# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome from the Director............................2  
Research......................................................3  
Global Engagement......................................5  
Education & Training.....................................6  
Events........................................................11  
Publications................................................13  

## OFFICE OF GLOBAL HEALTH

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WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR

Last year I opened this letter of welcome noting that the COVID-19 pandemic has taught the world a simple truth – that health is a truly global concern, transcending borders and exposing pre-existing structural inequities. One year later, as we seek to move past COVID, we still see this struggle. More than 13 billion vaccine doses have been administered worldwide, but in December 2022 more COVID cases were reported by the World Health Organization than in any other month since the start of the pandemic.

To understand this seeming paradox requires understanding something about infectious disease epidemiology, immunology, behavioral science, and intellectual property rights. It also helps to reflect upon lessons from past public health struggles, where public health practitioners acted as a force against racism and colonialism, for example in the global movement for access to HIV treatment, or the movement for harm reduction in Eastern Europe, which replaced Soviet “narcology” with public health interventions grounded in scientific evidence, conducted in partnership with affected communities, and centered on dignity and respect for human rights.

At the Dornsife School of Public Health our mission reflects these lessons, recognizing that health is a human right and that to improve the health of communities and populations we must advance innovative and equitable public health programs, impactful research, and meaningful partnerships with communities – in Philadelphia and worldwide.

In 2022, the Dornsife School of Public Health’s global health work has continued to expand at a rapid pace. Global health research and training projects, such as Salud Urbana en América Latina (SALURBAL) (“Urban Health in Latin America”) and the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene capacity building (WASH Cap) certificate course conducted in partnership with World Vision International are ongoing. The Global Alliance for Training in Health Equity Research (GATHER) and the Dornsife Development Scholars programs continue to support students from the undergraduate level to post-doctoral researchers to address urgent global health disparities. A new 20-country evaluation research project, funded by the Global Fund against HIV, TB and Malaria, is examining human rights barriers to access, uptake and adherence to prevention and treatment.

COVID-19 is not yet over, nor will it be the last emerging infectious disease we face. In many low- and middle-income countries, the prevalence of chronic disease is exploding, requiring new approaches, examining commercial determinants of health and the right to a healthy environment. Looking back on our work in 2022, I am proud that our students remain fearless and undaunted, rising to any challenge, committed to ensure that health as a human right is realized for all.

Joseph Amon, PhD, MSPH
Director, Office of Global Health
Clinical Professor, Community Health and Prevention
Dornsife School of Public Health
RESEARCH

Faculty at the Dornsife School of Public Health engage in a wide range of research projects globally. Research spans across countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. In 2022, faculty members’ research examined the impact of urban environments on mortality and health, cross-border migration on health status, strengthening research capacity for inclusive development and assessing progress for human rights programming on access to health services. COVID-19 continued to be a topic addressed in faculty research, along with climate change.

Salud Urbana en América Latina (SALURBAL) (Latin America)

Led by Dr. Ana Diez Roux, dean of the Dornsife School of Public Health, Salud Urbana en América Latina (SALURBAL), Urban Health in Latin America, is a five-year project launched in April 2017. Drexel University’s Dornsife School of Public Health and partners throughout Latin America and in the United States are working together to study how urban environments and urban policies impact the health of city residents throughout Latin America. As a part of the project, Dr. Josiah Kephart led and contributed to multiple analyses of the impacts of extreme hot and cold temperatures on mortality in 326 cities in Latin America. Dr. Kephart is also leading a project examining the impacts of floods on health disparities in 300+ Latin American cities, funded by the Cotswold Foundation. By examining 150+ recent historical floods, the team is working to quantify social disparities in flood exposure and improve our understanding of how living in a neighborhood with repeated flooding impacts long-term health and health disparities.

Breaking Down Barriers to Access HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria Services (Global)

In 2017, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria began an initiative to scale-up programs to remove human rights-related barriers to access HIV and TB services in 20 countries. These programs include support to: reduce stigma and discrimination; train health care providers on human rights and medical ethics; sensitize lawmakers and law enforcement agents; promote legal literacy and legal services; and monitor and reform relevant laws, regulations and policies. Following an evaluation conducted in 2020-21, in 2022 Dr. Joe Amon was awarded a new two-year grant to conduct a follow-up evaluation to measure progress, and the impact of COVID-19, on program efforts in the same 20 countries.

Transgender Men’s Health (India)

Led by Dr. Ayden Scheim, Our Health Matters: Indian Trans Men and Transmasculine Health Study is a community-based participatory, mixed-methods study investigating the social determinants of mental health and access to care among trans men and transmasculine persons in India. In late 2022, the team collected survey data from over 300 transmasculine people living in 24 Indian states. The team is now preparing to launch the findings at a community event in the summer of 2023.

Migrante Project (US & Mexico)

Led by Dr. Ana Martinez-Donate (Drexel University) and Dr. Gudelia Rangel Gómez (US-Mexico Border Health Commission, Mexico Section), the Migrante Project entered its third year. This year, the team completed data collection for its non-communicable disease survey (N=1,264) and administered 93 baseline surveys as part of a pilot longitudinal component. Surveys were administered in airports, bus stations and deportation stations in Tijuana, Ciudad Juárez, and Matamoros, Mexico to migrants passing
through these cities. Participants were also given the opportunity to take biometric tests to measure their cholesterol and A1C levels, blood pressure, height, weight, and skinfold thickness, among other indicators of chronic disease. The team plans to start data collection for its mental health and substance use survey, the final survey for the project, in early 2023.

Comparing Liver Disease Progression in Korea and the US Due to Chronic Hepatitis B Disease

Co-led by Drs. Ann Klassen, Professor in Community Health and Prevention, and HeeSoon Juon, Professor, Thomas Jefferson University, this four-year R01 funded by NIDDK/NIH follows a cohort of 365 Korean-American patients in Philadelphia and Los Angeles, to examine factors influencing adverse disease outcomes. In partnership with Dr. Park at Ulsan University in South Korea, data on more than 800 patients with CHB in South Korea have been shared, and our comparative analyses will identify factors in both the Korean and US chronic disease and treatment experiences that may be important to reduce excess burden from this disease. Given the global burden of chronic hepatitis B and associated hepatocellular cancer, this cross-cultural collaboration represents an important potential source of new information.

Assessing the Durability of a Cash Transfer on Physical Partner Violence among Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Rural South Africa

Dr. Ali Groves, Luwam Gebrekristos (doctoral candidate), and Sarah Dilday (MPH student) began a mixed methods study to understand the durability of a conditional cash transfer on young women’s experience of intimate partner violence two years after the conditional cash transfer ended. Dr. Groves and her students are using secondary data analyses to assess the impact of the CCT on IPV to explore how young women who received the cash transfer describe experiences of intimate partner violence in their sexual partnerships two years later. The project is described here.

Developing a Measure of Neighborhood Disorder (US and Latin America)

Dr. Gina Lovasi supervised research by Drexel a doctoral student focused on the development of a novel measure of neighborhood physical disorder in five urban areas in the United States (New York, NY; Philadelphia, PA; Jackson, MS; San Antonio, TX; and the Rio Grande Valley, TX) and four in Latin America (Mexico City, MX; Bogota, CO; Belo Horizonte, BR; and Santiago, CL).

Strengthening Protections of Child Well-Being (Turkmenistan, Sudan, Libya, Tajikistan)

Dr. Suruchi Sood led several research and training projects for Unicef related to violence against children, COVID-19, and social and behavioral factors influencing child development.

Examining Response to Pregnant Adolescents and Young Mothers in the Global HIV Effort

Dr. Ali Groves, Patrick Smith (doctoral candidate), and Sarah Dilday (MPH student) wrote a stocktaking report for Unicef which identifies, described, and highlighted gaps in existing evidence-based programs for a priority population in the Global HIV response: pregnant adolescents and young mothers.
INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE PRESENCE

In 2022, Dornsife School of Public Health faculty presented their work on international health at the following international conferences:

- 2022 World Hepatitis Summit, Bangkok, Thailand June 2022
- International AIDS Conference, Montreal, Canada, June 2022
- European Public Health Conference in Berlin, Germany, November 2022
- Annual Meeting of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology in Athens, Greece.

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

DSPH faculty continue to serve on advisory committees for a range of global health institutions.

- Dr. Ezeh served as a co-Chair for a WHO Technical Consultation on the Burden of Malaria in Urban Areas and a Lancet Commission on Adolescent Health and Wellbeing.
- Dr. Groves served on an advisory committee for the Lactation Working Group of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, as well as the Lancet Commission on Adolescent Health and Wellbeing.
- Dr. Amon served on the IAS-Lancet Commission on Health and Human Rights.
- Dr. Martinez-Donate served as a member of the International Council for the Global Society on Migration, Ethnicity, Race and Health.
EDUCATION AND TRAINING

In 2022, the Dornsife School of Public Health continued to be a leader in education and training for students, practitioners, and junior scholars. The Global Health-related degrees attracted students nationally. The school maintained innovative and vibrant training programs for pre- and post-doctoral students, the Global Alliance for Training in Health Equity Research, and for undergraduate students, the Dornsife Global Development Scholars. In addition, Drexel’s partnership with World Vision International on the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene certificate rebounded from COVID-19 with face-to-face sessions in Ghana and Tanzania complementing online training. Other education and training highlights from 2022 include supporting young leaders from across Africa, Mandela Washington Fellows, as well as increasing numbers of students engaged in the free online course – Know It, Prove It, Change It – focusing on health as a human right.

Online Global Health MPH, MS, and Certificate

The online Master of Public Health (MPH) in Global Health teaches students how to analyze the influences affecting the health and well-being of diverse populations across different cultures and contexts. It is designed to train students and health professionals in the foundations of public health with an emphasis on global health. The program prepares students to:

- Apply ethical approaches and human rights principles in global health research and practice
- Design public health interventions in diverse cross-cultural settings
- Develop monitoring and evaluation strategies to assess progress to program goals

In 2022, a total of 34 MPH and MS students successfully completed their graduate degrees in global health. All students in the global health programs are required to complete a capstone research project. For 2022 graduates, an over-arching theme related to the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provided a framework for students to explore a wide range of topics affecting the health of hidden, marginalized, and vulnerable populations, both internationally and domestically within the United States. These goals include SDG3 for good health and well-being, SDG5 for gender equality, SDG10 for reduced inequalities, and SDG13 for climate action. Examples of student capstone projects include:

- Modernizing foodborne illness testing to decrease deaths in sub-Saharan Africa.
- FGM/C and its impact on adolescent and women’s health.
- Prenatal stress and infant outcomes in LMICs.
- Global perspective of the correlation of abortion policies and maternal health outcomes.
- Intimate partner violence against Khwoja Siras in Pakistan.
- What’s missing from adolescent education worldwide: Harm reduction.
- Clinical management of HPV+ women in low-resource settings.
- Bridging the gap in health disparities in maternal and child health in the Netherlands.
- Fighting for humanity: Youth-led advocacy and the global climate crisis.
- Examining the differences in how racism and other forms of discrimination affect HIV prevention strategies usage and efficacy in the United States and South Africa.
- Child food insecurity in immigrant Filipino families.
- Understanding sexual and reproductive health challenges among Venezuelan migrant and refugee women and girls: a scoping review.
Pre- and Post-Doctoral Training in Health Equity

In 2022, the Dornsife School of Public Health (DSPH) welcomed its fourth cohort of Global Alliance for Training in Health Equity Research (GATHER) Trainees. Led by Dr. Alex Ezeh and Dr. Gina Lovasi, GATHER welcomed four trainees, supported for 3 to 12 months while conducting health equity research in the United States and around the world.

The trainees are each partnered with two mentors: one based in the US, often a DSPH faculty or GATHER advisory committee member, and the other from among investigators at our global sites. Short courses and seminars from June through September offer intensive skills-based research training, with partner research sites in Brazil, Kenya, and Mexico.

GATHER Trainees

Anushka Aqil (she/her) received her PhD from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Broadly, her research interests include incorporating anti-oppression into public health teaching and practice, trans and non-binary health and wellness, and intimate partner violence amongst South Asian immigrants living in the U.S.

Lizbeth Gomez is a doctoral trainee at the Dornsife School of Public Health at Drexel University, in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, under the guidance of Dr. Jane Clougherty. Her research encompasses ambient air pollution, social determinants of health, and clinical treatment efficacy. She studies the role that the environment and lived experience may play in asthma medication efficacy and hopes to continue fostering and enriching her research skills to translate her research into policy.

Luwam Gebrekristos is a PhD student in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Dornsife School of Public Health. Her interest lies in examining the social and structural factors that drive racial and gender health inequalities. Her proposed dissertation will integrate spatial and non-spatial data to examine the impact of multilevel drivers of HIV risk among adolescent mothers in sub-Saharan Africa.

Casper Voyles is a queer, transgender scholar studying social inclusion of sexual and gender minorities (SGM). His research interests include how SGM experience inclusion in work, school, and play settings and the intersections of engagement in these social spaces and health. Casper's dissertation focused on participation and identity disclosure of SGM in athletic spaces, identifying factors that affect sports persistence. Through the GATHER program, Casper will turn his attention towards advancing occupational inclusion for SGM, in part through community-engaged research with the fire service.
Dornsife Global Development Scholars

The Dornsife Global Development Scholars program is a nationally and internationally recognized capacity-building program for bridging gaps between scientific research, development practice, and applied problem-solving in the context of improving global health. Rebounding from COVID-19 interruptions in the 2021-22 academic year, a group of eight scholars from the Dornsife Global Development Scholars Program traveled to Ghana for an intensive field experience. This immersive program was a guided collaboration between Drexel University, World Vision, and the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders, and was a new approach for the ninth cohort of Dornsife Scholars.

The two-week program covered a wide range of topics that aligned with global strategies to end extreme poverty, reduce health inequalities, and better protect the planet by 2030. Scholars also engaged with World Vision staff who were participating in the WASH Capacity Building Certificate Program. Field activities for the inaugural intensive took place throughout seven regions in Ghana (Greater Accra, Central, Bono Ahafo, Ashanti, Bono East, Northern, Upper East), and challenged students to explore community development strategies aimed at assessing and promoting WASH behaviors in community settings and health facilities.

2022 Dornsife Global Development Scholars

Amna Khalafalla, Senior
Public Policy and Development
Pennoni Honors College

Drexlar Attram, Junior
BS/MPH Public Health Dual-Degree
Dornsife School of Public Health

Duyen Tran, Senior
Marketing and Business Economics Co-major
Lebow College of Business

Julia Langmuir, Junior
Global Studies Major
College of Arts and Sciences

Kaelah Grant, Junior
Psychology Major/PreMed Major
College of Arts and Sciences

Maria Garcia, Junior
Biomedical Engineering Major
School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems

Meghan Gupta, Junior
BS/MPH Public Health Dual-Degree
Dornsife School of Public Health

Nahian Ehtesham, Junior
Public Health Major
Dornsife School of Public Health
Global Health Applied Practical Experiences and Intensive Course Abroad

In January and June 2022, two groups of Drexel students partnered with the Ugandan NGO “Tender Grassroots” to fulfil their Applied Practical Experience requirement.

The winter quarter APE student group conducted research and developed education materials on reproductive and sexual health in partnership with Tender Grassroots health clinic and a school in Entebbe, as well as among children in the surrounding community. The students’ research established baseline levels of knowledge regarding topics of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), hygiene practices, and other topics. With this information, students developed educational materials for the school on reproduction, puberty, family planning, consent, STIs and non-sexually transmitted infection.

In the summer quarter, students focused on water, sanitation and implemented an intervention plan addressing one or more of the hygiene (WASH) in schools by first conducting a literature review and in-depth interviews from WASH experts. Students then developed a strategic plan to improve WASH in partnership with a local school and developed a monitoring strategy.

In December 2022, Idris Robinson, Director of Global Health Engagement, co-taught an Intensive Course Abroad that explored community factors that impact mental health in Tarkwa, Ghana. The course was led by CNHP faculty, Dr. Ebony White, in partnership with Firm Health Ghana Foundation and Mandela Washington Fellowship Alumnus, Dr. Sylvester Akpah.
Global Health
WASH (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene)
Certificate

Drexel University and World Vision International (WVI) continue to implement the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Capacity Building (WASHCap) certificate program for World Vision staff as a part of the organization’s efforts to expand the organization’s WASH programming. The program consists of a hybrid model of online courses, face-to-face (F2F) instruction and field and laboratory work in Africa. All courses are offered for credit, with two certificate tracks: International WASH (IWASH) through DRI/University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) and Global Health WASH through the Dornsife School of Public Health at Drexel University.

In 2022, 25 WVI employees were enrolled in the program. This cohort of students represented 17 countries across Sub-Saharan Africa, Afghanistan and Indonesia. In June 2022 and December 2023, WVI Ghana and Tanzania hosted face-to-face sessions. This cohort of 25 will join a group of 184 highly skilled WASH professionals who have completed the post baccalaureate certificate in Global Health WASH. Since the start of the capacity building initiative, 32 countries across WVI partner countries have participated in the program. Students in the program are required to complete capstone research projects. Examples of capstone projects from the 2022 cohort included:

- Assessment of Girl’s Friendly Hygiene and School Water & Sanitation in Mongo, Sierra Leone
- Does the Provision of water lead to hand washing with running water and soap? The Case Study of Maseyisini Area under Shiselweni Region in Eswatini
- Relapse of Open Defecation in Bukemba, Burundi six years after open defecation elimination
- Assessment of Disability Inclusion in Water, Sanitation And Hygiene Services At Endabash, Tanzania
- Assessing Child Feces Disposal Management (CFDM) in Rural and Urban Indonesia through Formative Research in Sekadau and Simokerto
- The role of community hygiene clubs (CHCs) in the sustainability of WASH services / A case of Mahama refugee camp, Rwanda

Number of Students Participating in WASH Capacity Building Course by Country (2018–2022)
Mandela Washington Fellows

Mandela Washington Fellows are a diverse group of young African leaders with backgrounds in government, entrepreneurship, and private business, as well as public service and community leadership. In June 2022, Drexel hosted a group of Mandela Fellow alumni and working with the Office of Global Engagement, the Office of Global Health developed two sessions for the Fellows related to health and human rights and ethics.

OFFICE OF GLOBAL HEALTH EVENTS

The Office of Global Health sponsored a wide range of events in 2022. Key highlights included:

Workshop on Global Reproductive Health (January & October 2022)

Featuring a keynote presentation by Dázon Dixon Diallo, the Founder and President of SisterLove, a community-based organization working on sexual and reproductive justice, and the fight against HIV, in the southeastern US and South Africa. The workshop allowed students to explore key challenges in sexual and reproductive justice and HIV across two countries and imagine intervention approaches and advocacy strategies.

Addressing Sexual Violence in Conflict (April 2022)

This presentation by Payal Shah, the director of the Program on Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones, at Physicians for Human Rights, focused on the activities of the organization to address sexual violence, including a training and advocacy initiative that bolsters the ability of doctors, nurses, police officers, lawyers, and judges to support survivors of sexual violence and to collect, document, and preserve forensic evidence related to these crimes.

Global Health Lessons from Intersex Rights Movement (March 2022)

This lecture, by Kyle Knight, senior researcher on health and LGBT rights at Human Rights Watch, focused upon his work on LGBTQI health issues and specifically in global efforts on Intersex health and rights, with a particular focus on the US, Japan and Thailand.

Legal Strategies to Advance Global Health (October 2022)

Anand Grover spoke with both the School of Public Health and Drexel’s Kline Law School on his work to advance the rights of those living with, or vulnerable to, HIV/AIDS in India. As the director and co-founder of the Lawyers Collective, he has handled hundreds of HIV-oriented cases in India on issues ranging from discrimination to access to medicines. He spoke about his work in front of the Delhi High Court striking down criminal prohibitions relating to sodomy in the Indian Penal Code and his experience as the UN Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, and as a member of the board of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) and other organizations.
Increasing numbers of individuals from around the world are signing up for the free online course developed by the Office of Global Health and the NGO Asia Catalyst. The course, *Know It, Prove It, Change It*, focuses on three sections:

- *Know It*: Understanding the international human rights framework
- *Prove It*: Documenting health and human rights abuses
- *Change It*: Engaging in health and human rights advocacy

Complementary to the course is the website rights.health (see photo below). rights.health includes a resource library with sample health and human rights reports, as well as research and advocacy tools. It also features a video library containing interviews with community activists on health and human rights work. Proudly, rights.health is supported by leading organizations in the global health advocacy community, including:

- AIDS and Rights Alliance for South Africa (ARASA)
- APCOM – LGBT rights network in Asia and the Pacific
- International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD)
- International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC)
- International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC)
In 2022, faculty and staff from across the Dornsife School of Public Health published in a variety of global health journals. Topics covered include COVID-19, HIV, health-related stigma and discrimination, human rights, and social determinants of health. Examples include:


Visit drexel.edu/dornsife/research for more.