MGH Global Health Community Meeting 06/24/25 Program Updates

Safety and Security

- The travel safe policy has been updated for a two-week period as of June 17
  - Existing "Do Not Travel" list included Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon, and the West Bank
    - New countries added to the list include Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Quatar, Burma, and Kuwait
  - The travel ban includes transit through any of these countries, which is important to remember given many must travel through Doha and Dubai to get to points in Africa
    - Exceptions can be made for critical travel; submit exception request to Mass General CFO, Niyum Gandhi
  - Policy will probably be revisited in two weeks; will provide an update when received
- High Consequence Infectious Disease (HCID) Policy
  - Ebola epidemic in Uganda was declared over at the end of April
  - Rising cases of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever
    - Policy gives guidance for travel in places where hemorrhagic fevers are occurring; may be subject to protocol to follow upon return and may not be able to immediately return to work depending on the situation
    - Link will be resent through email; can also be accessed here or in the newsletter

Global Disaster Response

- Team is going back to the border at Matamoros in a couple weeks
- Started interviewing a new round of Durant Fellowship candidates
  - Rolling application
  - Funding is available for those who want to do field-based humanitarian work
    - Please contact if you know anyone interested or in need of funding right now

Global Health Collaborative, Uganda

- Had a research meeting with project coordinators from Research Perspective
  - All seems to be going well and there is no indication of challenges beyond the uncertainty of the ongoing projects
  - Invited to showcase projects on July 4
    - The university is opening a new building for faculty of Computer Science and will give GHC a 10-seater to showcase projects in innovation and research
    - Met with PCs to check in with PIs to check if they can showcase their work
- Supporting partnerships
  - Planning to have an ECOLA-RAM meeting
  - Official fundraising drive for pediatric cancer patients will start meeting within the next two weeks; anticipate a September 10 deadline

- Visitors recommended by Krysten Noth, MD, MPH and Peter Moskowitz, MD from the Czechy Foundation in Italy
    - Looking for possible partnerships with the university in pediatrics, internal medicine, and lung health departments; currently waiting for a response
- Global Health Collaborative (GHC) is now LLC-registered in Uganda, directed by Annette Kembabazi, MSC, and will operate as such beginning on July 1
    - Official collaborating vendor for services in Uganda; this is an exciting new era for collaboration and work in Uganda
    - Will not hugely change travel and interactions with the Collaborative, but will impact in other ways
    - Working on a few transitions to begin operating officially
- Lucy just left and they are expecting Jessica in the second week of July

Global Nursing

- Mary is in Sierra Leone with two midwives teaching three different leadership programs there

Global Research

- The Global Health Research Collaborative met and had a representative from the clinical trials office speak about engaging in industry, reaching out to CTO, and avoiding budgeting challenges in a world outside of NIH funding
    - This portion of the session was recorded; email Lindsey Garrison for a link
- Was expecting NIH updates for how to handle foreign subs, but still waiting as of now

Global Palliative Care

- Bethany-Rose is back from parental leave
- Mark took the lead on a couple in-person projects and is wrapping up the final in-person portion of year-long Latin American palliative care course from Chile
    - This year saw the largest and most interdisciplinary cohort
    - A small donor from MGH sponsors 10 scholarships for individuals from Latin America to travel to Chile for this course
        - This year, St. Jude matched the donor provided more scholarships

Global Ultrasound

- Welcome research fellow Kwabena Danso, MBChB, FGCS, FACOG to the ultrasound division in the Department of Emergency Medicine!
    - Dr. Danso, the first fellow from Ghana, will be working on point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) research

Admin Updates

- Two new funding opportunities
    - Wyss Global Health Scholars Program
        - Up to $150k a year for two years for Mass General hospital-based clinician-researchers with broad eligibility or global partners to apply for funding

    - Scholarships for Global Health Advancement
        - Smaller grant up to $20k, not for use as an MGH-based individual, but for your collaborator (eg. to support a master's program, for a short-term training or skills buildings course)
        - Must occur in a low-income country setting and therefore, cannot be used for observerships
        - Please share amongst network and recognize eligibility criteria
    - Apps due by August, hope to send out the awards by September
- Is the research award amenable to supporting projects terminated due to NIH regulations?
    - Amenable to any project that meets eligibility criteria
    - This is a multimillion-dollar gift to be distributed over 5 years; took about a year to sign
    - Initially intended to complement existing funded mechanisms, not to fill gaps, but expect that due to current events, there will be very high demand
    - Meant to specifically support research and care initiatives, where research is happening, but care is lacking or vice versa
- Eligibility criteria: MGB-based clinician engaged in clinical research
    - What is competitive will be work that synergizes clinical and scholarship work, elevates scholarship around clinical activities, and brings clinical care into research-only endeavors so that services can be provided to complement that
    - Includes allied-health officials and other health officials
        - No particular requirements for a doctorate
        - Goal: to advance equitable collaborations whereby there are multidisciplinary teams