INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICINE AT NORTHWESTERN MEDICINE
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Center for Global Health

Global health presents a complex set of challenges and obstacles that require intervention and innovation. The Center for Global Health at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine meets these challenges through education and rigorous research focused on infectious disease, therapeutic treatments, and preventive education to stem chronic disease. The spread of disease is a global phenomenon that affects humankind without regard to any geographical boundaries. Working together in the laboratory or at clinical sites around the world, medical students, residents, teaching fellows, and physicians employ new technologies, proven methods, and data-driven solutions to reach the goal of improving world health one patient at a time.

Global health is one of the pillars of Northwestern University’s strategic plan to expand the impact of the University at home and abroad. This is done by actively engaging with the world through strategic partnerships locally, nationally, and internationally—serving to heighten the global reach of the University for the greater good. Global health is considered one of the school’s greatest areas of strength as it is one of the areas where the greatest impact can be achieved.

Specifically, the University’s vision for global health states: Our research in global health involves collaboration among business, engineering, education and social policy, anthropology and sociology, communications and journalism, and naturally medicine. Our faculty and students work together on a global scale on issues ranging from HIV in Africa to nutrition, obesity, and diabetes in the United States to collaborative ways to respond to a natural disaster (2011 Northwestern University Strategic Plan).

The Center for Global Health is the nucleus for global health research, training, advocacy, and program activities for medical students, residents, fellows and faculty at Northwestern.

“The impact of the Global Health Initiative Fund is transformative. We are gathering incredibly useful scientific data through the study of global health conditions and diseases that promise to improve the health of people all over the world. Our future physicians, by serving in low-resource areas worldwide, are learning invaluable ways to research and address the world’s most pressing healthcare needs. Our medical students and young physicians truly act as global citizens in medicine, returning with an inspired commitment to compassionate patient care that will last a lifetime.”

Robert J. Havey, MD
Division Chief, Chicago Lake Shore Medical Associates, a regional medical practice of Northwestern Medicine
Make a World of Difference

The role of global health on the world stage revolves around two factors: knowledge and compassion. Bringing what we know to developing countries, which are often disproportionately affected by life-threatening disease due to poverty and a severe lack of resources, supports health as a human right for all. As all physicians know, nothing can help a patient in an exam room before basic science research is conducted in the laboratory, and then developed as a solution to a healthcare need—wherever that need arises.

Northwestern University is a member of the Consortium of Universities for Global Health, an organization which defines global health as: “An area of study, research and practice that places a priority on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide. Global health emphasizes transnational health issues, determinants, and solutions; involves many disciplines within and beyond health sciences and promotes interdisciplinary collaboration; and is a synthesis of population-based prevention with individual-level clinical care.” (Koplan, et al., Lancet, 2010)

Initiatives at the Center for Global Health

- Global health education for Feinberg medical trainees in low-income countries
- Cervical cancer screening among HIV-infected women in Nigeria
- Clinical needs assessment in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, and the Dominican Republic
- Cardiovascular epidemiology, prevention, and outcomes research and research training in India
- Interdisciplinary collaboration with Northwestern University graduate schools to positively impact healthcare needs worldwide

The emergence of global health as a primary force in dealing with deadly disease and chronic illness is clear. Metrics abound that reveal global health research and education efforts have a profound impact, such as saving lives at birth; providing sustainable education and training to local healthcare workers; employing cutting-edge technology to track, study and reduce mortality; effectively treating chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease and arthritis; and curtailing the spread of infectious disease. In the process, global health at its best helps create compassionate physicians capable of treating highly challenging health issues and disparities.
THROUGH NORTHWESTERN MEDICINE, WE INTEND TO CREATE A NATIONAL EPICENTER FOR HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION, RESEARCH, COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND ADVOCACY.

Northwestern Medicine

Northwestern Memorial Hospital and Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine are seeking to impact the health of humankind through Northwestern Medicine. We aspire to be the destination of choice for people seeking quality healthcare; for those who provide, support and advance care through leading-edge treatments and breakthrough discoveries; and for people who share our passion for educating future physicians and scientists. Our commitment to transform healthcare and to be among the nation’s top academic medical centers will be accomplished through innovation and excellence.

The Institute for Public Health and Medicine and the Center for Global Health at Northwestern Medicine lead the country in medical student and resident global health education and service. The groundswell of interest in global health training opportunities, research, and career choice is a direct result of our unique ability to provide education, training, and service in underserved clinics worldwide. It is a life-changing and career-changing experience for medical students, residents, and fellows on every level.

In addition, critical research to resolve global health issues and the transport of disease are integral to the health of nations. A global economy, increased travel and interaction with world populations, and discovering diseases not yet seen in the United States speak to the need for global health solutions. Attracting and retaining renowned global health faculty at Northwestern Medicine facilitates research initiatives and enhances clinical work in the field, yielding profound collaborative medical advances certain to benefit patient populations here and around the world.

By definition, global health is an interdisciplinary field that includes not only a wide variety of infectious diseases but also non-communicable diseases, neglected tropical disease, surgery, pediatrics, women’s health, and community health. Addressing these vital areas through collaborative support of educational opportunities, endowed professorships, and specific innovative seed projects at Northwestern University is paramount, and will also help attract federal and international funding from multi-national government agencies such as the Global Alliance for Chronic Disease.

Important Works in Progress

- Transit program in Chicago for medical students to serve at community clinics in low-resource urban areas
- Rural rotations and research projects for medical students and residents in partnership with federally qualified teaching health centers in the United States
- Medical Spanish immersion program for students and residents traveling the globe
- Rigorous pre-departure preparation curriculum and continuous evaluation and assessment for medical student and resident rotations, including post-trip reflection papers for students and residents
- Global health research mentorship
- Bi-directional research training
- Collaboration with global partner networks

To learn more, please visit: http://globalhealth.northwestern.edu/about/support.html and www.clsma.com/ghi