Massachusetts General Hospital
Founding Member, Mass General Brigham

2025 Year in Review

Global Health



Driven by the belief that everyone, everywhere has a right to good health.

Photo (Previous page): Certified Nurse Midwife, Bobbie Curtis leading a training session for hospital nurses on managing shoulder dystocia during childbirth in Sierra Leone.

Dear colleagues and friends of the Mass General Center for Global Health,

I am delighted to present the 2025 Global Health Annual Report, highlighting the accomplishments and ongoing, impactful work taking place across Mass General Brigham. As global crises and conflicts persist, the work of engaging with communities to address their pressing health challenges through clinical service, education and research has never felt more important. While deep inequities in access to healthcare and the allocation of resources remain pervasive, our role as a hub of expertise and support — improving the efficiency and effectiveness of global health engagements — is more critical than ever. The integration of Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital, alongside significant new philanthropic support, enabled the Center to expand its reach and offerings throughout Mass General Brigham.

This report reflects only a portion of the impactful global health work underway at our academic medical centers, Mass General and Brigham and Women's. Our global health researchers continue to make transformative contributions to the field. Mass General Brigham caregivers around the globe remain dedicated to delivering high-quality patient care, strengthening health systems and providing educational programs and bidirectional exchange in collaboration with a broad array of communities, global initiatives and partners. I am proud to shine a spotlight on some of these remarkable global and local health equity initiatives in this report and although it's not an exhaustive listing of activities, programs or people, we hope it provides an inspiring sense of the remarkable things that can be achieved in partnership across the globe.

As I reflect on the past year and look to the future, I extend my sincere gratitude to the members of our global health community — nurses, physicians, researchers, administrators and countless others — whose expertise, mentorship and service drive our collective mission forward. To our supporters within Mass General Brigham and beyond, thank you for your steadfast belief in the importance of our mission and your unwavering commitment to advancing health equity alongside all our global partners. We could not do this work without you.

Sincerely,



Louise Ivers, MD, MPH
David Bangsberg MD MPH Chair of Global Health Equity
Executive Director, MGH Center for Global Health
Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School





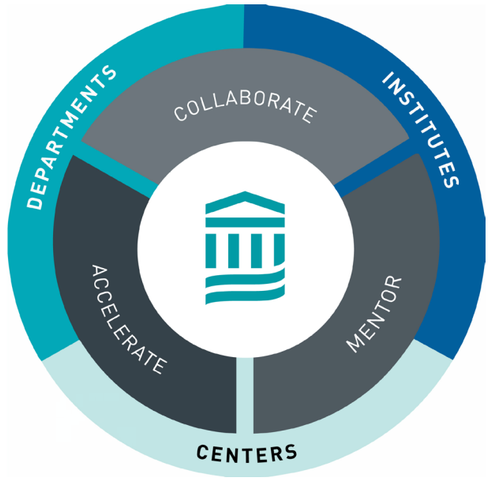
Who we are

Collaborate, accelerate and mentor across departments, centers and institutes

The Mass General Center for Global Health (CGH) serves as a critical hub for the global health work being advanced by members of nearly every department across Mass General Brigham. CGH promotes, supports and guides these worldwide health efforts to increase efficiency and effectiveness and amplify their collective impact.

Our Strategy:

- Equitable, sustainable partnerships and bidirectional learning to drive enduring impact
- Education, training and ongoing collaboration that centers the priorities of global partners to improve patient care and build partner capacity
- Research and innovation that is unique to academic medical centers; results help drive the field of global health forward through widespread publication and dissemination, often leveraging further funding
- Comprehensive infrastructure and funding support accelerate impact and collaboration among doctors, nurses, researchers and healthcare providers advancing global health equity



Creating Community Across our Global Health Network

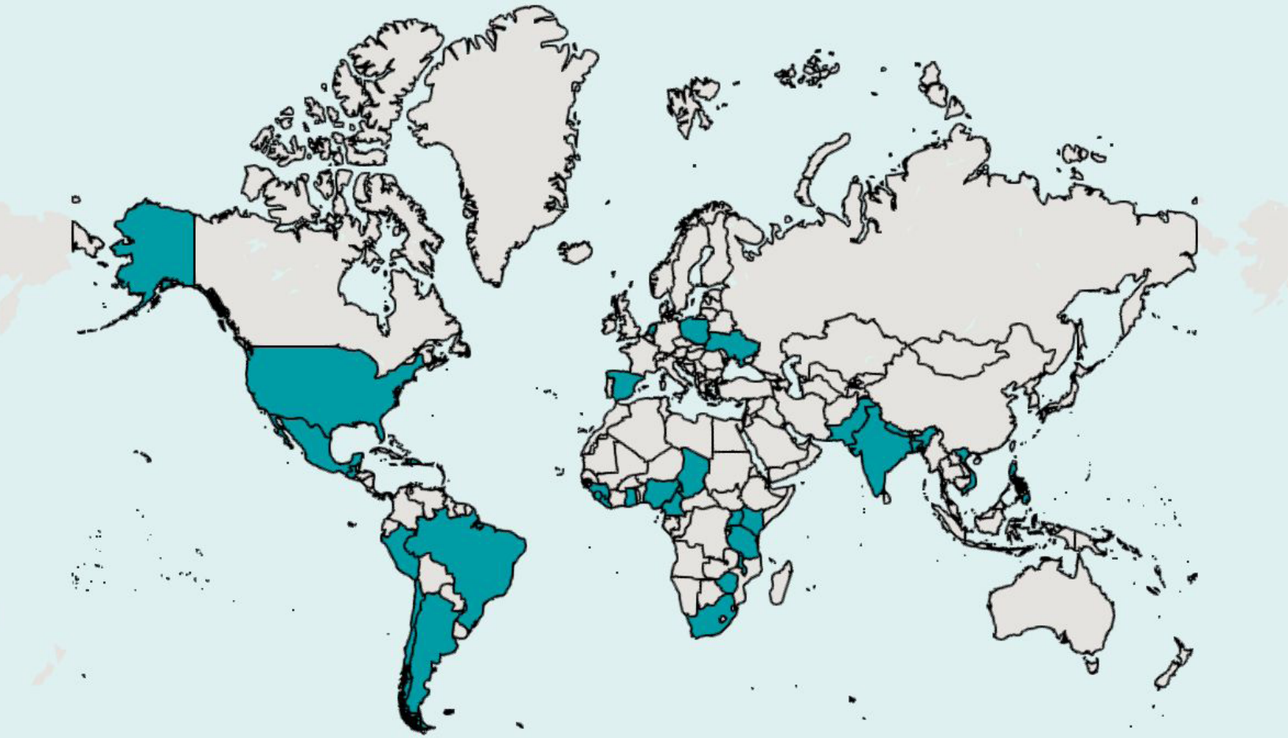
The Global Health Research Collaborative (GHRC) convenes 71 research groups and global health faculty from 35 departments, centers and institutes across Mass General Brigham working in 40 countries, to advance interdisciplinary science in the pursuit of global health equity and foster innovative bench, clinical and population health research partnerships that aim to improve the health of underserved populations globally.

Complementing this effort, the MGBGlobalEd Collaborative brings together more than 100 Mass General Brigham faculty across 41 departments, centers and institutes engaged in global education, healthcare delivery, and innovation in 48 countries, cultivating a community of educators who share best practices, learn from one another and advance interdisciplinary education initiatives to further the pursuit of global health equity.

Center for Global Health Awards

Accelerating impactful global health work across Mass General Brigham

Since 2020, the Mass General Center for Global Health has funded **$5.6 million** in internal awards supporting over **230 faculty** across Mass General Brigham and accelerating global health work in **37 countries**.



Catalyzing Global Health Work

The Center for Global Health serves as a resource for the entire Mass General Brigham community. We invest in the future of global health through a portfolio of competitive awards that support the research, clinical care and bidirectional learning of our most talented nurses, physicians and healthcare providers advancing global health equity, both here at Mass General Brigham and around the world. This year presented unique challenges as federal guidelines and funding changed dramatically. Philanthropic support was critical to allowing us to sustain and even expand the work despite these difficulties.

Map: Countries in which global health work has been supported by the Center for Global Health internal awards to MGB faculty since 2020.

The Wyss Program in Global Health Leadership

In 2025, transformational funding from the Wyss Medical Foundation allowed the Center for Global Health to establish the Wyss Program in Global Health Leadership, a five-year program to invest in global health leaders, both here and at our partner sites, who are working to transform patient care across specialties. This program will serve as a model for the impact of partnership with academic medical centers and this year especially, helped to sustain important projects threatened by U.S. federal funding cuts.

2025 Inaugural Wyss Global Scholar Awards

The Wyss Global Health Scholar Awards were launched this fall, providing up to $150,000 annually for two years to support the clinical care, teaching, research and innovation of global health physicians and healthcare providers whose projects aim to have sustained positive impact in the most underserved communities globally. The awards sought especially to catalyze research in clinical programs and clinical care in research programs.



Pilly Chillo, MD, Department of Cardiology, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences
Echoes of Life: Portable Echocardiography for Early Detection and Management of Acute Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Heart Disease in Rural Tanzania

Dr. Chillo's project will train healthcare workers in Tanzania on early diagnosis and effective treatment of rheumatic heart disease (RHD), a devastating but preventable outcome of acute rheumatic fever (ARF) that continues to claim the lives of young individuals across sub-Saharan Africa. The project will deploy an additional 12 portable echocardiograms machines and ensure newly diagnosed patients are started on and maintain regular monthly penicillin prophylaxis. Dr. Chillo collaborates with Robert Levine, MD, director of the cardiac ultrasound laboratory at the Mass General Brigham Heart and Vascular Institute.



Grace Kansiime, MD, Chair, Internal Medicine, Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), Uganda
Reducing tuberculosis (TB) mortality during and after treatment through screening for kidney dysfunction and implementing a mortality-risk-prediction score

Dr. Kansiime's project aims to reduce TB mortality by improving a tool to identify high-risk patients, introduce point-of-care creatinine testing and evaluate long-term kidney outcomes post-TB treatment. While TB is curable, it still causes high mortality, especially in hospitalized patients with underlying conditions such as kidney dysfunction. The project seeks to enhance TB care through integrated screening, risk prediction and accessible diagnostics. Dr. Kansiime collaborates with Mark Sneider, MD, MPH, a clinician and researcher in the MGB Division of Infectious Diseases.

> "When I saw the call for this funding, I had just learned that another mechanism I applied for was canceled amid widespread cuts. This award truly felt like a lifeline. The Wyss Global Health Scholars Program has enabled us to continue vital TB and kidney disease research and patient care during challenging times, and I am deeply grateful to the Wyss Foundation for this support."
>
> **– Grace Kansiime, MD**



Amir Mohareb, MD, Mass General Division of Infectious Diseases
Improving health outcomes of migrating people at risk of trauma while in transit in Latin America

Dr. Mohareb's project aims to improve health outcomes for people traveling through some of the most dangerous and under-resourced migration corridors in the Western Hemisphere. Dr. Mohareb and his team will deploy a care-delivery protocol at key migration centers in Latin America, to strengthen clinical capacity on the ground and generate valuable data to advance our understanding of the health needs of migrating populations.



Adeline Boatin, MD, MPH, Mass General Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
The BRIDGE-OB Program: Bridging the Critical Care Gap for Peripartum Women at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital

Dr. Adeline Boatin's implementation project will expand access to intensive obstetric care by developing a High Dependency Unit to care for critically ill peripartum women at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital (MRRH) in Uganda, where maternal mortality remains a critical health challenge. Building on her longstanding research partnership with Drs Tibaijuka, Ngonzi and Lugobe of MUST and MRRH, the High Dependency Unit will improve immediate patient outcomes and create invaluable training opportunities to enhance long-term impact.

Lakshmi Ganapathi, MBBS, MSc, Department of Infectious Diseases, Mass General Brigham for Children



Pathways to Recovery: Youth-focused interventions to support substance use treatment receipt and engagement among youth who inject opioids in India

Dr. Ganapathi's project aims to develop and pilot a family-centered psychosocial intervention for adolescents with opioid use disorder (OUD). Building on her long-term collaboration with Y.R. Gaitonde Centre for AIDS Research and Education in India, part of the project will be adapting trainings developed in the U.S. for Indian providers in Mizoram, India. Globally, India accounts for one third of all opioid use, with approximately 20 million users and a rising number of adolescents injecting opioids. The interventions will be tested in Mizoram and refined based on input from youth, caregivers and healthcare providers, laying the groundwork for future large-scale studies.

"This award came at a critical time when my research to develop and implement family-centered interventions for youth who inject opioids in India — a project I had hoped would contribute to translatable lessons applicable to a variety of settings, including the U.S.— became stalled as a result of funding terminations and waning federal support. The Wyss Program's mission of building capacity has allowed me to start establishing an adolescent and young adult opioid use differentiated care program within existing public sector facilities in India."

– Lakshmi Ganapathi, MBBS, MSc

Innovations in Global Health Delivery and Research

With support from CRI Foundation, CGH supported early- and mid-career researchers advancing promising research that would contribute to alleviating suffering.

Kristina Korte, PhD, and her team were able to continue a clinical trial, Treatment for Anxiety Disorders and PTSD in South Africa: A Hybrid-Effectiveness Trial, on the use of a nurse-administered brief treatment for anxiety disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in South Africa.



"Funds from the CRI Foundation have allowed to me to continue my five-year research study in South Africa focused on the use of a brief treatment for anxiety disorders and PTSD in primary care clinics. Specifically, the funds have provided support for two research assistants, a postdoctoral fellow, provider incentives and other study related costs. These funds have been crucial in allowing the study to continue, helping us reach our recruitment goals and ultimately finalize data collection in the upcoming months."

– Kristina Korte, PhD

Richelle Charles, MD, continued work to decrease the global burden of typhoid fever using a novel statistical framework tool to accurately estimate the incidence of typhoid fever which is substantially more scalable than individual blood-culture based surveillance approaches.



Aparna Parikh, MD, leads the Global Cancer Care Program and co-founded the Program for Enhanced Training in Cancer (POETIC), to increase cancer care capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa. Her research includes using digital pathology to find affordable molecular targets for cancer treatment and evaluating reduced-dose immunotherapy, which shows similar benefits with less toxicity and lower cost.



Yodeline Guilluame, MA, a social scientist and research program manager, focuses on understanding risk factors for mortality from cholera in Haiti – with a goal of intervening to save more lives – and the causes of secondary diarrheal diseases that occur during cholera outbreaks; this research will support her applications to doctoral programs.



Global Research and Innovation

Accelerating transformative global health research and innovation



As leading academic medical centers, Mass General and Brigham and Women's global health researchers make significant scholarly contributions that advance multiple aspects of global health, including implementation science, clinical epidemiology, and diagnostics development among others. Their research and innovation often drive policy and directly contribute to improved care for patients around the world. Below are highlights of some of our global health researchers' impact this past year.

Research Highlights across Mass General Brigham:

- **Jessica Haberer, MD, MS,** in collaboration with Elizabeth Bukusi, MBChB, MMED, PhD, is leading a type 1 hybrid clinical effectiveness-implementation trial of peer-supported, community-based delivery of HIV PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) and other sexual health services for young women in Kisumu, Kenya. This trial is among the first to provide lenacapavir in routine care; this twice-yearly subcutaneous injection was recently shown to be 100% efficacious in preventing HIV. In other studies, Dr. Haberer is exploring the use of objective adherence data in mathematical models to set normative targets for HIV prevention as well as data science approaches to identifying HIV prevention needs.
- **Kathleen Powis, MD,** is one of four principal investigators on a $36 million dollar grant to fund three projects across Botswana, Kenya and Zimbabwe to improve the health of children born to women living with HIV. Each study is designed to benefit participants while gathering data; they focus on children's neurodevelopment, implementation of developmental milestone screenings, and interventions to improve maternal mental health, maternal and child nutrition and responsive caregiving.
- **Mark Siedner, MD, MPH,** published the results of two studies in the New England Journal of Medicine; both are informing work with local shareholders and being considered at the national health policy level: one related to home-based chronic disease care for people in rural South Africa, in collaboration with the University of KwaZulu-Natal and the Africa Health Research Institute, and the other focused on the prevention of malaria in children through the use of insecticide on baby swaddling blankets.
- **Richelle Charles, MD,** published Evaluation of a point-of-care immunochromatographic assay for enteric fever in Dhaka, Bangladesh: a prospective

Photo: Jessica Haberer, MD, MS, meeting with aspiring biomedical engineering students at MUST, Uganda to discuss approaches to building a successful career in November 2025.

diagnostic accuracy study in Lancet Microbe, and served on a World Health Organization expert panel on acute typhoid fever surveillance.

- **Crystal North, MD, MPH,** received a 2025 Young Physician-Scientist Award from the American Society for Clinical Investigation and advanced research on the pulmonary health impacts of exposure to arsenic in Bangladesh and air pollution in African megacities, as well as the inflammation and pulmonary impacts of HIV infection in patients in Uganda and other global settings. Dr. North had six research publications and will be included in a forthcoming Respiratory Medicine series on Pulmonary Complications of HIV Infection.
  * Dr. North's mentee at MUST, Anacret Byamukama, MMed, was awarded an HBNU Fogarty Fellowship for a research project, *Prevalence and correlates of latent tuberculosis infection and structural lung disease among people with and without HIV in Southwestern Uganda*.

- **Suzanne McCluskey, MD, MSc,** worked in collaboration with Jonathan Li, MD, at Brigham and Women's Hospital and researchers at MUST in Uganda on a cohort study to understand the outcomes of specific HIV treatments and to determine the impact of suboptimal adherence, viral resistance and other variables. She was an author on eight publications related to HIV treatment and served as a consultant for the World Health Organization's HIV Drug Resistance Team.

- **Douglas Kwon, MD, PhD,** researches the impact of HIV antiretroviral therapy on microbiomes. He and his team were awarded a $16.4M Gates Foundation grant to perform the first-in-human clinical trials to test novel long-chain fatty acids to improve the vaginal microbiome and reduce adverse health outcomes such as HIV acquisition, preterm birth and cervical dysplasia, to be conducted in Australia and South Africa.

- **Serena Koenig, MD, MPH,** published results of a clinical trial in Haiti and multi-country studies through the AIDS Clinical Trials Group and launched a new trial on long-acting antiretroviral regimens.

- **Michael Rich, MD, and Paul Sonenthal, MD,** started the arcTB project, a new multi-country Unitaid-funded initiative designed to accelerate the uptake of the newest WHO-recommended drug-resistant TB regimens working through a consortium of Partners In Health, Médecins Sans Frontières, Interactive Research and Development (IRD) and Stellenbosch University.

- **Gene Bukhman, MD, PhD,** launched a new *Lancet* Series on Integration Science, advancing integrated care delivery models for non-communicable diseases (NCD). At the Center for Integration Science in Global Health Equity, he supported implementation of PEN-Plus — an integrated care delivery strategy focused on alleviating the NCD burden among children and young adults in rural areas of LMICs — increasing the accessibility and quality of chronic care services for severe NCDs such as type 1 diabetes, rheumatic heart disease and sickle cell disease, reaching over 30,000 patients across more than 100 facilities in 29 countries.

- **Sarah White, MPH,** the Multi-Regional Clinical Trials Center continued to advance research ethics capacity across Africa (currently working in Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe) to improve coordination between National Regulatory Authorities and local Ethics Committees. The Center launched the Ethics and Review of Interventional Clinical Research course on the WHO Academy platform. In addition, the Center convened a two-day in-person workshop on Advancing Pediatric Platform Trials to advance the development of the principles, ethical foundation, and operational considerations of pediatric platform trials.

CGH Research Development Award

This award supports early-career global health researchers whose projects are grounded in a robust, in-country partnership and contribute to the local research agenda.



Tiara Calhoun, MD, *"Implementing high-flow oxygen therapy in a Malawian referral hospital,"* to incorporate high-flow nasal cannula into routine clinical practice at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in Blantyre, Malawi. Results will be shared with the Malawi Ministry of Health and other partners to guide policy adoption.



Rumbi Mushavi, MD, *"Exploring family planning provider comfort with Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and family planning service integration in Mbarara, Uganda: a mixed-methods exploratory study."* Dr. Mushavi will develop a conceptual framework of provider-related barriers and opportunities for integrating PrEP and family planning services in Mbarara.

Global Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) Research Training Program

Led by Jessica Haberer, MD, MS, an NIH institutional research training grant (T32) supports this comprehensive program for early-stage investigators to help launch their research careers; faculty from multiple departments participate to provide both a dedicated career development mentor and a research mentor for each fellow. The program welcomed four new NIH T32 fellows in 2025:



Itai Magodoro, MD, MSc, MMSc, researching how HIV and TB increase risk and severity of cardiovascular disease and diabetes in sub-Saharan Africa.



Lianet Vazquez, MD, MA, working with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on building capacity for integration of a non-communicable diseases care framework into the disaster response. Her research focuses on the utilization of cardiac Point-of-Care Ultrasound technology to screen for and triage heart disease associated risk and morbidity among refugee populations in the Middle East and North Africa region.



Prajjwal Pyakurel, MD, focusing on the sociological dimensions of type II diabetes and the broader family of chronic non-communicable diseases, including coronary artery disease, hypertension, and stroke, found across LMICs.



Nancy Mugisha, MD, researching hypertension as a driver of cardiovascular events in people with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa. Her research will explore clinical outcomes, as well as implementation science and health services implications.

Alumni



Leah Ratner, MD, MS, DTM&H, the first fellow to graduate from the program, received the Harry Shwachman Clinical Investigator Award from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, an exciting first step towards Dr. Ratner's independent research career. She is currently studying the diagnosis and care of cystic fibrosis in Ghana and sub-Saharan Africa.

At a glance:

Time frame: **Oct. 1, 2024 – Sept. 30, 2025**

46 first author publications by CGH researchers, associates, affiliates, and fellows:

103 last author publications by CGH researchers, associates, affiliates and fellows

149 total new publications

MGB Caregivers and Educators Around the Globe

CGH clinicians and educators provide care and alongside global partners, build capacity in healthcare systems through rapid-response deployments, health systems investments, as well as education and training for in-country providers and partner organizations.

Global Disaster Response and Humanitarian Action

Humanitarian Response

In 2025, Global Disaster Response and Humanitarian Action (GDRHA) focused on supporting asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant populations. Eight MGB volunteers provided clinical care and support over 35 days of deployment to health clinics in Matamoros, Mexico, in partnership with MedGlobal and GDRHA developed a targeted training plan for MedGlobal's local staff to build their capacity. GDRHA leaders also completed a site assessment in Cúcuta, Colombia to evaluate potential collaborative support for the growing Venezuelan refugee population in the region and assist with emergency response planning given increasing regional violence and the potential for large cross-border migration surges into Colombia.

Thomas S. Durant Fellowship



Our efforts along the US-Mexico border were bolstered by Durant Fellow Juliana Morris, MD, EdM, FAFFP, who deployed on eight clinical trips to the border region over her two-year fellowship, which ended in September. Dr. Morris focused on comprehensive clinical care for migrant populations, developed training programs for local staff and played a pivotal role in strengthening our border partnerships and volunteer coordination efforts.

In addition, Dr. Morris engaged in programming and advocacy to support newly-arrived immigrants in Boston. Through local community partnerships, she developed and helped facilitate a longitudinal wellness program at two area shelters serving primarily migrant families. She also organized health worker allies to support advocacy efforts to ensure safe and dignified access to shelter for migrant families.

> "The time, mentorship and support that the Durant fellowship has provided me has been invaluable and really helped push the work forward in ways that I will be able to continue far into the future. I am deeply honored to be supported and guided by the legacy of Dr. Thomas Durant, who touched so many lives and taught so many lessons about how to do this work with passion and humility."
>
> **– Juliana Morris, MD, EdM, FAFFP**



Catherine "Skeeter" Welder, MSN, FNP-C, CCRN, was named as the 2026 Durant Fellow which will enable her to serve as dedicated nursing faculty to deliver Trauma Nursing Fundamentals training in Rwanda and Ethiopia and develop a cohort of local trainers to serve as a hub of emergency nursing training for the region. Skeeter will also support just-in-time trauma trainings for partners working in conflict areas and help direct GDRHA's humanitarian responses to sudden-onset emergencies. Director of GDRHA, Lindsey Martin, DNP, MSN, RN, AGACNP, has also engaged in emergency and trauma nurse training with local and international partners in conflict affected areas. A pillar and focus of GDRHA has become the development of local nursing capacity in humanitarian contexts.



Photo: GDRHA in partnership with the MGH Disaster Medical Team and Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, hosted the Annual Humanitarian/Disaster Response Field Training in May 2025.



Disaster Response

GDRHA executed four rapid-response deployments — two international and two in the U.S. — to sudden-onset disasters. We deployed volunteers to Myanmar after the earthquake in April to assist International Medical Corps (IMC) in establishing a field hospital at the site of a regional hospital that had been destroyed. In response to Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica we deployed a team to assist with rapid assessments of the health system and the development of response plans for partner IMC. In the U.S., again in partnership with IMC, we focused on mental health support following domestic climate events: the Los Angeles wildfires in January and the Texas floods in July. A total of four mental health professionals from the GDRHA roster were deployed for 28 days across these domestic operations, significantly enhancing GDRHA's future mental health response capacity.

> "We would meet people where they were and focus on coping amidst loss of life, home, land, and familiarity. My experience working in Texas was devastating and life-affirming all at once. I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to work alongside this community."
>
> **– Kati Paye, LCSW**
> **MGB Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital**

GDRHA Trainings

GDRHA relies on scores of dedicated, talented Mass General and Brigham and Women's hospital doctors, nurses and other health professionals who are prepared to serve during disasters and humanitarian crises. In 2025, we held seven information sessions that resulted in 30 new volunteers trained and onboarded to the GDRHA roster.

In May, GDRHA delivered its annual training in collaboration with the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative and the MGH Center for Disaster Medicine and equipped 38 disaster response professionals — drawn from the GDRHA roster, as well as state and regional disaster teams — with the advanced practical skills, knowledge and leadership abilities needed to provide quality acute care in environments with limited resources. Participants also used the joint training as an opportunity to share their experiences and sharpen their emergency response and field survival techniques.

At a glance:

- **9** deployments for **93** total volunteer days
- **19** volunteers deployed
- **30** new volunteers onboarded from **7** MGB-wide information sessions
- **23** departments represented

Global Nursing

Trauma Nursing Fundamentals Training

Empowering global nursing professionals and strengthening emergency care systems

Trauma Nursing Fundamentals Plus is a high impact, skills-based emergency nursing training designed to empower nursing professionals and strengthen emergency care systems. Originally developed and refined in a conflict setting, the program has since been adapted for broader use in high trauma, low resource environments. Today, Trauma Nursing Fundamentals Plus focuses on expanding local training capacity and leadership across multiple settings through a Training of Trainers model that enables partners to deliver sustainable, context specific emergency nursing education.

This past year, CGH Global Nursing faculty co-facilitated a 10-day Trauma Nursing Fundamentals Plus course with Ugandan instructors at the University of Global Health Equity in Rwanda, marking the first East African Trauma Nursing Fundamentals course co-led by regional trainers. Seventeen Rwandan nurses completed this comprehensive training in advanced emergency care, which included five days of classroom-based learning followed by five days of bedside teaching at Butaro Level Two Teaching Hospital. Participants more than doubled their knowledge and exhibited a significant improvement

Photo: Amir Mohareb, MD, working with the GDRHA team in Matamoros, Mexico, to provide care for displaced persons and support operations with our partners in MedGlobal.

in confidence in caring for critically ill trauma patients. Program impact results were presented at the AFREhealth Symposium in Senegal by Josephine Najjuma, MSN, of Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), and Skeeter Welder, MSN, FNP-C, CCRN of CGH. In parallel, Ugandan Trauma Nursing Fundamentals nursing faculty formally adapted the program into an extended 8-week course, effectively integrating Trauma Nursing Fundamentals Plus into the MUST academic curriculum.

Nursing Fellowships and Partnerships

Through an ongoing collaboration with Partners In Health (PIH), four nursing fellows traveled to a PIH-supported hospital in Liberia to train operating room staff in foundational surgical safety and infection control in March and December. In Sierra Leone, two midwives partnered with Seed Global Health to teach at the new School of Midwifery in Kenema, one of only four midwifery schools nationwide. Together they trained 148 students and midwives, supporting efforts to strengthen maternal and newborn care in a region with one of the world's highest maternal mortality rates.



Nursing Leadership and Professional Development

Five Nursing Leadership courses were held this year with 95 participants across Rwanda, Uganda and Sierra Leone, including the first taught entirely by local faculty: two Ugandan nurse leaders facilitated two Nursing Leadership courses for 40 in-charge and deputy-in-charge nurses at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital (MRRH), reflecting regional ownership and sustainability. The course covers topics such as communication, feedback, conflict management and advocacy; post-training results showed significant gains in leadership confidence across all areas, with participants advancing from general confidence to higher levels of assurance and professional competence.

CGH continued to support scholarships students seeking master's in nursing or medicine at MUST; nine students are graduating this year for a total of 187 master's students trained with the support of these scholarships.

> "Having fellow nurses from MRRH undertake the leadership training with their tight schedule shows how committed they are to advancing themselves and the nursing profession. My goal is to see able nurse leaders that are effective and committed in their roles to improve patient outcomes."
>
> **– Hanifah Nantongo, MSC, BSN, RN, MUST Faculty and Nurse Leadership Trainer**



Global Education and Clinical Innovation

Under the leadership of Esther Freeman, MD, PhD, CGH Global Education and Clinical Innovation advances the shared goals of educators and clinicians from across Mass General Brigham engaged in global health. This past year, the MGBGlobalEd Collaborative focused on engagement across Mass General Brigham by integrating Brigham faculty and synergizing with the Brigham Education Institute and the MGH Slavin Academy. Dr. Freeman continued to serve as a resource for MGB clinical faculty and providers on the global health education and clinical innovation track through the MGBGlobalEd collaborative, in alignment with Harvard Medical School career paths in global health.

As the director of clinical partnerships, Peter Olds, MD, MPH, continues to grow CGH's relationships in Uganda and brings his expertise in care delivery in low resource areas to strengthen our clinical partnerships around the world. Dr. Olds's work in Uganda harnesses novel technologies and community organizing to improve care for patients suffering from heart disease. In recent pilot studies, he is also exploring the use of smart watches to diagnose dangerous heart rhythms in hospitalized patients. In another study, he is testing point-of-care diagnostics and algorithms to guide management of patients with heart failure.

Photo (Middle left): CGH Nursing Fellows build perioperative capacity though hands-on operating room simulation at JJ Dossen Hospital in Harper, Liberia. **Photo (Middle right):** In-charge nurses from MRRH complete CGH Nursing Leadership Training October 2025, led by trainers AnnetKembabazi, MSc, BA/Ed, and Hanifah Nantongo, MSc, BSN, RN.



MGB Global Health Grand Rounds

Global Health Grand Rounds is a collaboration between the Center for Global Health and Brigham's Division of Global Health Equity that brings together a multidisciplinary community of global health practitioners dedicated to learning and sharing ongoing efforts for global health equity. Over the past year, grand rounds focused on a wide range of global health issues—from cardiovascular disease worldwide and system-strengthening efforts in Nepal, to the challenges Médecins Sans Frontières faces in delivering aid. We also examined long-term population health findings from rural Madagascar, collaborative health-equity learning between Peru and the Navajo Nation and the adoption of long-acting antiretroviral therapy in low- and middle-income settings.

CGH Medical Education and Innovation Development Award

This award supports early- to mid-career global healthcare practitioners whose projects are grounded in robust, local partnerships and advance the capacity-building priorities of the local community.

2025 Recipients



Ryan Dodge, MD, *Quality and Safety Processes in an Academic Department of Anesthesia in Sub-Saharan Africa: Patterns, Processes and Prospects*, to investigate, promote and foster a sustainable culture of safety and quality improvement among anesthetists trained in Kabale, Uganda.



Leah Wibecan, MD, MPH, *Pediatric Neurology Training Curriculum in Guinea, West Africa*, one of the first curriculums to train physicians to diagnose and treat neurological disorders in children.

Scholarship for Clinical Education and Training in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

In 2025, CGH launched this new grant program to support in-country health education and skills-building training for doctors, nurses and allied health personnel from LMICs. Congratulations to our first three recipients (below); going forward, applications will be accepted on a quarterly basis.



Murudo L. Kamhara-Mutape, MD, is developing a psychological intervention for the management of depression and adherence to medications in menopausal women in Harare, Zimbabwe.



Juan Luis Santana Guerrero, MD, MPH, an MGH T32 Fellow, will lead "AI in Healthcare Datathon in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic," a program to bring together physicians, data scientists, and students to address local healthcare challenges using artificial intelligence and data analysis.



Annet Kembabazi, MSc, is pursing a PhD in Public Health at Bishop Stuart University in Mbarara, Uganda; her research focuses on HIV prevention through community driven, adolescent-centered strategies to reduce stigma and improve condom use in Uganda.

Partnership with University of Global Health Equity, Rwanda

We continued our clinical academic partnership with the University of Global Health Equity (UGHE), a global university based in rural northern Rwanda, founded by Partners In Health, which aims to transform global health delivery by reimagining medical education. In 2025, eight Mass General faculty volunteered for clinical teaching clerkships — both virtual and in-person — collaborating with UGHE general practitioners and specialists in the Butaro District Hospital and contributing to curriculum development and capacity-building.



Photo (Top left): Onyinyechi Eke, MD, MPH, serving as visiting faculty at UGHE teaching point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) to the medical students. **Photo (Bottom right):** The UGHE Annual Anesthesia Bootcamp for Medical Students held in April 2025 with visiting faculty, Lena Dohlman, MD, MPH.

Global Health Programs Across Mass General

Expanding our global health partnerships to support the highest quality care.

Global Palliative Care Program

Under the leadership of co-directors Bethany-Rose Daubman, MD, and Mark Stoltenberg, MD, MPH, the Global Palliative Care Program (GPCP) works to expand culturally responsive palliative care programs via its longitudinal global partnerships focused on education, research and clinical service implementation. The GPCP continued to lead the field of global palliative care, serving on the World Health Organization (WHO) Palliative Care Working Group and co-leading a new initiative called the WHO COMPASS Program (Collaborative Movement for Palliative Care Access and System Strengthening), which the GPCP helped to launch at the WHO Palliative Care annual meeting in Dubai.

This year, the GPCP expanded our impact in Latin America in collaboration with long-term partners:

- Twenty-five emerging palliative care leaders completed the Diplomado en Comunicación, Educación y Práctica en Cuidados Paliativos course, in collaboration with Universidad Católica in Santiago, Chile; a total of 93 interprofessional clinicians have participated in this training over the past 5 years and have now gone on to mentor others, advancing palliative care in their respective regions across Latin America.

- The GPCP continued developing, implementing and evaluating communication trainings for intensive care unit teams in Chile (virtual training); oncology, geriatrics and palliative care residents at the Universidad Católica in Santiago, Chile; general practitioners in Trinidad and Tobago and oncologists in Mexico.

The GPCP also advanced culturally-responsive palliative care for Great Plains American Indians, guided by our Community Advisory Board of enrolled-Tribal members. Evaluation results from our pilot of palliative care-trained community health workers helped secure additional funding for the partnership.



Photo: The World Health Organization Palliative Care Working Group Meeting in Dubai, UAE



Global Gastroenterology Program

The Global Gastroenterology (GI) Program works to foster equitable, sustainable global partnerships to enhance gastroenterology care through innovative, interdisciplinary clinical and translational research that improves patient outcomes and influences health systems and policy.

A focus of 2025 was the ongoing collaboration with the Center of Excellence for Liver and Digestive Health (CELDH) in Accra, Ghana, which aims to build a sustainable, comprehensive clinical gastroenterology program that will serve as the training hub for the African continent. Under the leadership of co-directors Akwi W. Asombang, MD, MPH, MSc and Mitchell Mah'moud, MD, FACG, AGAF, FAASLD, multiple Mass General Brigham faculty are assisting with curriculum and program development, helping establish CELDH as the first ultra-modern facility dedicated to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of patients with liver and digestive diseases, to improve patient care and outcomes. An interventional gastroenterology training program is scheduled to launch in January 2026 that will focus on skill building for both gastroenterologists and nurses, and prepare them to serve as faculty to train others across the African continent and potentially across the globe.

Global Cardiovascular Health Program

Under the leadership of Oyere Onuma, MD, MSc, the Global Cardiovascular Health Program continued to expand the Rheumatic Heart Disease Program in Cabo Verde, in collaboration with government leaders and local medical colleagues, including hosting the Honorable Minister of Health Cabo Verde, Dr. Arlindo Nascimento do Rosário in October. The team travelled to Cabo Verde in April and August, to the islands of Fogo and Brava, in addition to the island of Santiago where the capital city Praia is located and has now screened over 1000 school age children using echocardiograms to identify early rheumatic valvular changes and initiate penicillin prophylaxis. Mass General Cardiology Fellows provided consultative cardiovascular care to adults and children on the islands of Fogo and Brava filling an important care gap for patients as there are no cardiologists based on the islands.

Photo: The inaugural endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) team at CELDH in Ghana: Dr. Akosua Agyen-Frimpong, Dr. Akwi W Asombang, Dr. Kenneth Tachi, Dr. Adwoa Agyei-Nkansah, Nurse Olusola Ayedebinu, Rad Tech Lisa Lorick - part of the team that performed the first ERCP at CELDH, Ghana.

Global Health Across Mass General Brigham

CGH has expanded our offerings to support global health efforts across the key priorities and institutes of Mass General Brigham, including cancer care and neurosurgery. As our academic medical centers and our healthcare system continue to unify, CGH is positioned to serve a critical role in fostering collaboration and providing infrastructure support to amplify and accelerate global health efforts underway across the system.

MGB Cancer Institute Global Cancer Care



Aparna Parikh, MD, was appointed director of the MGB Cancer Institute Global Cancer Care Program, recognizing her leadership and commitment to advancing cancer care in the global south through education, research and clinical programs. She will also serve as the program director of the Center for Gastrointestinal Cancers at the MGB Cancer Institute.

Dr. Parikh led the Access to Cancer Therapeutics scholarly working group that brings together 15 pharmaceutical companies working with academics and clinicians to make modern oncology medicines more accessible in resource-limited settings. She was also appointed the U.S. country support chair for the prestigious Access to Oncology Medicines Coalition (ATOM Coalition), a global initiative, led by the Union for International Cancer Control that aims to address the barriers to availability, affordability and appropriate use of oncology medicines in LMICs. For the second consecutive year, MGB Cancer Institute led the community oncology of practice section of the American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting. Dr. Parikh served as key strategic advisor for a clinical trials network in India and helped to secure IRB approval for a colorectal cancer screening grant in India.

Cancer Continuum of Care Collaborative Partnerships in Bangladesh

Mass General Brigham organized its largest series of events in Bangladesh to date — an ambitious week of programing for physicians, nurses and nursing faculty focused on current research and treatment innovations in cancer care, bone marrow transplant care, palliative care and nursing education and practice. The effort reflects collaboration across Mass General, Simmons University, Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Ayat College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Kumudini Welfare Trust, National Institute of Cancer Research & Hospital (NICRH), Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Evercare Hospital Bangladesh and many government officials.

Other highlights of the past year include an International Cancer and Palliative Care Conference attended by more than 300 participants; End of Life Nursing Education Consortium Training for over 100 nurses and faculty members from 20 public and private nursing colleges across Bangladesh; multidisciplinary tumor boards with hematology and oncology experts from Evercare Hospital, Bangladesh, and other hospitals; expanded in-person and virtual instruction for nursing students at Ayat Nursing College; and the launch of an International Nursing Education Exchange Program in Fall 2025.

MGB Global Neurosurgery

Under the leadership of Mohammad Ali Aziz-Sultan, MD, MBA, the MGB Global Neurosurgery Program strengthened its role as a leader in studying and building neurosurgical capacity through clinical partnerships, technology, and research. With a mission to ensure timely, safe, and affordable neurosurgical care for all, the program now supports active partnerships in Paraguay, Afghanistan, The Gambia, Ghana, Cameroon, Senegal, and other regions—impacting more than 100 patients this year and contributing to the training of nearly a dozen neurosurgeons and trainees.

In 2025, the team hosted a major Global Neurosurgery Symposium in Boston that drew more than 500 global leaders and resulted in The Boston Declaration, to advance equitable access to neurosurgical care worldwide. Highlights of the program's clinical partnerships included pioneering the first pituitary and epilepsy surgeries in The Gambia, alongside comprehensive training of the local neurosurgical team. In Paraguay, the team continued its collaboration with Dr. Jose Kuzli to advance neurovascular surgical education, bringing his team closer to independence in performing curative procedures for complex brain aneurysms and arteriovenous malformations. Innovation and research also accelerated, with the continued deployment and refinement of NouseNav, a low-cost neuronavigation technology developed by Alexandra Golby, MD, now implemented in several countries across sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia. The partnership in The Gambia further included a first-of-its-kind pilot study in collaboration with OpenAI, aiming to deploy large language model (LLM) decision-support tools (via ChatGPT) in a low-resource neurosurgical environment.

MGB Global Dermatology



Director of Global Health Dermatology, Esther Freeman, MD, PhD, was named the inaugural L'Oréal Dermatological Beauty/CeraVe Endowed Chair in Global Health Dermatology. Endowed chairs serve as the highest academic award our hospitals can give and provide incumbents with a reservoir of flexible support to pursue their work. This endowment was a landmark in global health dermatology and will provide Dr. Freeman time to focus on the most pressing issues in global access to care for vulnerable patients with skin diseases, in partnership with local change makers who are making a difference in their own communities. With this first corporate endowed chair at the hospital, CeraVe is enabling her to further her research and share her expertise with others worldwide.

> "The CeraVe Endowed Chair is a great example of what corporate philanthropy can do, and I hope it inspires other industry partners and groups to think about how they can make an impact in the space that stretches beyond their own products. I'd like to see this chair as the first of many to expand the field of global health dermatology and promote high-quality dermatologic care for everyone."
>
> **– Esther Freeman, MD, PhD**

MGB Global Surgery

The integration of the MGB Department of Surgery has created an unprecedented opportunity to bring together faculty and staff engaged in a broad array of global surgery efforts. The Steven C. and Carmella R. Kletjian Foundation Endowed Chairs in Global Surgery at Mass General and the Brigham, have allowed stability and growth of Global Surgery programs at both institutions. These endowments supported ongoing surgical educational partnerships, the development of new areas of surgical research, rising leaders in the field, and bridged funding gaps during uncertain times. This past year, Robert Riviello, MD's team worked in collaboration with the UGHE and the HMS Program in Global Surgery and Social Change to improve access to and quality of breast cancer surgery in Rwanda, gained approval for a new general surgery residency, and expanded the Non-Technical Skills in Surgery in the Variable Resource Context Program. Nakul Raykar, MD, MPH, led the Blood Desert Coalition, dedicated to the establishment of a research, education and implementation agenda needed to eliminate the world's blood deserts. The Local Initiative for Emergency Blood (LIFE-Blood) research project has expanded access to life-saving blood transfusion in Turkana County, Kenya. Josh Nd-Kamstra, MD, led the Climate in Obstetrics, Anesthesia, and Surgery Team (COAST) initiative advocating to decrease carbon impact from surgical care. Susan Briggs, MD, Katherine Albutt, MD, MPH, and Geoffery Anderson, MD, MPH have championed trauma training for LMICs through cadaver-based surgical skills education in Rwanda and Uganda.

Mass Eye and Ear Global Surgery

Under the leadership of John Kempen, MD, PhD, MPH, and David Shaye, MD, the Mass Eye and Ear (MEE) Global Surgery Academic and Educational Programs and the MEE Global Surgery Program had an impactful year. Now in its third year, the Global Surgery Scholars Program funded and hosted seven global surgeons from LMICs who each spent several weeks at MEE. The global surgeon visitors directly observed surgeries, formed mentoring relationships and returned home with donated equipment to directly benefit patients in their home countries.
MEE Global Surgery also supported the Otolaryngology Medical Student (OHNS) Rotation at UGHE, Rwanda. This included an onsite, practical training boot camp taught by a international otolaryngology faculty and residents using a curriculum designed as a training rotation in global ear, nose, and throat emergencies, tailored to surgical challenges in Africa.

The Self-sustaining Ophthalmology in Developing Countries Working Group was launched as a collaboration between Dr. Kempen, Mehul Mehta, MBBS, MS (Ophthalmology) and Prof. Rahul Mehotra, Harvard University Graduate School of Design, to advance strategies for developing self-sustaining eye care centers in LMICs and create a handbook to guide the process.

Photo: Aparna Parikh, MD (second from left), as a member of the Harvard Global Health Institute (HGHI) Scholarly Working Group on a panel at the BIO Convention in Boston in June 2025.

Photo: Celebration of the L'Oréal Dermatological Beauty/CeraVe Endowed Chair in Global Health Dermatology with the appointment of the inaugural incumbent, Esther Freeman, MD, PhD.

We are Proud to Support

71

Faculty researchers working together to advance science in low- and middle-income countries through **$67 million** in research grants

106

Global educators and clinical innovators working to mentor and exchange clinical knowledge in topics such as internal medicine, palliative care, pediatrics and adult oncology, nursing, dermatology and many others

75

Global Nursing alumni working to provide bidirectional nursing education and advance nursing leadership; they trained **225** nurses, midwives, students and leaders in 2025; more than **2,500** people educated since the program's inception

341

Trained disaster response roster members, ready to deploy alongside our partners on the ground

306

Faculty, nurses, trainees, and other healthcare providers actively advancing global health equity across Mass General Brigham

$5.6

Million in internal awards to educators, researchers, and health practitioners since implementing our 2020 five-year strategy

48

Countries with global partnerships in the areas of clinical education, research and innovation, nursing and through our disaster response and humanitarian initiatives

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