MGH Global Health Community Meeting 9/23/2025 Program Updates

Global Disaster Response

- Dr. Amir Mohareb and Lindsey Martin will be going on Saturday to Columbia/Venezuela border for site visit
- Meeting with team to see if there is work that we can be doing at the border
- Planning another trip to the US/Mexico border

GHC Research Collaboration Limited, Uganda

- Uganda Color Run for Pediatric Cancer annual community event raises awareness about cancer and funds for cancer treatment and care at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital (MRRH). The event is sponsored by Mass General and Ugandan businesses, individuals and organizations and is hosted by MRRH and the University of Science and Technology in Mbarara.
- This year's Color Run took place on Saturday September 20th, 2025.
- The MGH Center for Global Health is proud to partner with our colleagues at MRRH to raise critical funds to advance and support pediatric cancer care in Uganda.
- *Please donate here:* 2025 Uganda 5K Color Run for Cancer - Campaign

Global Nursing

- Working on a team to go to Liberia for follow up surgical education in November
- Skeeter Welder is in Senegal doing Trauma Nursing Fundamentals presentation

Global Education and Clinical Innovation

- Next MGBGlobalEd Collaborative Meeting will be held in November or December
    - Topic will be on publishing in the medical education literature
    - Collaborating with the Brigham Education Institute – have lots of resources around med ed and publishing, and free educational videos
    - We have been working on integrating with the BWH and have included new members in our collaborative.
- Peter L. Slavin Learning Academy – collaboration across all of MGH. Physically building a teaching hospital that is entirely simulation in a few years from now.
    - Supporting all clinical education across the hospital. Launched physical space at MGH
    - Currently have an active simulation lab. Expressed interested in collaborative more with Global Health folks. Invited us to have a tour of the facility.
- If you are interested in teaching as a volunteer faculty in Rwanda, please reach out to Esther
    - The Paul Farmer Collaborative will cover travel expenses
    - A minimum of a two-week time commitment is required

Global Research and Innovation

- Global Health Research Collaborative (GHRC)
    - Quarterly meeting of GHRC Meeting next Tuesday, September 30th from 3-4pm
    - Topic: Panel to discuss Research Dissemination

DOJ Data Transfer Rule

- The new DOJ Data Transfer Rule prohibits the transfer of U.S. human data and/or biospecimens, including PHI, to entities and individuals in certain countries ("Countries of Concern") or to certain persons ("Covered Persons").
    - Countries of concern: China (including Hong Kong and Macau), Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, Venezuela, and nationals of any of these countries
    - This includes any foreign entity who may be working with a country of concern (i.e., a French contractor sharing MGB data with China).
- The impacted U.S. sensitive personal data includes precise geolocation data (physical location of an individual within 1,000 meters), human genomic or 'omic data, biometric identifiers, personal health data, personal financial data.
    - **NB: This includes anonymized, de-identified, pseudonymized, and aggregate data.**
- How may this apply to you?
    - You cannot provide access or transfer US human data and/or biospecimens to a resident of, any organization, or person who is affiliated with a Country of Concern (i.e., any individual working for a company based out of a Country of Concern). Doing so will result in civil and criminal penalties.
    - Sharing of US human data and/or biospecimens with any foreign entity or individual, including those who are not in one of the Countries of Concern, requires that entity or individual to:
        - Attest that they will not provide access to that data with a Country of Concern or Covered Person
        - Attest that they are not a Covered Person
- Citizens of the Countries of Concern may be employed by MGB under the federal visa exemption (ex. J1 visa).
    - Once they leave the jurisdiction of the US, we are no longer protected by this exemption. Employees and Extended Workers affiliated with a Country of Concern may not have access to human data outside of the US.
        - This includes travel to a Country of Concern AND to any foreign country.
            - Ex) Chinese citizen traveling home to Shanghai cannot have access to human data
            - Ex) Chinese citizen traveling to France cannot have access to human data
- The Privacy Office and OGC must review any travel TO a Country of Concern and any travel by a citizen of a Country of Concern, or those affiliated with a Country of Concern.
- **If your research study/project involves US human data/biospecimen access by an external party, you must work with Research Management to put the proper agreement in place.**

    - If your study/project involves US human data/biospecimen access by a foreign entity/person NOT in a CoC, RM will incorporate the appropriate contract terms for compliance with the DOJ rule.
    - For research studies/projects that involve US human data/biospecimen access with a Country of Concern or Covered Person, RM will flag that project for review by Compliance and no data/biospecimen access should occur without institutional review.
        - There are limited exemptions under the DOJ Rule. Only the institution, not an individual investigator, can make those exempt determinations.
    - Please send the details of the data transfer request to mgbdojdatatransfer@mgb.org
- If the data is currently publicly available, the DOJ Rule doesn't apply.
- MGB is currently reviewing the approved data repositories to make sure you can't download the data in a Country of Concern.
- All PIs and Key Personnel will be assigned a Research Security training through HealthStream on November 1, that will further explain this new policy.
- Additional details to follow as MGB evaluates the policy and implications.

WHEN A REQUEST MUST BE REVIEWED BY PRIVACY AND OGC:

- Any travel to a Country of Concern
- Any travel by a citizen of a Country of Concern, or those affiliated with a Country of Concern for a company associated with a Country of Concern
- Send the details of the data transfer request to mgbdojdatatransfer@mgb.org

Updates from the NIH on the new application structure for NIH-funded international collaborations

NOT-OD-25-155: New Application Structure for NIH-Funded International Collaborations

Main takeaways:

- NIH continues to support international collaborations.
- NIH will require that competing applications submit applications to a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) that supports the new PF5 activity code for grants (NIH plans to release NOFOs for these codes)
- MGB advises not to submit new grants with foreign components prior to January 25, 2026, when the new NOFOs should be released.

Application Implications: The NIH's new PF5/UF5 structure requires applicants to use a multi-component package. At minimum, each application must include:

- An Overall Component describing the collaborative objectives
- A Research Project Component detailing scientific and technical directions
- One or more International Project Components, each corresponding to a unique foreign collaborator or institution
- The primary applicant must be a domestic (U.S.-based) organization.

- Leadership must include at least one Principal Investigator (PD/PI) from the domestic applicant and one from each International Project, who will also serve as PD/PI for the corresponding Linked International Research Project award.

Award Implications:

- After review, selected PF5/UF5 applications will be disaggregated (multiple NOAs if funded: to prime and to international site(s)).
    - Each International Project component will receive a separate grant number (RF2 or UL2 activity code), with the foreign institution as the grantee.
    - Key administrative steps, such as (JIT), must be fulfilled independently by both domestic and foreign recipients.
- If funded, NIH will issue PF5/UF5 awards to domestic organizations and RF2/UL2 awards to foreign organizations.
    - Each must comply with their respective award terms and conditions
    - Disaggregation does not guarantee funding for all components; *NIH may fund all, none, or only some parts based on merit, JIT materials, and agency priorities*.

Global Health Programs in Gastroenterology

- Launched inaugural MGH Global Gastroenterology Educational Series. Developed monthly CME approved educational programs as a platform for ongoing learning in the field of gastroenterology and to provide opportunities for collaboration in patient care and research globally
- Launching MGH Global Gastroenterology Newsletter that will be sent out quarterly
- Gastroenterology mentorship program – started a volunteer program for those interested in global gastroenterology
- Have four clinical observers coming in next year from Nigeria, Zambia, Spain and India
- Working on mentorship program with the Ragon, mixture of clinical observerships and medical students

Admin Updates

- MGB Global Health Grand Rounds changing formation to a few high-profile speaker, hybrid sessions.
    - First session will be Tuesday, November 4th – time TBD
- The President of the United States has issued a Proclamation restricting the entry of all H-B nonimmigrants currently outside the U.S.
    - The order is effective 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on Sunday, September 21, 2025.
        - All H-1B visa holders who are abroad and who can return **before 11:59 PM eastern daylight time on Saturday, September 20, 2025** should do so.
        - No H-1B visa holders currently in the U.S. should depart.
        - H-1B visa holders who are abroad and cannot return before the order goes into effect, please email visas@mbg.org and provide your current location.
        - If you are a new employee who is planning to enter the U.S. in H-1B status to begin work, please email visas@mgb.org.

- Although there is some potential, narrow exceptions to the ban and a new qualifying H-1B fee of $100,000 is proposed for all H-1B petitions, no details are offered and it is not clear how or when these provisions might be implemented.
- It is likely this order will be challenged in court and things may change rapidly. Please watch for further updates from the MGB Visa office.