VISION

The Sparkman Center was established in 1979 with a congressional appropriation through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). The vision was, and continues to be, alleviation of health problems in less developed countries by increasing public health capacity. This vision reflects the global nature of population-level health issues, the impact of health on human development, and the need for collaboration in resolving major health issues of our time.

MISSION

The mission of the Sparkman Center is to contribute to solutions of health problems in developing countries through graduate-level public health education, research, and training programs. These programs are organized collaboratively with academic institutions; international agencies and health ministries within the host country. Additionally, the Center works to enhance the capacity of the UAB community to engage, prepare and support current and future health professionals in a global health agenda.
The Sparkman Center was established in 1979 with a congressional appropriation through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to the University of Alabama at Birmingham. The appropriation was in recognition of the late Senator John J. Sparkman’s global understanding about the linkage between health and human development, and the important role that the United States could play in collaborating with less developed countries.

Our Center is affiliated with the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Public Health, one of the 34 accredited schools of public health in the United States and one of the 12 schools within UAB. UAB ranks consistently in the top 20 universities for National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding, and our Center faculty scholars include over 70 UAB experts representing the fields of public health, medicine, dentistry, nursing, optometry, nutrition, health services administration, anthropology, sociology, engineering, and health informatics.

At the dawn of the 21st century, the need for a global vision of health remains true. The last two decades of the 20th century experienced the devastation brought about by emerging and re-emerging diseases. Diseases of pregnancy, childhood, diarrhea, malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV continue to exact a heavy toll on men, women, and children throughout the world. As many developing nations undergo change, they confront an increased burden of chronic diseases including cancer and heart disease, as well as preventable injuries. In today’s interdependent global economy, the need for cooperation between governments, international agencies, organizations, and institutions in alleviating global health issues has increased.

The Sparkman Center has a history of successful collaboration with institutions abroad in implementing graduate-level educational and training programs in public health. We have collaborated with Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia in Lima, Peru, Chiang Mai University in Chiang Mai, Thailand, University of West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica, Universidad del Valle in Cali, Colombia and the International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) to implement public health programs. In addition, the Center has collaborated with the WHO and PAHO and sponsored numerous short-term training programs in these and various other developing countries.

The Sparkman Center has also advanced its educational mission by partnering with the UAB Framework Program for Global Health to support global health education, research, and training. The initiatives under this award include a web-based certificate course in global health and additional student and faculty exchanges with international partners. Additionally, the Sparkman Center hosts an annual Summer Institute program for international public health leaders and UAB global health students alike. The course includes practical, skill-building seminars in leadership and management, monitoring and evaluation, and disease surveillance, in addition to providing up-to-date lectures on current global health topics.

We appreciate your feedback and questions. Do not hesitate to contact us at sparkmancenter@uab.edu.

Craig Wilson, MD
Professor & Director

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Collaborations
The key ingredient for the success of UAB's engagement in global health is the result of sustained human and fiscal resources facilitated by the Sparkman Center to support capacity building at partner institutions around the world. Strong partnerships have been built with collaborators abroad and have shown an equal degree of commitment and dedication to the success of the collaborative projects. Creating a supportive environment is critical to success in addressing health-care challenges that cross international and cultural boundaries. There is a sense of excitement and deep appreciation for the benefits in global health collaboration – for the new knowledge, networks and results that improve the health of communities at home and abroad.
GOALS:

To address knowledge and resource gaps for public health education at Chainama Hills College of Health Sciences and the Ministry of Health (MOH) via certificate courses and advanced training programs (Sparkman’s Annual Summer Institute Course).

To support the eGranary project, a capacity-building initiative, with technical and financial assistance, including an upgrade of the medical library infrastructure.

To collaborate with the UNZA School of Medicine to develop a Nurse Prescribing Program for HIV Care and to commit financial and technical support for the first two initial years of the program.

Graduates will be better prepared for graduate level programs in community health at the University of Zambia (UNZA), and/or better equipped for front-line service at the district level. These advanced training programs continue to enhance the knowledge and skills of UNZA and Ministry of Health (MOH) leadership.
PARTNERSHIP PROFILE:

Much attention was focused on the collaborative efforts of UAB and various Zambian institutions, notably the Center for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ) and the Zambian Ministry of Health (MOH) in 2005 as evidenced by feature interviews with UAB faculty at the XVI International AIDS conference in Toronto, Canada. CIDRZ was established collaboratively by the government of Zambia and with the help of the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) in 1999, with a mandate to promote education, research and service in Zambia in response to infectious diseases, with particular concern to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Zambia. The Sparkman Center was instrumental in the launch and establishment of CIDRZ, offering both technical assistance and funding critical to early infrastructure development, staffing, and training.

In 2001, the Sparkman Center for Global Health (SCGH) began developing complimentary capacity building efforts with the University of Zambia (UNZA) School of Medicine (SOM). The initial focus was on the Masters in Public Health post-graduate program. Investments were made in a computer laboratory and other program enhancements through faculty exchanges and curriculum development. Zambian scholars attended the short term SCGH Summer Institute program as well as Fogarty Center supported UAB MPH matriculation. Since 2007, Zambia focused SCGH activities have expanded to include multiple health-oriented programs at other institutions.

At the UNZA SOM faculty from UAB have visited and made connections with the leadership of the Departments of Medicine, Pediatrics, Biomedical Sciences, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Nursing, and the programs for preclinical sciences for Medicine, Public Health and post graduate medical education. We will continue to work with these programs to develop a strategic plan for capacity building, curriculum enhancement and infrastructure investment over the next 5 years. An MOU was signed with this in mind and an initial investment in the medical library was made. At Chainama College of Health Sciences (CCHS), SCGH supported the revision of the annual Public Health Certificate course which was launched in 2008. We have also committed to work with the CCHS faculty to enhance the health related courses and address infrastructure needs and an MOU was signed for this purpose. An MOU was also signed with the National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA) for the purpose of developing a degree program in Health Services Administration. Two other Zambian based programs initiated in 2007-2008 are the HIV Nurse Practitioner Diploma and an information sciences project. These projects will be described in more detail in the next pages. Our goals for the future will be to continue to build on all of these initiatives and develop relationships and connections allowing for further bidirectional exchanges and program development. UAB partners in these initiatives have been the School of Nursing WHO Collaborating Center for International Nursing and the School of Health Professions and the McWhorter School of Pharmacy at Samford University.
Due to the limitations of access to the Internet (either because of availability, slow speed, or high cost) in many parts of Zambia, the Sparkman Center for Global Health at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) is teaming up with the University of Iowa Widernet “eGranary” Project to build a digital library of health information resources for students and practitioners in medicine, nursing, public health, and other health-related disciplines. The eGranary interface is much like the Internet, and users can access journal articles, reference materials, e-textbooks, PDF’s, DVD’s, and basically any material that can be digitized. This project will help users of the eGranary access health information and training materials through specially created “portals” that have references listed by topic areas. The eGranary Digital Library is slated to be installed at the University of Zambia School of Medicine and Chainama College of Health Sciences in June, 2009.

Contributing partners at UAB are WHO Collaborating Center for International Nursing, School of health Profession and various UAB student interest groups. For further information on this project, please see the website at http://www.widernet.org/digitallibrary/
Nurse Prescribing Program for HIV Care

The Sparkman Center worked closely with the leadership of this initiative during the development phase and provided technical assistance for the program. The overall program, including curriculum and formulary, was approved by other program partners June 16, 2008. A proposal for Phase 1 support from CDC Global AIDS Program Zambia (PEPFAR) was approved in 2008 with the UNZA School of Medicine as partners on the proposal. The Sparkman Center has committed salary support for nursing coordinator positions for the two initial years of the program as well as technical and financial as needed for initial startup phase. This program is scheduled for implementation in mid 2009.

Partners

General Nursing Council of Zambia
Zambia Ministry of Health
Zambian Union of Nursing Organizations
Lusaka Schools of Nursing
University of Zambia
Zambian Ministry of Defense
Pharmacy and Regulatory Authority of Zambia
WHO Zambia Office
ITECH-Ethiopia
CIDRZ
University of Maryland–AIDS Relief
Health Systems Support Program
JHPIEGO
Zambian Prevention, Care and Treatment (ZPCT)
Partnership with UAB WHO Collaborating Center for International Nursing
South Asia: ITREOH

UAB-South Asia International Training and Research in Environmental and Occupational Health (ITREOH) Program

The UAB-South Asia ITREOH is a collaborative research training effort with the Aga Khan University (AKU) in Karachi, Pakistan, the Manipal University (MU) in Manipal, India, and the University of Kelaniya (UK) in Colombo, Sri Lanka. This program focuses on etiologic and intervention research, as applied to the mitigation of environmental and occupational health (EOH) hazards in the South Asia region. Limited technical expertise and the lack of university-based training programs specifically designed to address EOH issues are barriers to broadening the scope of EOH research.

This program, initiated in 2001 as a UAB-AKU partnership, has resulted in the establishment of a core group of researchers/trainers, pilot research in the areas of heavy metals, air pollution (outdoor and indoor) and pesticides, a formal EOH certificate program at AKU, and the expansion of regional collaborations with other countries, including India and Sri Lanka. Major research highlights of the current initiative include expanding pilot projects to major research projects, broadening research focus to include intervention research, and encouraging new pilot research initiatives. Other major activities include the development of an EOH graduate degree program at AKU and Epidemiology/EOH graduate programs at MU and UK. Our major partners in these research and training efforts are the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Aerospace and Space Administration (NASA). This project is lead at UAB by Dr Nalini Sathiakumar, Associate Director for Asian Programs for SCGH.

Partnership with SCGH was formalized in 2006, upon renewal of the ITREOH project by the NIH/Fogarty International Center. The collaboration with the Sparkman Center has enabled the ITREOH program to expand its network of partnering institutions and trainees in South Asia and to lay the foundation for a strong MPH curriculum at its partnering institutions in Sri Lanka and India and an Environmental and Occupational Health curriculum in Pakistan. The Sparkman Center also supports several trainee pilot projects in the following areas: Indoor and Outdoor Air Pollution; Pesticides; Heavy Metals; and Climate Change (time series analysis and knowledge, attitudes and practices).

ITREOH currently has initiated 14 trainee-led pilot research project. Some examples include:

**Pakistan - Aga Khan University:**
- Association of Acute Coronary Syndrome with Indoor Air Pollution due to bio-mass use among women of rural Sindh, Pakistan
- Prevalence of chronic respiratory illnesses and symptoms among cotton textile workers of Karachi, Pakistan

**India – Manipal University:**
- Cultural and Psychosocial Influences on Disability (CUPID)
  - A Multi-center Study to assess Fine particle matter (PM$_{2.5}$) Air Pollution due to Second hand smoke in public places

**Sri Lanka - University of Kelaniya:**
- Association between chronic kidney disease and exposure to heavy metals in the North Central Province in Sri Lanka
Initiatives in Honduras have focused on programs in Tegucigalpa and in the western highlands region of Santa Rosa de Copan. In Tegucigalpa, the initiatives have focused on collaboration with the Universidad Nacional Autonoma (UNAH) School of Nursing, and more recently with the Public Health program in the School of Medicine. With support from SCGH in 2007, Dr. Lynda Wilson, Dr. Karen Saenz, and Dr. Lygia Holcomb have collaborated with UNAH nursing faculty to initiate and evaluate a parent/adolescent educational program (Familias Fuertes) in a poor neighborhood in Tegucigalpa. Drs. Lygia Holcomb and Lynda Wilson have been providing curriculum consultation to UNAH faculty in the development of a new master’s program in the School of Nursing.

Initiatives in Santa Rosa have focused on several areas. UAB Nursing faculty members Drs. Karen Saenz and Lygia Holcomb have offered study abroad courses each July since 2007, and students conduct service learning projects in Santa Rosa. Other Santa Rosa initiatives involve collaborations with the Auxiliary School of Nursing, the Central American Medical Outreach (CAMO), the Hospital Occidente, and the Universidad Nacional Autonoma of Honduras, Santa Rosa campus. Four nurses from Santa Rosa participated in the International Nursing Leadership Institute at UAB in 2008 and are collaborating with three School of Nursing faculty members to develop a project to address the problem of family violence in Santa Rosa. An MOU with CAMO has been signed that will eventually involve provision of support for a family violence program in Santa Rosa.

In 2008, Dr. Ellen Buckner received a Sparkman grant to strengthen collaborative partnership development with Santa Rosa. Funds have been used to promote student and faculty research collaboration in Honduras; to purchase laptop computers and internet connection to facilitate ongoing collaboration with UAB faculty/students; and to provide seed money to support the pilot project to evaluate a family violence risk assessment and referral process.
Programs
In September 2005, the UAB Framework for Global Health Program was awarded three-year funding support by the NIH Fogarty International Center (FIC). The Framework Program (Dr. John Ehiri, PI), in partnership with the Sparkman Center, brought together all twelve UAB schools and key centers, as well as domestic and international partners to provide a multidisciplinary program to advance a vibrant portfolio of global health research and education. This initiative expanded upon existing Center programs and added new activities that strengthened the engagement and ability of UAB faculty and students for training, research, and education in global health.

FRAMEWORK PROGRAM GOALS:
The Program sought to strengthen UAB capacity for global health contributions by developing new courses, most notably, the web-based Certificate Course in Global Health and enhancing field-based activities, and supporting university-wide communication. Towards this end, the Program’s objectives were to:

- Enhance the stream of UAB undergraduate and graduate students for Global Health study and research
- Increase participation of faculty in pilot studies conducted at international sites, with special focus on multidisciplinary, collaborative research and mentoring of graduate students
- Enhance administrative and information management services to support coordination of international research and training opportunities

2007-2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
A UAB Framework for Global Health Program Executive Committee was established with representatives from each School and international centers at UAB. The first Executive Committee meeting was held on October 26, 2005, and a second mid-year meeting was held on May 18, 2006. Communications in the interim period supported grant reviews and administration, call for proposals, and promotion of seminar opportunities. The UAB Certificate Course in Global Health was launched online in 2008.

UAB Global Health Framework Course Development
Year 1 goals for new course development were exceeded, with course offerings as follows:
- Introduction to Global Health (Dr. John Ehiri)
- Ethics and Global Health (offered Spring 2006; Instructor Dr. Maureen Kelly);
- Evidence Based Global Health Policy (Instructor Dr. John Ehiri);
- Health Without Borders, a freshman anchor course for UAB’s new Freshman Learning Community initiative (Dr. John Ehiri); and Disabilities and Access to Care for the Disabled in Developing Countries (Dr. Barbara White, Gallaudet University).

Additionally, field based learning experiences were achieved in two ways. First, seminars jointly offered by SIFAT and UAB were linked with a number of field learning experiences. Second, a field sur-
veillance course previously offered in Jamaica was enhanced to support community-based learning. Third, planning was initiated for a new field-based course in Honduras focused on rural health, in collaboration with Universidad Tecnológica Centroamericana (UNITEC). Last, the web-based Certificate Course in Global Health was launched successfully with participants from organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and AmeriCares.

Student Internships and Faculty Grants

Goals were achieved for a university-wide request for proposals, and increase in the receipt of highly meritorious grant applications from graduate students and faculty; moreover, undergraduate applications were also received. Page 18 provides a comprehensive list of the 2008 funded grants. It should be noted that all grant applications benefited from review by external faculty, using standard review criteria. Summary comments were provided to all applicants regarding the merits and limitations of each application. The provision of summary review comments was viewed as especially critical to the learning process for student grant writing.

Seminar Series in Global Health

The UAB Seminar Series in Global Health is organized to provide a forum for UAB faculty, staff, and students to present and discuss their global health research, training, educational, and/or service efforts. Additionally, the seminars provide an opportunity to bring external experts to the UAB campus to speak on issues of global health. The seminar series has benefited from guest presentations developed in partnership with Southern Institute for Appropriate Technology (SIFAT), where the guest speakers not only present a seminar at UAB but also hold practical workshops on the SIFAT campus. For more on the Seminar Series, as well as a full list of seminars from 2007-2008, please see page 20.

Information Services

We have created e-mail list-serves to promote and inform the UAB community of upcoming events including global health seminars and other opportunities.

See the webpage at www.sparkmancenter.org to see our Virtual Global Health Catalog, which lists all of the global health related courses offered across the UAB campus.

FRAMEWORK PROGRAM PARTNERS

ALL TWELVE UAB SCHOOLS
- School of Arts & Humanities
- School of Business
- School of Dentistry
- School of Education
- School of Engineering
- School of Health Related Professions
- School of Natural Sciences & Mathematics,
- School of Medicine, School of Nursing
- School of Optometry School of Public Health
- School of Social & Behavioral Sciences

VARIOUS UAB CENTERS AND PROGRAMS
- UAB Minority Health International Research Training Program
- UAB International Tuberculosis Center
- UAB International Research Training Program
- UAB Center for AIDS Research

LONG TERM SPARKMAN CENTER INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS
- Pirogov Medical University (PMU), Ukraine
- University of the West Indies in Mona (UWI), Jamaica
- Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia (UPCH), Peru
- University of Zambia (UNZA)
- Centre for Infectious Disease Research, Zambia (CIDRZ)

NEW ENTITIES FOR GLOBAL HEALTH COLLABORATION
- Gallaudet University
- Southern Institute for Appropriate Technology (SIFAT), UNITEC/Honduras
- University of Alabama (UA) Environmental Institute
- AVNI Health Foundation, India

Collaboration with Gallaudet University, a premier institution for education of the deaf, is aimed at issues of disabilities in the developing world. Collaboration with the Southern Institute for Alternative Technology (SIFAT) and the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa (UA) is focused on developing courses to address issues of linkage between environmental and socioeconomic factors and health, and the development of field-based curricula that expands and targets meaningful challenges for UAB students in the field.

The UAB Global Health Framework Program supported the engagement of untapped students (foreign, undergraduates, graduate) through a distance-learning-based, certificate course and grant opportunities for student internships and faculty project planning and mentoring of students in global health.

“The goal of the UAB Framework for Global health program is to help strengthen UAB’s capacity for global health contributions by developing new courses; enhancing field based activities and supporting university wide communications.” - John Ehiri, PhD

Principal Investigator, Framework Executive Committee Chair
ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008  -  www.sparkmancenter.org

FACULTY

Dr. Melinda M. Lalor: Designing a Partnership between Engineers and Health Professionals to Make a Measurable Difference in Health Outcomes in Rural Villages near Iquitos, Peru - School of Engineering

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Alyson Charles: Predictors & adequacy of treatment of anemia among pregnant women, Jamaica - School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology

Ivan Herbey: Reducing colorectal cancer risk in polluted areas in Ukraine - School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology

Stephen Jordan: Identification of the optimal constituent for a PfMSP3-based malaria vaccine - School of Medicine, Department of Infectious Diseases

Sonia Nkashama: Promoting oral health in low-income Alabama Youth via oral health education - School of Dentistry

UNDERGRADUATES

Suzanne McCluskey: Pediatric Health in La Paz, Bolivia; Tropical Medicine on the coast of Mexico; Urban Rural Comparative Health in Ecuador - School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Department of Biology

Aaron Neal: Iquitos, Peru - School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Department of Chemistry

Larry Slater: Comparison of HIV knowledge and Attitudes towards caring for HIV/AIDS Patients and Families among nursing students in Honduras and the United States - School of Nursing

Laura Wojohn: A collaborative approach to assess and improve the emotional well being of orphan children in Santa Rosa de Copan, Honduras - School of Nursing

FRAMEWORK PROGRAM GLOBAL HEALTH GRANTS FUNDED 2008

PAST GRANT COUNTRIES

2006-2007:
China, Colombia, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, USA

2006-2006:
Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Kenya Mongolia, Russia, Pakistan, Thailand, Ukraine, Zambia, Zimbabwe

GRANT COUNTRIES

2007-2008:
Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Ukraine, USA

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Great experiences are a compilation of learning, enjoyment, challenges, success, and personal growth… that was a great experience!

Alyson Charles, MPH - Predictors and Adequacy of Treatment of Anemia among Pregnant Women in Westmoreland, Jamaica

“My field experience taught me that classroom knowledge doesn’t always translate perfectly on the job. At times, one must be willing to step outside of his or her comfort zone to accomplish the task at hand. I also learned that the ability to relate to different kinds of people with varied backgrounds is essential for any public health professional; and this is why I believe that international health relations is so important.”

Lisa Ferguson, Doctor of Physical Therapy Student - UAB School of Health Professions
Motor Development of Orphans in Oaxaca

“In May, I traveled to Oaxaca, Mexico to study the motor development of children in an orphanage setting. This interesting experience impressed upon me the need for physical therapy in underdeveloped countries and also exposed me to the rich culture and tradition of Southern Mexico.”
Lisa Esapa, 2nd year MPH International Health & Global Studies (IHGS)—Maternal and Child Health student, is the 2007/2008 recipient of the UAB School of Public Health Global Health Award. Sponsored by the UAB Sparkman Center for Global Health (www.sparkmancenter.org), the award recognizes the interest, motivation, and contributions of a school of public health student to the field of Global Health. Ms. Esapa was selected from an impressive group of IHGS student nominees, and her selection for the award reflects her outstanding scholarship to date, her demonstrated personal history of commitment and future plans related to global health and her critical ability to analyze global health issues.

The sponsorship of the award by the Sparkman Center reflects the commitment of the organization to the field of global health through capacity building to address critical health problems and supporting a new generation of health professionals to engage in the field. Since 1979, the Sparkman Center has been engaged in promoting collaborative human resource and capacity building activities at home and abroad in partnership with universities, international agencies and health ministries in developing countries.

UAB School of Public Health Global Health Award Recipient Biography

“Lisa Esapa is a second year MPH student in the Maternal and Child Health/ International Health and Global Studies program. Her interest in public health began as an undergraduate at Berry College where she was a Bonner’s Scholar. The Bonner program awards scholarships to undergraduate students dedicated to service. Through the Bonner program, she worked with local disadvantaged populations. This experience helped her understand how both health and economic policies can affect the health of populations—particularly those disadvantaged or marginalized in societies. Though Lisa originally entered college
Intending to apply to medical school, this understanding led her to decide against pursuing a career in medicine to try to affect health on a population level.

After graduation, Lisa joined the US Peace Corps and was assigned as a health extension agent in rural Cameroon. During her 27 months in Cameroon, Lisa was able to see firsthand the critical link between policy, health, economy and development. One of her main responsibilities as a Peace Corps Volunteer was to expand the services offered at the local maternity clinic to include health education. While she was at the clinic, weekly attendance at the well-baby clinic for regular immunizations doubled. Lisa also served as a community mobilizer and health educator providing HIV, Malaria and sanitation education to 11 rural villages surrounding her post.

Lisa’s interest in Global Public Health was cemented by her Peace Corps service in Cameroon. After completing her service, she knew a Master’s degree in Public Health was essential to her future career goals. Through her coursework and interaction with UAB professors, Lisa has strengthened her knowledge of public health as it applies to developing countries as well as gained a clearer understanding of the underlying causes of ill-health.

While at UAB, Lisa has served as the teaching assistant for two global health courses; MCH 617 and MCH 608. In this position, Lisa has been able to share her knowledge gained from these courses along with her experience in Cameroon with other public health students while at the same time enhancing her own understanding of the field.

She has hopes of securing a position within the CDC’s Office for Global Health. She also plans to apply for positions within the Global Health Fellows program, the World Bank’s young professionals program and other international health agencies. Lisa has a strong desire to live and work in developing countries, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa since this is the region that fostered her interest in the field.” - Spring, 2008
JAMAICA

Jamaica

CREATING A SPECIALTY MPH TRACKS FOR REGIONAL IMPACT IN THE CARIBBEAN

GOAL:

To upgrade the Master of Public Health (MPH) curriculum at UWI for sustainable training of public health students in the Caribbean, with the eventual goal of creating MPH subspecialty tracks in the existing MPH program at the UWI (beginning with Health Promotion and Environmental Sciences).
PARTNERSHIP PROFILE

The University of the West Indies (UWI) is a dynamic, international institution serving the sixteen countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean. The UWI Mona campus in Kingston, Jamaica is home to the medical, nursing, and public health programs, which enroll students from the entire English-speaking Caribbean region. There is a strong emphasis on Caribbean issues, making UWI the ideal educational institution for local and international students with an interest in the Caribbean region, which has helped leverage the MPH program at UWI Mona in affecting a regional impact.

In 1985, the Center collaborated with UWI in developing an MPH program that continues to serve the entire English-speaking Caribbean region. More recently, the partnership has evolved with the aim of creating subspecialty tracks in the existing MPH program at UWI, starting with the Health Promotion and Environmental Health Sciences tracks. To this end, Sparkman visiting scholars and UAB faculty have cooperated in curriculum development and reform efforts, and the first class of students entered the MPH in Health Promotion program in 2003. Short-term faculty development visits and exchanges between UWI and UAB faculty have continued the advancement of Health Promotion and Health Behavior Programs.

UAB faculty, working with the Alabama Department of Public Health, have also conducted short courses in Environmental Health & Occupational Safety on-site at UWI since 2002, and the Sparkman Center supports continuing faculty development at UWI, having sponsored a UWI Lecturer for a Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) in Environmental Health Sciences at UAB.

Another collaborative UAB-UWI venture, which also includes two other U.S. schools (San Diego State and Rice Universities), is the Infectious Disease Surveillance & Control Field Course in Jamaica. Now in its ninth year, the Jamaica Field Course enjoys the continued Center sponsorship of an average of fifteen Caribbean-region students, as well as officials in the Jamaican Ministry of
The UAB Global Health Online Certificate Course is aimed towards enhancing the ability of current and future health professionals to further develop analytical skills and apply alternative solutions to current and emerging global health challenges.

The Institute of Medicine describes global health as “health problems, issues, and concerns that transcend national boundaries, may be influenced by circumstances or experiences in other countries, and are best addressed by cooperative actions and solutions.” In the face of a growing awareness of the need for shared solutions to shared problems, opportunities in global health work are increasing and more individuals are turning their interests in global health into careers.

Designed for professionals and those entering the field of Global Health, the Certificate Course is conducted online, allowing for the flexibility to balance coursework and career while still maintaining an environment of utmost academic vigor. The course meets the need for skill enhancement for both foreign and domestic individuals that have limited time to pursue a full degree.

At the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- Analyze the relationship between health and development.
- Use appropriate methods to appraise global health challenges and health care systems, as well as responses to these challenges.
- Synthesize information from primary and secondary sources to help identify appropriate interventions and actions in the field of global health.
- Use research, planning and management methods to make efficient and effective use of available resources in field settings.
- Develop professional skills in program design, program monitoring, and evaluation.
- Appraise health care needs associated with disabilities in resource-limited settings and strategies for meeting such needs.
- Acquire skills in the use of distance learning technologies for application to future professional development programs.
Core Global Health Courses

**Fundamentals of Global Health:** This module introduces participants to the historical perspective of public health in its global context, examines major policies and themes, and analyzes health problems and prevention priorities in different national and international contexts. The role of international health agencies is analyzed, including their successes and constraints. Health care delivery systems in different parts of the world are examined critically. Current and emerging global public health priorities are analyzed, including international maternal health and child survival, emerging infectious diseases, poverty, wars and other civil conflicts, social and gender inequities, principles and the impact of health reforms, and major global initiatives for disease prevention. New health challenges brought about by globalization, environmental changes, and economic development are discussed.

**Introduction to Applied Research in Global Health:** This module will provide participants with skills in basic research methods. Quantitative, qualitative, and naturalistic strategies will be examined for their relative utility. A variety of basic issues in research, including hypothesis testing, sampling techniques and procedures, descriptive and analytical methods will be covered. Instruction will be provided in strategies for field-based data collection for planning of health services in remote rural settings, including rapid rural appraisal and participatory appraisal methods. Course participants will be equipped with skills in critical appraisal of published research and will develop competence in ethical involvement of human subjects in research.

**Project Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation:** This module is designed to equip participants with skills in conceptualizing, developing, implementing, and evaluating small-scale projects in global health. Working individually and in small groups, students will be guided through the process of identifying and investigating a global health problem, designing and implementing an intervention to solve the problem, and evaluating the impact of the intervention. Course participants will receive a structured program of instruction on preliminary assessment of project need, statement of project objectives, project design (including how to develop conceptual and theoretical models), implementation (including how to develop a logical project framework), community involvement, monitoring, evaluation and budgeting.

**Field Study:** The field study is a two-week, on-site program at the Southern Institute for Appropriate Technology (SIFAT), a 176-acre facility in rural Lineville, Alabama. Two 2-week on-site training sessions will be offered during the Summer and Fall 2008 and participants are expected to complete at least one of the two sessions. Facilitated by renowned professionals with extensive field practice experience, the field study will provide practical training in the subjects of water and sanitation, food and nutrition (includes agriculture & small animals), alternative energy (with emphasis on household energy technologies), primary health care (safe motherhood, child survival, community eye care, where there is no lab…), micro enterprise development, participatory community development, training of trainers, cross-cultural sensitivity training, and conflict resolution. With approval from the course administration, such participants can also arrange with adequate supervision, to undertake their field study with relevant global health institutions/agencies that are accessible to each course participant, including but not limited to, ministries of health, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), bilateral and multilateral agencies, faith-based organizations. Participants will be required to write a technical report on their field study.

**Electives (3 courses)**
- Environmental Health Issues in Resource-Limited Settings
- Critical Issues in Global Maternal and Child Health
- Gender and Health
- Disabilities and Global Health
- Refugee and Immigrant Health
- Infectious Diseases of Global Health Significance
The Sparkman Seminar Series in Global Health was initiated in 2001 to provide a forum for UAB faculty, staff, and students to present/discuss their global health research, training, educational, and/or service efforts. The seminar series highlights the existing global health expertise and interest at UAB, but also includes invited speakers from outside the UAB community. Streaming web videos of each seminar are available at the Sparkman Center website. During the academic year 2007-2008, 15 seminars were held; speakers and topics are shown on the timeline below. Seminars conducted in partnership with SIFAT under the Framework Program are indicated with a (*).

**Sept 17**
Peace Corps
Debbie Curley
Regional Recruiter, Peace Corps Southeastern Regional

**Nov 2**
The Emergency Maternity and Obstetric Care (EmOC) Program in India
Ajey Bhardwaj
Director, NGO AVNI Health Foundation

**Sept 24**
Priorities and Progress in Tropical Medicine in Underdeveloped Countries
Sten Vermund, MD, PhD
Amos Christie Chair in Global Health, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

**Nov 8**
HIV and AIDS Surveillance in Pakistan
Arshad Altarf, MBBS, MPH
Senior Provincial Surveillance Support Officer of Canada-Pakistan HIV/AIDS Surveillance Project (HASP), Sindh AIDS Control Programme, Karachi, Pakistan
ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008 - www.sparkmancenter.org

Jan 17
Motor Development of Orphans in Oaxaca
Lisa Ferguson
Doctor of Physical Therapy candidate
UAB School of Health Related Professions

Feb 23
Characteristics of Injuries among Young People in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad & Tobago
Melissa Nelson, MPH - UAB SOPH

Mar 5
Global Health Fellows and Internship Programs at USAID
John Hembling, MPH, University Program Coordinator for USAID’s Global Health Fellows Program

Mar 19
Pan American Health Organization Internship Presentation and Global Health Interest Group
Irene Tami, MS, DMD

Mar 31
Indoor air pollution from solid fuels and risk of hypopharyngeal/laryngeal and lung cancers: a multicentric case-control study from India
Amir Sapkota, PhD
Assistant Professor at the Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health
University of Maryland

Apr 9
A hole at the waterline of rotavirus gastroenteritis? The unfolding story of the rotavirus vaccination program and its epidemiological implications
Daniel C. Payne, PhD, MSPH
Epidemiologist and Project Officer of the New Vaccine Surveillance Network - CDC

Apr 17
Consulting about Nursing and Health Care in Bosnia and Moscow: Lessons from the Field
Ros Lowe, BA, RGN, RHV, Dip.Soc.Res. and Peter Farmer

Apr 18
Comprehensive Rural Health Project (CRHP), Jamkhed, India
Connie Gates, MPH—US Representative, CRHP, Director, Jamkhed International-North America

Apr 19
Consulting about Nursing and Health Care in Bosnia and Moscow: Lessons from the Field
Ros Lowe, BA, RGN, RHV, Dip.Soc.Res. and Peter Farmer

May 1
Healthcare: Is It Your Right? Panel Discussion
Thomas Huddle—Prof Internal & Preventive Medicine, Michael Kimerling—Director, International Tuberculosis Center, Stefan Kertesz—Prof, Preventive Medicine, Max Michael-Dean, UASOPH, Michael Neimkin-UASOM Med Student, Gregory Pence-Director, EMSAP, Medical Ethics, Cleon Rogers-UASOM Med Student

Jun 5
Quality Improvement in Health: USAID/ZDRAVPLUS Project in Uzbekistan
Karina Halilova, MPH
Program Manager

Aug 21
Promoting Oral Health Education in Alabama Youth
Natasha Varma and Sonia Nkashama
UAB School of Dentistry Graduate Students

For photo credits, please see end of report
2009 Annual International Public Health
Summer Institute
2009 Annual International Public Health Summer Institute
Each summer, the Sparkman Center for Global Health offers a unique opportunity for qualified professionals from developing countries to enhance their public health skills through an intensive short-course focused on concrete skill-building in areas of public health leadership and management, computing, epidemiologic research methods and topic-area expertise. The Summer Institute is primarily targeted to mid-level and senior public health professionals whose ability to impact their country’s public health policies is substantial, but whose opportunities for upgrading skills are limited by either language or time barriers.

For the Center, this program addresses three key needs: (1) building public health education capacity in developing countries, (2) creating and maintaining a network for UAB faculty for global health research and training abroad, and (3) meeting a vital need for short-term intensive training required by several UAB training grants.

The 9th Annual Summer Institute once again attracted mid- and senior-level public health professionals from Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

The 2009 Summer Institute brought 18 professionals from 8 countries to UAB for intensive training in public health leadership and management, applied epidemiology for health professionals, hot topics in global health, program monitoring & evaluation, case studies and scientific writing. The scientific writing instruction provided by the UAB English Language and Culture Institute (http://www.ed.uab.edu/elci/) focused exclusively on the skills necessary for effective scientific research writing. This year’s new feature was case studies. This module was designed to encourage group work. Participants were given case studies that identify a challenging public health issues. In addition to the didactic sessions and classroom group activities, the participants had opportunities to visit Servants in Faith and Technology, Oak Mountain, McWane Science Center, Vulcan Park etc.

The course faculty included over 16 individuals from University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of North Carolina and University of Washington. Summer Institute Program administration and sponsorship is a collaborative effort between the Sparkman Center, the UAB International Tuberculosis Center, and UAB International Research Training Programs. Additional sponsors included the Vanderbilt University AITRP Training Program, New York University AITRP Training Program, Center for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia. Evaluations indicate that the course was very well received, and can be viewed along with a detailed final report and videos on the Center website: www.sparkmancenter.org.
Field Studies in Developing Countries
Infectious Disease Surveillance and Control in Kingston, Jamaica (Jamaica Field Course)

The Sparkman Center manages an intensive field studies course, Infectious Disease Surveillance and Control, taught on site at the University of West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica. The course focus is on Control of HIV/AIDS and other STI’s, Vector Biology, and Environmental Management. Faculty from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), San Diego State University (SDSU), Rice University, the University of the West Indies, and the Jamaican Ministry of Health teach the course. Since 2000, 165 students have attended the course (106 US-based, 95 Caribbean).

In addition to administering the course, the Center sponsors ~15 Caribbean professionals a year for attendance, thereby enriching the overall experience of the US-based students. As the only field-based course in the School of Public Health, this course is a unique offering. The only similar learning opportunities at UAB are internships. However, the field studies course is less individualized, and more oriented towards group-learning combined with time in the classroom as well as mentored field training. The course is open to graduate students at UAB, as well as qualified undergraduates. Students from other US Schools have registered as transient students at UAB or SDSU specifically for the Jamaica Course.

Sparkman Center staff again provided coordination between the three schools involved in the 2008 Jamaica Field Course, including administrative, marketing, and logistical support. New research and intervention activities built on historic Center partnerships with Jamaican institutions as well as provided opportunities to forge new partnerships (UWI-HARP, CHARES, Lord’s Place, Jamaica MOH).

This year’s course included students from over four countries, including United States, Jamaica, Barbados, and Turks and Caicos. Students attended lectures conducted by UWI and US faculty and conducted group fieldwork in local communities. Group projects this year included a community survey to assess the chlorine content in the individual households of Mona Commons, vector control methods including mosquito larvae species identification, and a workshop conducted among HIV positive young adults in St. Catherine Parish.
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Internal Advisory Committee

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Supporting Global Operations:
The Sparkman Center serves as a vital source of information and connections to foreign contacts and collaborators. The Center plays an important role as a consultant in grant development for global health research and training, and several projects are underway to develop databases and resources for further projects and opportunities abroad.

Photo left: Marlis Richardson
Center Administration

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