MGH Global Health Community Meeting 7/14/2026 Program Updates

Safety and Security

- Travel restrictions:
  - Uganda - renewed in June for one month. Will be revisited on July 22 - it will be either removed or extended for another month
    - MGB Sponsored or Supported travel supporting participation in Clinical Care Activities or Non Clinical Care Activities in countries with active HCID outbreaks requires pre-approval.
      - a. Programs requesting approval for deployment of MGB employees must submit a request to MGB TravelSafe HCID Subgroup (contact: mgbtravelsafehcidsubroup@mgb.org) to allow MGB to assess the planned activities and the risks to employees and MGB.
  - Middle East - to and from
- All policies and information can be found on the TravelSafe website: MGB TravelSafe

Global Disaster Response

- GRDHA Director, Lindsey Martin is currently on the ground in Venezuela serving as the medical lead at the International Medical Corps Field Hospital. We're monitoring the situation closely. There may be a chance for others to deploy if needs arise. Lindsey will be there until July 30th
- Another team on the ground in Columbia at the Venezuela-Colombia border in Cucuta – operating mobile medical clinics in high need communities along the border. This is part of an ongoing program with our partner, MedGlobal
  - Amir, Skeeter, and Kathy May Tran – will be back later this week
- Very excited to announce new Durant fellow, BR Daubman, launching a culturally responsive palliative care education and mentorship project with the three Great Plains Indian Reservation Communities, including the Rosebud tribe.
  - She will be partnering with the MGH Rural Health Program and Tribal Health Administration, focusing on training and mentoring local community members and health care workers. Goal is to build sustainable trusted local capacity so these communities can navigate health crises and care for relatives on their own land

Global Nursing

- Still waiting on Uganda's decision in a week
- Focusing on Sierra Leone – doing a nursing leadership, train-the-trainers. Focusing on two weeks of training 14 individuals to carry out nursing leadership.

Global Research and Innovation

- Monthly Global Health Fellows Lunch – next lunch is on Tuesday, July 28th – discussing managing a research team. Will be in-person at conference room 7500 and virtual
    - Target audience – started as a way to create more of a community practice of own T32. Slowly gathered more fellows
    - Nice community for fellows who are looking to get into research careers. Open to T32 fellows or post-doctoral fellows

Strength and Serenity Global Initiative to End Gender-Based Violence

- Attended the refugee health conference in San Diego - presented a symposium and poster
- Collaboration with Uganda where they train and provide capacity building for healthcare providers
    - Had four webinars so far and will have two more this year. Looking at understanding the psychological trauma and recovery of gender-based violence
- Have two publications coming from lab on menstrual hygiene
- LinkedIn page: https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7478157024598347776

Center for Global Health Administration

- Jenna was promoted to Global NCD Program Manager at the Center for Global Health!
- Annual Global Health Expo – Tuesday, September 15th – any programs or groups are welcome to host a table at the Expo: https://redcap.link/Expo2026
    - Global Health Service Awards Ceremony – welcome to nominate a colleague or yourself for this $2,500 award https://redcap.link/MGHGHSA

GHC Research Collaboration Limited, Uganda

- Last case of Ebola was on June 21st. Haven't heard any confirmed cases since. Waiting for the last case to be discharged.
- MUST had a Town Hall Meeting today where the Vice Chancellor met with all the faculty members. Presentation on the MUST Research Institute
- Preparations for the MUST Annual Research Dissemination Conference is ongoing
- https://events.afrehealth.org/
- https://www.must.ac.ug/event/21st-annual-must-research-dissemination-conference/

Global Palliative Care

- In addition to further partnership with the Lakota communities in the Great Plains, got a request from the Tohoto O'odham Tribal Community in Arizona that they had heard about our team's palliative care work and were interested in collaborating

Updates from other Global Health Programs

- Mass Eye & Ear Global Surgery
    - Dr. John Kempen – moved to Ethiopia in 2018, just moved back to the states this week. Setup self-sustaining eyecare program in Ethiopia. Trying to share the proof of concept

that it could be done. Now have about 100 patients per day coming. Have four different ophthalmic specialties.
    - Hoping to set something up in Cape Town
    - Have a pending grant to advance to a screening system to have glasses dispensed on the spot
    - Hopefully, can scale concept up over time.
- Dr. Andrew Branagnan – from the MGB Cancer Center
    - Good news – had 7 nurses from Bangladesh visas approved to do work in the Sim Center at Simmons University. Going to try to get some portable sim equipment to take to Bangladesh
- Dr. Joe Rhatighan – MGB Division of Global Health Equity
    - Had 4 graduates of Medicine and Global Health Equity Residency Program graduated in June, two will be joining as faculty members
        - Both will be working clinically at MGH in the hospital medicine unit
    - Department of Medicine will be hosting 8 medical students from UGHE, Rwanda
        - Had similar cohort come last year
- Dr. Phuong Pham
    - Team is supporting Ebola response and data collection with surveys and contact tracing
    - Deploying teams on the ground for data collection in the Venezuela crisis
    - Deploying new AI tool – developed an AI interviewer bot that is being run on WhatsApp that is working well in places where we cannot send teams remotely