



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTERSM

CENTER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT



2023 Annual Report

Letter from the CGHAD Team

Friends, colleagues, partners, and members of the global community,

Greetings from the Center for Global Health and Development at the College of Public Health. Since early 2022, we have worked to structure and revitalize the Center, to emphasize global health research and opportunities for our students, and to connect faculty with similar research interests and goals.

We are guided by our belief that CPH's emphasis on global health is our shared recognition that health knows no borders and that our global community is intricately connected. In this annual report, we are excited to share with you the significant milestones we've achieved over the past year, including:

- Student successes. Our Global Health Student Interest Group (GH-SIG) has brought together students eager to explore global health topics and provide a platform for diverse perspectives. Our Chambers Global Health Fellowship recipients have made remarkable strides in the field of global health research.
- Raising the visibility of global health at CPH and UNMC more broadly. Our Grand Rounds presentations were an invaluable forum for in-depth discussions and actions on global health. We proudly established our first Global Health Day, a new annual tradition dedicated to sharing knowledge and experiences with the UNMC local and international communities.
- Emerging research and training partnerships. We are thrilled to announce our partnership with the University of Rwanda and the upcoming launch of our first faculty-led study abroad course in 2024, marking a momentous occasion for UNMC.

As we look ahead, the Center is delighted to serve the entire CPH community with an innovative outlook and a unified set of skills to foster global partnerships, educational programs, and student opportunities. We would like to express our deep gratitude for your unwavering support in advancing global health and development at UNMC.

Sincerely,

The CGHAD Team

Abbie Raikes, Wael ElRayes, and Danielle Thies

2023 Highlights

CGHAD ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Hosted monthly Global Health Student Interest Group presentations



Established UNMC's first annual Global Health Day celebration



Launching UNMC's first study abroad course to Rwanda in summer 2024



Four COPH students were awarded the Chambers Fellowship to work in Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, and Ghana



Hosted two Grand Rounds speaking events



Successfully submitted nine grant submissions totaling \$10,645,000

Our Team



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About Us

The UNMC College of Public Health's Center for Global Health and Development (CGHAD) is committed to improving the well-being and health of people across different global settings through excellence in science, practice, education, and training. The Center will accomplish its goals by implementing diverse academic and non-academic initiatives that raise awareness of global health issues, facilitate collaborations, and enhance human and institutional capacities to improve public health outcomes.



The Center accomplishes its mission in the related areas of education, research, and outreach through:

- The development of strategic partnerships with governments, academic and research institutions, private sector entities, and international organizations;
- The facilitation of collaborative research projects, which include both student and faculty exchanges; and
- Engagement with various local and international public health stakeholders through innovative programs that inform, educate, and involve local communities, civic leaders, students, and health service delivery workers.

Mission & Vision

To advance global public health knowledge and practices by facilitating transnational partnerships among public health scientists, professionals, and advocates.

To be an internationally recognized center of expertise and training for public health students, scholars, and faculty in global health and development.



Our Goals

1

Create bidirectional exchanges to build expertise in research and training within both the College and our partner institutions

2

Establish UNMC's reputation as a world leader in public health education, research, and practice

3

Create sustainable opportunities for UNMC scholars and students to experience and engage in global health collaboration

4

Expand our portfolio to include more opportunities for robust global health research programs and opportunities

5

Improve the health status of Nebraskans through new programs and research projects addressing global health concerns

Where We Work



The College of Public Health's Center for Global Health and Development is actively fostering partnerships with international institutions to enhance our students' global learning experiences and conduct research in communities, laboratories, and hospitals. These collaborations bolster our connections with people worldwide, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and fostering global connectivity. Additionally, the Center is dedicated to forging partnerships between public and private sector stakeholders to develop responsive services, products, and technologies. Priority areas include fostering discussions, competitive grants, and synergistic efforts between academia, research, and the public and private sectors to fulfill our mission.



Global Health Student Interest Group

The Global Health Student Interest Group (SIG), launched by the Center for Global Health and Development in the fall of 2022, has been a valuable addition for College of Public Health students. These monthly meetings serve as a platform for students to delve into diverse global health topics and explore exciting opportunities. In 2023, our SIG hosted an impressive array of speakers, covering subjects such as the mental health challenges faced by new Afghan immigrants to the US, initiatives like Bridge to Care and their impact on refugees in Omaha, the endeavors of the nonprofit Global Vision 2020, as well as issues like global health inequity resulting from electronic and plastic waste in Bangladesh, the recent Ebola outbreak in Uganda, and high-level isolation/special pathogens readiness work through NETEC's international efforts.

This rich program not only brings both internal and external experts to our campus but also offers students a platform for intellectual growth, networking, and the exploration of global health issues from diverse perspectives. These meetings are an invaluable asset, providing students with a deeper understanding of global health challenges and opportunities, thereby enhancing their educational and professional journeys.





The UNMC College of Public Health Center for Global Health and Development proudly introduced its inaugural Global Health Day celebration on April 19, 2023. Establishing a new annual tradition, this momentous event marked a significant milestone, fostering a platform for the UNMC local and international communities to share, disseminate, and enlighten one another with the wealth of global health knowledge, expertise, and experiences. Led by the Center, this year's celebration featured compelling presentations, with Dr. Stephen Rulisa discussing "Public Health in Rwanda" and Dr. Manpreet Singh as the main speaker addressing "Progress and Innovations in Maternal and Newborn Health in LMICs." Global Health Day embraced the interdisciplinary and collaborative nature of global health, uniting experts from various academic fields committed to enhancing the well-being of people, animals, and ecosystems worldwide. This occasion not only extended and built upon the work of global health practitioners within UNMC and beyond but also provided a unique opportunity for partners, leaders, and emerging professionals to convene, exchange insights, and forge connections. As we look forward to the next year, our vision is to expand the celebration and extend a warm welcome to even more participants from across the entire UNMC campus.



Pictured: Dr. Stephen Rulisa (left) and Dr. Manpreet Singh (right)

Chambers Fellowship

The UNMC College of Public Health Suzanne and Ward Chambers Summer Global Health Fellowship Award was established in 2014 with the generous support of UNMC College of Public Health faculty and physician Dr. Ward Chambers and his wife, Suzanne Chambers. Dr. Chambers was a long-serving Director for Global Health at UNMC, and this funded Fellowship is dedicated to continuing his passion for introducing students to global health experiences with opportunities to support advances and innovations in global public health.

Every year, the college awards up to five Fellowships to public health students who want to conduct health engagement projects or population health research overseas in qualified countries. The Fellowship includes 4-6 weeks of global site work, with an additional 4-6 weeks dedicated to preparation for the research project, post-data collection analysis, and manuscript preparation. This experience provides an opportunity to co-create research capacity internationally with diverse population health partners in-country and across the Nebraska University system.

2023 Recipients

Student	Project	Country	UNMC Mentor
Kathleen Angell	Zoonotic Spillover Project in Cambodia	Cambodia	David Brett-Major
Mamello Makhele	Association of Child Marriage and Low-Birth Weight Neonates among Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh	Bangladesh	Wael ElRayes
Taylor Clarkson	Epidemiology and Risk Factors for Hookworm Infection, Reinfection, and Response to Treatment: A Field Study in Beposo, Ghana	Ghana	Joseph Fauver
Natalia Santos	Impact of food environment on health outcomes of older adults in Florianopolis, Brazil	Brazil	Fabiana Brito



Grand Rounds

The Center for Global Health and Development's inaugural Grand Rounds event held concurrently with Global Health Day in April 2023, marked a significant stride toward establishing the Center as a leader within the UNMC community and beyond. The Grand Rounds speaker series is designed to engage faculty, researchers, and staff with substantial global experience through insightful lectures. Please note that Dr. Manpreet Singh fulfilled two functions, as both a Grand Rounds speaker and our guest for Global Health Day (pictured on page 8). Our next Grand Rounds event was held on November 8, 2023, and featured H.E. Treefa Aziz, the Kurdistan Regional Government Representative to the United States of America. As the first Kurdish American to hold this position, Ms. Aziz provided a comprehensive exploration of post-Saddam Iraqi Kurdistan, delving into geopolitics, displacement issues, and healthcare challenges. Her presentation, informed by over 25 years of experience in both the public and private sectors, offered attendees a foundational understanding of Iraqi Kurdistan's history, emphasized the unique struggles of displaced individuals, particularly the Yazidi and Christian minorities, and critically examined the current healthcare infrastructure and needs in the region. The event successfully achieved its objectives by providing valuable insights and fostering a deeper understanding of the complex dynamics in Iraqi Kurdistan.



From left to right: Mr. Delovan Barwari, H.E. Treefa Aziz, and Dr. Wael ElRayes

Rwanda Travel Course

We are thrilled to announce UNMC's first faculty-led study abroad course, CPH 559, Learning Across Borders: A Global Health Travel Experience, scheduled for the summer session of 2024. Open to UNMC masters and doctoral students and worth 3 credit hours. This innovative course combines online learning with a two-week faculty-led tour to Rwanda. It offers a unique opportunity for students to explore global health issues firsthand and immerse themselves in the study of public health in action in a destination country. Serving as a case study, Rwanda will provide insights into challenges and strategies involved in promoting global health, covering aspects such as health perspectives, politics, economics, and more. Students will engage with the destination country through virtual and in-person interactions, as well as field visits. Building on collaborations with the University of Rwanda and the Rwanda Institute for Conservation Agriculture, the course emphasizes collaboration across borders and real-world learning experiences. While additional fees are associated with international travel, the benefits of this program extend far beyond the classroom. This collaboration aligns with Nebraska's rich history of partnerships with Rwanda and offers students the chance to gain invaluable experiences in cultural exchange, cross-cultural research, and international fieldwork. By fostering a deeper understanding of diverse health systems and social determinants of health, this course will empower our students to address health disparities on a global scale. We are excited to explore and strengthen our partnerships in Rwanda and discuss how our institutions can work together to promote global health and advance public health education. This inaugural endeavor promises to be a resounding success, and we eagerly anticipate the positive impact it will have on our institutions and our students.

Photo at the University of Rwanda, School of Public Health



From left to right: Dr. Ben Ndayambaje, Dr. Abbie Raikes, Dean Theoneste Ntakirutimana, Jessica Tcshirren, Dr. Seleman Ntawuyirushintege, and Danielle Thies

CGHAD Grants

Title	Funding Organization	Amount	Status
Together for Early Childhood Evidence (T4ECE) Phase 3	U.S. Agency International Development (USAID) and Palladium International	\$850,000	Awarded
Protecting Proliferation-Sensitive Biological Materials by Enhancing Biosecurity and Know-Your-Collaborator Capacities of Private Diagnostic Laboratories in Egypt	U.S Department of State (DoS)	\$310,000	Ongoing, extended through Dec 2024
Establish a National Electronic Platform for Labs Capable of working with HCAT	U.S. Department of State (DoS)	\$340,000	Ongoing, extended through Dec 2024
Develop a National List for Pathogens of Concern for Egypt	U.S. Department of State (DoS)	\$145,000	Submitted
Advancing U.S. and Iraqi Public Health Diplomacy Through Enhancing Capacity Building and Fostering Institutional Partnerships	U.S. Department of State (DoS)	\$500,000	Submitted
Developing National One Health Biomedical Informatics Capacities: A sustainable Training of Trainers Program	National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine	\$400,000	Submitted
CTR Global Biosecurity Engagement Activities	U.S. Biosecurity Engagement Program (BEP)	\$4,500,000	Submitted
Conditions for Undertaking and Financing Joint Science & Technology Activities	U.S. - Egypt Joint Board on Scientific & Technological Cooperation	\$200,000	Submitted
Global Brain and Nervous System Disorders Research Across the Lifespan (R01)	National Institutes of Health (NIH)	\$3,400,000	Submitted

CGHAD is proud to report the successful submission of nine grant proposals to various federal and private agencies totaling \$10,645,000. To date, CGHAD has received \$1,500,000 in external funding in 2023.

Looking Ahead



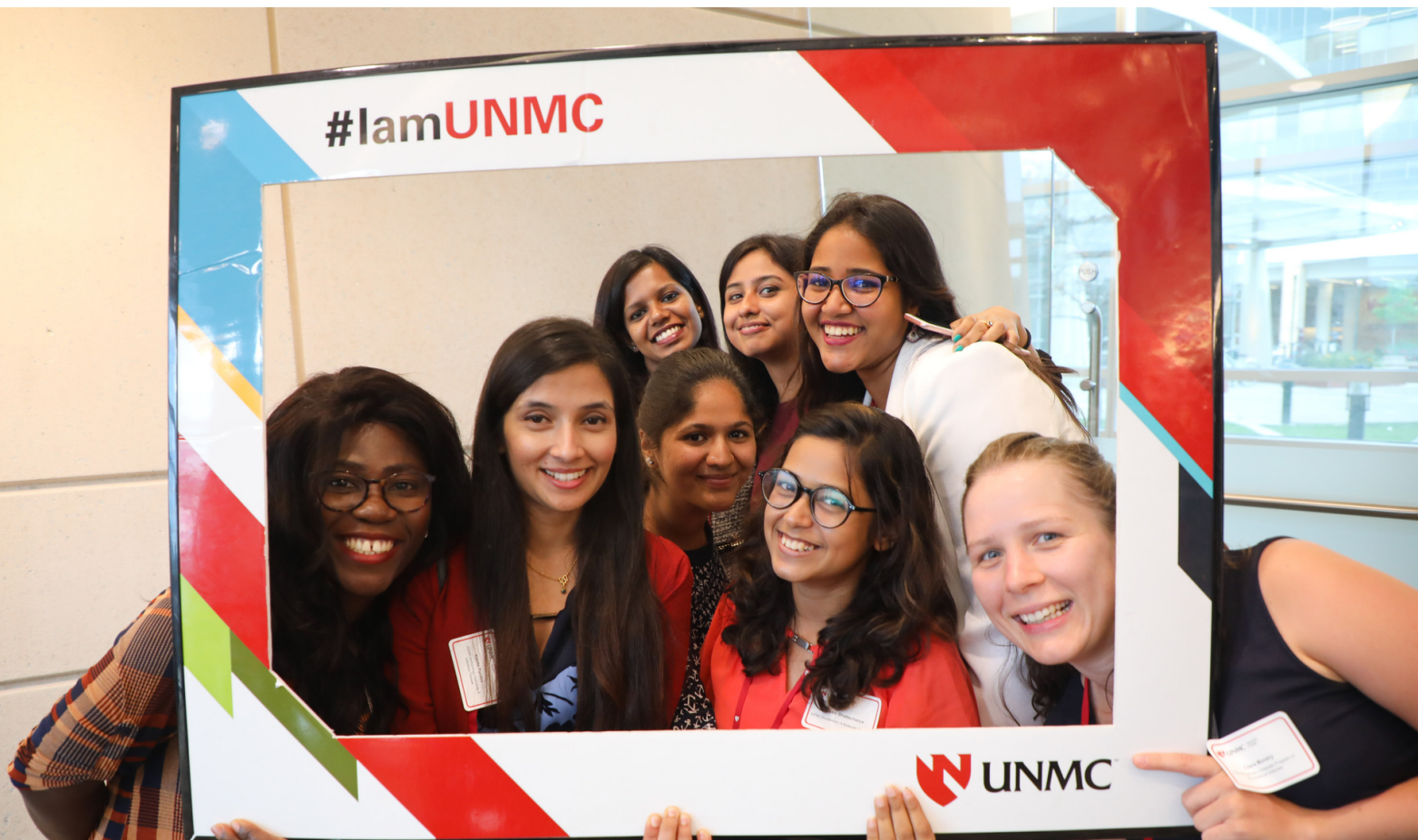
As we look ahead, the anticipation of UNMC's first faculty-led study abroad course to Rwanda in 2024 marks a milestone, promising unique insights into global health challenges and opportunities for collaboration across borders. Our vision encompasses creating sustainable opportunities for global health collaborations, expanding our research programs, and addressing local health disparities in Nebraska through global health initiatives.

Our team is dedicated to advancing global public health knowledge and practices, becoming a beacon of expertise and training on an international scale. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your steadfast support in advancing global health and development at UNMC. Together, we look forward to a future marked by innovation, collaboration, and the continued pursuit of excellence.



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Website

<https://www.unmc.edu/publichealth/cghad/>

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