from Penn and other institutions or friends, family and colleagues of our ever-expanding corps of volunteers. More than 100 people have helped us and twice that number gave donations in past 12 months!

I am also moved by this financial support, small and large that is coming our way. The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia now underwrites my effort. Mr. David Pincus stepped forward to create the Pincus Global Health Fellowship that provides our program with two physicians and dovetails perfectly with Mr. Pincus' philanthropy in both the DR and South Africa. Very recently, we competed for and received an award from the Women's Committee of Children's Hospital. The gift launched our new Children Health center in Consuelo, Dominican Republic. We are also blessed with a multitude of individual givers. Many individuals conducted fund raising activities for us including several new friends that amassed nearly \$5,000 on our behalf at The Broad Street Run in May.

Yet most of all, as you will read in these pages, our care for children is increasing exponentially. We have opened the *Ninos Primero En Salud*, a “year-round” pediatric practice with our partners in Consuelo where we expect to serve 500 more patients most under age five. We also begin a partnership with an established HIV/AIDS practice in the nearby town of La Romano. In Africa, as you will read, we are launching outreach to smaller towns and settlements in Francistown, Botswana. Very soon, we start our work with Sparrow Village, a community for children with or orphaned by HIV/AIDS.

Of course, each day brings new challenges. While this is “real life”, we welcome the hurdles since we know overcoming them brings the rewards I recounted here. As always, please accept my sincerest thanks to all of you!

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

or email: globalhealth@email.chop.edu

FIRST PINCUS PEDIATRIC GLOBAL HEALTH FELLOWS BEGIN

Lara Antkowiak, MD and Henry Welch, MD

July 1, 2009, marks the day the David N. Pincus Pediatric Global Health Fellows begin their tenure at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. A year ago, this Newsletter announced the generous gift that birthed this vital addition to the hospital's prestigious medical education offerings. The Fellowship seeks to develop a comprehensive global health care effort that addresses challenges facing children living in poverty through expanded access to healthcare services and improved pediatric health education for families, communities and health systems. The Fellowship supports the vital process of training the next generation of internationally focused pediatricians and healthcare professionals.

Given the dearth of similar pediatric training programs, the national response of applicants was exceptional and the Global Health faculty had the daunting task of choosing just two stellar Fellows from more than 10 excellent applicants.



Lara Antkowiak, MD, M.ED, will serve in the Dominican Republic working with Caribbean Program Director Geri O'Hare in Consuelo at the *Centro de Salud Divina Providencia* and the new *Ninos Primero En Salud*. Additionally, Lara will share time with a new medical partner, the International Family AIDS Program in the city of La Romano.

Lara Antkowiak possesses considerable international experience having worked on projects in two sites in Bolivia, in Africa – Kenya and Lesotho – and in Bangalore, India. Lara engaged in a range of practices including services to children, clinical care, community education and clinical research. Lara received a BA at Northwestern, a Master's in Education from Harvard, and her M.D. at University of Massachusetts Medical School with a combined residency at Boston Children's Hospital and Boston Medical Center.



Henry Welch, MD will serve in Africa working with Africa Program Director, Andrew Steenhoff, MD in Botswana with assignments in Gaborone and the TB/HIV team in Francistown and rural towns and villages nearby. He will also work at Sparrow Village, a community serving children with AIDS in Soweto, South Africa.

Henry Welch likewise has extensive global service experience volunteering in programs in Ethiopia, India, Israel and Texas. As a veteran of the US Army, Henry participated in medical missions in Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Henry received a BS at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse and his MD at the Medical School for International Health in Israel at *Ben-Gurion University of the Negev*, a collaborative with Columbia University Medical Center. He was Chief Resident of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans, LA.

DOMINICAN REPORT – ON THE GROUND, ALL YEAR ROUND!! NINOS PRIMERO EN SALUD OPENS IN CONSUELO

Global Health at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia took a giant stride in advancing its care for children in the Dominican Republic with the opening of the *Ninos Primero En Salud*, (NPS) a year round children's health center in the town and region of Consuelo. In March 2009, after five years of sending teams to the Caribbean, Global Health Director Rodney Finalle and Caribbean Program Director Geri O'Hare hired a pediatrician, a nurse and a coordinator launching a pediatric health facility that provides regular, preventive and sick care to an anticipated 500 children each year.

The *Ninos Primeros En Salud* focuses on the more vulnerable children under age five thus furthers the international endeavor to reduce child mortality across the globe. The project also significantly advances the work and commitment of The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia as it strives to extend its pediatric resources to children around the world. Additionally, the establishment of children's health centers such as the NPS is a basic component of the Global Health Department model as these centers serve as bases of operations for health outreach, disease prevention/health promotion, community health education, pediatric medical care and sustainability through the development of local resources and capability in communities served.



Care at the NPS focuses on younger, more vulnerable children

Accordingly, with preventive care as a theme, children will receive home visits from the pediatric nurse helping mothers with breastfeeding, monitoring nutritional status of children, encouraging routine visits with the pediatrician and helping guide families on how to care for sick children. Children suffer from disease because of exposures to disease agents, financial constraints that limit families' ability to provide healthful environments, and lack of access to care for children in poor communities. The vast majority of the families in our partner community cannot afford the standard fee charged in community health centers nor the cost for the medicines their children need. The NPS program will provide these services and medicines free of charge to eliminate the cost barrier to care.

The NPS team will work collaboratively with Children's Hospital staff that visit the Center intermittently as part of an ongoing Global Health program that provide care in the *bateyes*, villages that are home to Haitian migrant workers. As an established location, the NPS facilitates clinical and administrative continuity such as important preparatory work for the visits (e.g. equipment ready and in working order, and sufficient quantities of the appropriate medications and

medical supplies). Most importantly, the NPS staff can follow-up on the team's work tracking nutrition needs and children with serious chronic illnesses. The Pincus Global Health Fellow, too, will work at the NPS implementing Children's Hospital clinical standards and communicating with Rodney and Geri.

The NPS children's health center in Consuelo expands the partnership with the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, the Canadian religious order that established the *Centro de Salud Divina Providencia* the health care facility where the *Niños Primero en Salud* is housed. Geri O'Hare with *Centro De Salud* Medical Director and Global Health ally, Dr. Fran Vasquez have engaged the Dominican Republic Ministry of Health to secure the appropriate licenses and approvals thereby incorporating the center into the country's health system. The *Niños Primero en Salud* represents a vital building block for the Global Health Department's mission to bring The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's exceptional pediatric health expertise and resources to vulnerable children around the world.

The *Niños Primero en Salud* staff includes Dra. Ingrid Francisca Japa Reyes, the pediatrician; Senora Ramona, the pediatric nurse and Abel Gonzalez, the Clinic coordinator.

SERVING CHILDREN OF THE BARRIOS

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Global Health Department has added a new constituency, the children living in the barrios near the town of Consuelo in the Dominican Republic. With the opening of the *Niños Primero En Salud*, Global Health leadership plans to



provide access to health care for the many poor children living in two barrios, Los Filiu and La 41.

The meaning of the term *barrio* varies from country to country. In the DR the definition is similar to the US English designation of an impoverished or slum community in

the outer rims of a city. On the other hand, some barrios can be middle class communities on the outskirts of a town such as the Teacher's barrio also in Consuelo.

A barrio differs from the *bateyes*, a place where Global Health volunteers have been active. A *batey* is a company town located mostly within but sometimes adjacent to sugar care fields. The *bateyes* are comprised generally of barracks that house the sugar workers in or nearby the site of their labors.

Both Barrio Los Filiu and Barrio La 41 were communities formed by people left homeless by Hurricane George in 1998. The two barrios are located on the east side of Consuelo. Filiu is named for the dried-up lake once located there and has a population of about 2000 people. Over the years, both Filiu and La 41 developed streets and alleys but no paving. Living structures vary; most are constructed with cinder blocks with roofs made of cement, wood and metal. Some of these lodgings have electricity and water. Sanitary conditions at both barrios are precarious and most residences use latrines.

Consuelo physician partners, Drs Francisca Vasquez and Juddy James facilitated the linkage with Barrio Los Filiu and Barrio La 41. The Fall 2008 team made the first visit to the barrios where they provided care to 78 children. In the first two months of service, *Niños Primero En Salud* has cared for 110 children under age five that live in these communities.

AFRICA PROGRAMS ON THE RISE

INCREASED STAFF, CLINICAL CARE, MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH IN GABORONE, FRANCISTOWN, RURAL TOWNS AND REGIONS IN BOTSWANA

The expansion in the Africa program is inspiring, growing in staffing, services, locations, clinical education and academic research. The team has increased from one pediatric infectious diseases specialist in Botswana to three pediatricians (one ID, two general pediatricians), one social worker, a nurse and a nurse assistant. These professionals are staffing two initiatives: the enhanced Tuberculosis (TB) Diagnosis Project and the pediatric TB Contact Project.

Most importantly, the program growth brings an increase in services to children. The TB program has found and treated twenty-five children with gastric aspirates two of which were diagnosed and treated for TB. Without the intervention, these two children's TB would have been missed. The team also treated sixty adults with TB including the parents of children with TB.

The TB Project has begun to work in the Francistown city clinics where staff sees complicated pediatric TB and other general pediatric cases. These medical encounters always occur with a local doctor or nurse practitioner to ensure skill transfer and continuity of treatment. The team's two physicians, Tonya Arscottmills, MD and Nurit Harari, MD have started monthly outreach visits to smaller towns, Maun (Nurit) and Kasane (Tonya) and their own hospitals and city clinics. Pediatric care is the focus in both places especially TB and complicated pediatric cases including HIV. The doctors travel by car to both towns that are about 5 hours drive from Francistown. Tonya and Nurit spend two to three nights in the towns. Tonya was once delayed when a herd of elephants blocked the road to Kasane!

Medical education is another area of expansion. Staff gave grand rounds at Nyangabgwe tertiary hospital in Francistown. Nurit and Tonya give monthly lectures on TB in children and other pediatric topics at the hospital as well as the city clinics. They have also trained 15 nurses to perform pediatric gastric aspirates hence ensuring local capacity building and sustainability. Staff has provided TB educational talks and case discussions given to over 100 health care workers (nurses and doctors) in various locations in Botswana.

The program is also active in Bobonong, a rural community two and a half hours drive from Francistown and five hours from Gaborone. At the first visit in December 2008, the team met with the local chief ("kgosi") as well as the head of the hospital and clinic teams. The chief welcomed the team to his area and greatly appreciated "coming in the front door", that is, meeting him now at the beginning rather than trying to meet with him at a later day when the team needed his help to sort out a problem! This year, the chief will organize a "kgotla" (gathering of all local leaders and the community) to introduce Nurit and Tonya to his people.

Global Health Africa Director, Dr. Andrew Steenhoff has been named to Botswana's national HIV specialist guidelines committee that writes and revises Botswana's national HIV guidelines. He advises Botswana's national TB program (BNTP) on pediatric TB. With Margaret Bafana, the head of the microbiology lab at Princess Marina Hospital (PMH), Andrew presented a poster at the Infectious Diseases Society of America on emergence of MRSA in Botswana. The presentation was Margaret's first ever at an international meeting. They also presented at grand rounds at PMH as well as to the Botswana National Drug Committee. The high rate of MRSA has implications for what drugs should be available at district and primary hospitals in Botswana. Additionally, in collaboration with the microbiology laboratory at PMH, Andrew and the team presented



Africa Team Gathered in Gaborone for Strategic Planning March 2009

presented three posters at the Botswana National HIV conference on MRSA, gastroenteritis and skin and soft tissue infections.

Andrew has a manuscript under review on antibiotic use in the pediatric ward at PMH and was invited to write on TB and meningitis in HIV infected children. The goal of all these efforts is contribute the development of local pediatric care knowledge and capability.

BOTSWANA/CHOP NURSE COLLABORATION

The "Nurses Supporting Nurses Initiative" of Children's Hospital's Global Health Department sent a delegate to Botswana in March 2009 to initiate a Nursing Education Curriculum project. Sally Poliwoda, RN, a well-experienced nurse educator brought the first curriculum installment at this recent visit. Ms. Poliwoda met with Botswana nurses in the capital Gaborone but most of her time focused on Francistown, a city where fewer resources are available and where the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia has established a new and far reaching program.

In Francistown Sally worked with newly hired Children's Hospital Global Health physician, Dr. Nurit Harari who in addition to TB and pediatric care provides medical education on a myriad of topics to practitioners and other health staff. While in Botswana, Sally joined Nurit at her lecture on Dermatology and Dr. Shirley Huang, a Children's Hospital Nutrition Specialist at her presentation on Malnutrition. Denise Ramsden, RN, Global Health Africa Nurse Coordinator joined Sally later back in Gaborone where the Africa team and Global Health staff conducted a strategic planning session.

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT AND BARRIERS TO CROSS-CULTURAL EDUCATION – A STUDY

Peter Meaney, MD, MPH, an Anesthesiology and Critical Care physician at Children's Hospital is conducting a Basic Life Skills course in Botswana for health care workers that have patient contact. The course is the core component of a clinical trial that is using a randomized, multi-center intervention to compare two educational programs on healthcare provider performance in the Botswana national hospital system. This study addresses the critical question of how to effectively and consistently measure and associate CPR knowledge and psychomotor skills that optimize the learners' environment and hence their capabilities to provide life saving services. The study is now in its second year.

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE GRANT TO SPONSOR NEW DR CENTER

As this Newsletter goes to print, the Women's Committee of The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia announced a significant award that promises to finance the Global Health department's new Children's Health Center in Consuelo for at least two years. The gift dovetails with the Pincus Fellowship that supports a Children's Hospital physician who will work in conjunction with three Dominican staff. The newly established *Ninos Premero En Salud* emphasizes care for children under age five who are most vulnerable. The Center's programs include a home visitation component through which a nurse can focus on maternal and infant care addressing health needs of both mothers and children. The Global Health Team expresses its sincerest gratitude to the members of the Women's Committee for their compassion and generosity.



ANNUAL PHILLIES OUTING

Friday October 2, 2009 – Bring the Family!

Continuing the tradition, Global Health will again host an outing to the last Phillies Friday night game of the year. We are undoubtedly the vital factor in the Phils winning the Championship, and we have seats reserved for **Friday October 2nd**. The seats, in the same sections behind home plate provide awesome views of the game, the Ball Park and Philadelphia, and cost only **\$22.00 each**.

The outing supports a vital Children's Hospital initiative that provides essential health care to vulnerable children around the world. The Phillies will give CHOP a small portion of ticket price to be used to underwrite the cost of medicines and medical care for the children of Haitian migrant workers living in the Dominican Republic as CHOP volunteers travel there at the end of October.

Since the Phillies are selling out their games, the demand is likely to be even more tremendous than last year when we "Sold Out" a week before the game...meaning reserve your tickets as soon as you can. Tickets are sold on the classic "first come, first served basis". For tickets contact Jim Vagnoni at 215 590 4990 or K'Shelle Waller 215 590 4990 or email: globalhealth@email.chop.edu.

Save the date!

SECOND ANNUAL PEDIATRIC GLOBAL HEALTH SYMPOSIUM Wednesday, November 25, 2009

THE IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENT ON THE HEALTH OF CHILDREN

A MULTIDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE

THE JOSEPH STOKES AUDITORIUM
THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA

A Special Yet Typical Note of Thanks

From The Desk of STEPHEN JANOFSKY

June 29, 2009

Dear Geri and Rodney

I can't thank you enough for getting me to the DR and allowing me to have the experiences of the past 2 weeks. It was amazing in so many ways. The CHOP team was an unbelievable combination of talent, love, personality, dedication and rollicking fun. Our Dominican colleagues taught me so much about forging relationships and then staying loyal to them and leaning on them when necessary, and also the immense value of community involvement to help the less fortunate on your own doorstep (along with how to dance a mean meringue and bachatta); and the children taught me that hands down, Yes! I do want to be a doctor. Each child was so beautiful and curious and grateful. It's an amazing privilege to serve them in any way. I could go on for hours about the wonderful little moments that I had, and why it was such a special time, but I'll let "thank you" suffice for now. We'll share the rest over a cold Presidente sometime.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

March 2009 Botswana Trip

Walter Clayton Shirely Huang, MD
Liz Lowenthal, MD Sally Poliwoda, RN
Denise Ramsden, RN

Spring 2009 DR Trip Team Members:

Ruth Frye CRNP, Team Leader
Pam Mazzeo, MD PL2
Eden Kahle, MD PL2
Anne Callahan MD, Attending
Barb Picard CRNP
Stephanie Hunt OT/L
Jamila Aberdeen, PT
Stephen J. Janofsky GH volunteer
Greg Chaka MS
Wendy Hemme RN – ED
Maggie McGrath RN – Onco
Rebecca Thomas, RD, Nutrition

Fund Raising, 2009 (To Date)

Ruth Frey, Captain Juli Birmingham Rodney Finale Jackie Liberati	Greg Charak Steve Janofsky Mahesh Narayan	Broad Street Run Team of 7 Global Health runners Raised \$5,000 for Spring trip to DR
Sally Poliwoda Denise Ramsden	Silent Auction/Website Overbrook Presbyterian Church Raised \$2,500 for Botswana Trip	
Ruth Frey, Geri O'Hare, Deb Voulalas	World Café Night Raised \$1,500 for Spring trip to DR	
Eric Kurzenberger and Team	Global Health Tee Shirts Raised \$1,000 for trips to DR	