



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTERSM

CENTER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

2024 Annual Report



Letter from the CGHAD Team

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

As global health challenges evolve, the need for collaboration, innovation, and sustained engagement has never been greater. At the UNMC Center for Global Health and Development, we remain committed to fostering meaningful partnerships, advancing research, and creating transformative learning experiences that empower the next generation of global health leaders. This past year has been one of growth and impact. Our second annual World Health Day brought together experts from Africa CDC and the Fogarty International Center, reinforcing the importance of global collaboration. We successfully launched our first faculty-led study abroad course, offering students an immersive experience in Rwanda's public health landscape. Through our ongoing research partnerships with the University of Rwanda and other international collaborators, we continue to generate valuable insights that shape public health strategies both globally and locally.

We invite you to explore our annual report, which highlights the achievements, collaborations, and programs that define our work. As we look to the future, we are eager to expand research initiatives, secure new funding opportunities, and strengthen global partnerships to drive sustainable health solutions.

Your support and engagement are invaluable in advancing this mission. Whether you are interested in research collaboration, student training, or funding opportunities, we welcome the chance to connect and work together in shaping a healthier, more equitable world.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to global health. We look forward to another year of progress and collaboration.

With gratitude,

The Center for Global Health and Development (CGHAD) Team
Abbie Raikes, Wael ElRayes, and Danielle Thies

2024 Highlights



Hosted monthly Global Health Student Interest Group presentations



Held UNMC's second annual World Health Day celebration



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



Danielle Thies and Abbie Raikes were awarded the 2024 Delta Omega Innovative Curriculum Award



Three COPH students were awarded the Chambers Fellowship to work in Italy, Rwanda, and Uganda



Successfully submitted six grant submissions totaling \$6,895,225

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 2024, our SIG hosted an impressive array of speakers, covering subjects such as undernutrition in Rwanda, Project ECHO in Sudan, the Role of Africa CDC in Global Health, early childhood development in Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as experiences from COPH faculty and their recent trips in countries like Chad and Rwanda.

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.





On April 4, 2024, the Center for Global Health and Development hosted UNMC's second annual World Health Day, reaffirming our commitment to advancing global health awareness and advocacy. Sponsored in partnership with the Office of the Dean, the event underscored the critical interplay between global and local health, emphasizing the power of collaboration in addressing shared challenges.

This year's celebration featured two distinguished speakers. Dr. Raji Tajudeen, Deputy Director General at the Africa CDC presented "The Role of Africa CDC in Global Health," sharing insights from his extensive experience in health system strengthening and humanitarian response across Africa. Dr. Peter Kilmarx, Acting Director of the Fogarty International Center and Acting Associate Director for International Research at the National Institutes of Health, delivered a talk on "Perspectives in Global Health Research," highlighting NIH's efforts to advance global research and capacity-building initiatives. Following his presentation, Dr. Kilmarx engaged with students in a career conversation, offering guidance and reflections from his journey in global health leadership.

Both presentations, held virtually and recorded for broader access, provided valuable perspectives and inspired meaningful dialogue. World Health Day 2024 continued our tradition of fostering global connections and advancing knowledge, motivating our community to remain steadfast in the pursuit of a healthier, more equitable world.



Dr. Raji Tajudeen



Dr. Peter Kilmarx

Rwanda Travel Course

The Center for Global Health proudly launched its first study abroad course, CPH 559: Learning Across Borders – A Global Health Experience. This three-credit, graduate-level course offered students a transformative opportunity to engage with global health issues during an immersive experience in Rwanda.

Led by Dr. Abbie Raikes and Danielle Thies, this year's cohort included eight MPH and one PhD student from diverse backgrounds, including two international students and primarily online learners. The group was joined by COPH faculty Dr. Ariane Rung, Dr. Matt Nonnenmann, Dr. Brandon Grimm, and Dr. Katelyn Hepworth.

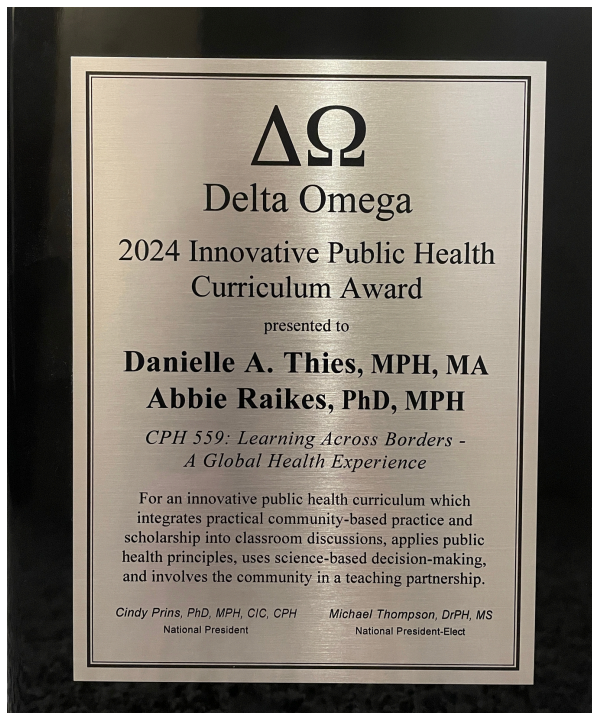
From June 11-19, 2024, students gained firsthand insights into Rwanda's healthcare system and public health initiatives through visits to key sites such as the Kigali Genocide Memorial, Gardens for Health, Health Development Initiative, and Zipline drone delivery systems. They also engaged with peers at the University of Rwanda's School of Public Health and the Rwandan Institute of Conservation Agriculture, participating in lectures and collaborative case studies.

Students from
COPH and the
University of
Rwanda School
of Public Health





Delta Omega Innovative Curriculum Award 2024



CGHAD is proud to announce that Danielle Thies and Dr. Abbie Raikes have been selected as the winner of the 2024 Delta Omega Award for Innovative Public Health Curriculum for their course CPH 559: Learning Across Borders – A Global Health Experience. The award was presented at the American Public Health Association (APHA) conference on October 28, 2024 in Minneapolis, MN.

They are incredibly honored to receive this award, as it highlights the importance of providing transformative educational experiences that go beyond the classroom. This recognition affirms the value of bridging theoretical knowledge with practical experience into our public health coursework.

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.

2024 Recipients

Student	Project	Country	UNMC Mentor
Bibiana (Marcela) Carvajal Suarez	An exploratory study of health and well-being among livestock workers in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region of Italy	Italy	Athena Ramos
Josiane Kabayundo	Community-level Assessment of Breast Cancer Stigma in Rwanda: A Mixed Method Study	Rwanda	Shinobu Watanabe-Galloway
Uzo Chukwuma	An integrative approach to strengthen antimicrobial resistance surveillance capacity in a resource-constrained setting	Uganda	David Brett-Major

CGHAD Grants

Title	Funding Organization	Amount	Status
Egyptian Pioneers Program	United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and FHI 360	\$951,528	Awarded
CTR Global Biosecurity Engagement Activities	U.S. Department of State (DoS)	\$999,593	Not Awarded
Countering WMD Threats in Iraq	U.S. Department of State (DoS)	\$499,392	Not Awarded
Egypt Research Administration Capacity Building Program	National Academies of Science (NAS)	\$249,999	Not Awarded
Advancing Menstrual Hygiene Knowledge, Awareness and Practices Among Females of Reproductive Age in the FDMN	Reckitt Global Hygiene Institute (RGHI)	\$200,000	Not Awarded
Advancing Innovative and Interdisciplinary Education in Egyptian HEIs	United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	\$3,994,713	Not Awarded

CGHAD is proud to report the successful submission of six grant proposals to various federal and private agencies totaling \$6,895,225. To date, CGHAD has received \$951,528 in external funding in 2024.

Publications

Dormal, M., **Raikes, A.**, & Charles McCoy, D. (2024). Improving Measurement Efficiency of an Early Education Quality Monitoring Tool for Majority World Countries. *Early Education and Development*, 1-23.

ElRayes, W., Malik, S., Akesson, B., Mahmood, I., Hafiz, M.G., Aldalaykeh, M., Mahmood, A., Gautam, B., Hoque, S., Ul Haque, F. and Watanabe-Galloway, S. (2024), "Mental health services among Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh: perspectives from field service providers", *International Journal of Migration, Health and Social Care*, Vol. ahead-of-print No. ahead-of-print. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJMHS-11-2022-0112>

Herstein JJ, Lukowski J, **ElRayes W**, Lowe JJ, Mehta AK, Mukherjee V, Stern KL, Carrasco SV, Vasa A, Vasistha S, Sauer LM. High-Level Isolation: A Landscape Analysis of Global Capabilities and Opportunities to Advance the Field. *Health Secur.* 2024 Aug 5. doi: 10.1089/hs.2023.0181. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 39101827.

Krafft, Caroline, **Raikes, A.**, Towfighian, S., & Mojgani, R. (2024). Quality and inequality in pre-primary and home environment inputs to early childhood development in Egypt. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 68 (2024): 24-34.

Stern, K. L., Sauer, L. M., Arguinchona, C., Dunning, J., **ElRayes, W.**, Lim, P. L., ... & Herstein, J. J. (2024). Global High-Consequence Infectious Disease Readiness and Response: An Inventory of High-Level Isolation Units. *Health security*.

Trainings

- Advancing Biological Risk Management for Private Diagnostic Human and Veterinary Laboratories: (Egypt) January 2024
 - Participants included 185 laboratory professionals from 22 governorates in Egypt

MOUs Signed

- HOPE Foundation for Women and Children of Bangladesh, 2021 (renewed 2024)

Looking Ahead



Thank you for reading our annual report and for your continued interest in global health.

As we reflect on a year of growth, collaboration, and impact, we take pride in the successful launch of UNMC's inaugural faculty-led study abroad course to Rwanda. This experience not only enriched our students' understanding of global health challenges but also strengthened our partnerships and broadened our collective vision for the future.

Looking ahead, we are committed to expanding opportunities for sustainable global health collaborations, advancing research that addresses pressing health disparities, and deepening our impact both locally and internationally. Our goal is to continue growing as a center of excellence in global public health education, research, and training—fostering innovation and partnerships that drive meaningful change.

We truly appreciate your engagement and support in our mission. Whether through collaboration, research, or student training, we invite you to connect with us and be part of our journey. Together, we can continue to build a healthier, more equitable world.



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Website

<https://www.unmc.edu/publichealth/centers/cghad/index.html>

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