

CUGH Research Committee Annual Report 2019-2020

Research Committee Members

- Current Co-Chairs – Liz Grant (University of Edinburgh) and Tom Quinn (Johns Hopkins University) from November 2018
 - Richard Deckelbaum - Columbia University
 - Philip Landrigan - Boston College
 - King Holmes - University of Washington
 - Jonathan Patz - University of Wisconsin
 - Shadi Saleh - American University of Beirut
 - Raymond Terry - Morgan State University
 - Madelon Finkel - Cornell University
 - Peter Kilmarx - Fogarty International Center (NIH)
 - Jeremy Schwartz - Yale University
 - Sarah Matthews (TAC Representative)
 - Muhiuddin Haider - University of Maryland
 - Jim Thrasher - University of South Carolina
 - Tasdik Hasan (TAC Representative)
 - Ryan Hodgeman - Michigan State University
- <https://www.cugh.org/committees/research-committee>

CUGH Secretarial Support – Arisa Koyama

Our Research Committee Remit:

- **The Research Committee’s goal is to carve out avenues for expanding collaborative global health research and research training.**
- **The Committee is dedicated to sharing, evaluating, and advancing strategies that promote global health research.**
- **Additionally, the Committee is charged with assisting in reinforcing relationships with funding agencies and organizations.**

Role of the Research Committee within the CUGH Strategic Plan

Research Goals

- Support research capabilities and exchanges between members
- Serve as a knowledge hub for GH science and innovation resources

Research Metrics

- Member talks/use Speakers Bureau posts (suggestion to move this towards use of services)
- Yearly GH grant writing webinar held
- Lancet GH conference proceedings published annually
- Website ‘research spotlight’ features a CUGH member quarterly

Plans for the CUGH 2020 Conference

- ½ Day Satellite Session
- Research Committee Breakout Session

2020 Research Committee Satellite session

Title: Advancing Global Health through Crosscutting Approaches and Stigma Reduction Research

Main Organizer: NIH

This satellite will describe the crosscutting theoretical model theory underpinning stigma reduction, identify ethical challenges related to stigma research, discuss methodological approaches to engaging communities most impacted by stigma and discrimination, address why assessing stigma in health facilities is important, review evidence from implementation studies, and looks at stigma reduction interventions. The format for the Satellite will include didactic presentation, Q&A, and small group discussion.

The UK National Institute of Health Research has also been looking into this topic creating an opportunity for additional CUGH engagement with NIHR.

Participants:

Dr Gregory Greenwood - Program Officer at National Institute of Mental Health within the Division of AIDS Research. His portfolio includes 1) advancing understanding of mechanisms by which stigma and other social determinants affects HIV prevention and treatment in order to identify modifiable intervention targets; and 2) developing and testing expanded interventions to reduce the impact of stigma and other social determinants and improve HIV outcomes along the entire HIV care continuum (from HIV testing to viral suppression).

Dr Vidya Vedham - Program Officer at National Cancer Institute's Center for Global Health Currently manages the US– Latin America Cancer Research Network (US-LACRN), and the global cancer stigma and mHealth research portfolios for NCI.

Dr. Laura Nyblade - RTI Fellow and Senior Technical Advisor on Stigma and Discrimination in the division for global health. Currently leading work focused on reducing stigma in health facilities through a whole facility approach to stigma-reduction that engages all levels of health workers. Building on her HIV stigma expertise, she has expanded her focus to include opioid and non-communicable disease stigmas.

Dr Joseph Millum - bioethicist with the Clinical Center Department of Bioethics and the Fogarty International Center at the US National Institutes of Health. He studied philosophy at Edinburgh University and the University of Toronto, where he received his doctorate, and economics at Johns Hopkins University. Co-editor of *Global Justice and Bioethics* (2012) and author of *The Moral Foundations of Parenthood* (2018) OUP

Dr Anne Stangl - President of Hera Solutions, an independent firm providing research and advisory services to organizations, companies and governments to strengthen health equity. Leading expert on health-related stigma and discrimination and has contributed to theoretical understanding of how the stigmatization process operates in the context of health to inform stigma mitigation interventions and stigma measurement.

Dr Rima Afifi - Professor and Interim Head in the Department of Community and Behavioral Health, College of Public Health, University of Iowa; and adjunct professor at the Faculty of Health Sciences, American University of Beirut (AUB). Has led extensive professional practice in the Arab region particularly effects of war and conflict on youth development.

Dr Stefan Baral - Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health (JHSPH) and the Director of the Key Populations Program. His work has focused on

characterizing optimal metrics for measuring stigma for key populations, evidence-based interventions, and characterizing the causal pathways by which stigma affects HIV-related risks.

CUGH 2020 Research Committee Panel

Title: “Health Research in Humanitarian Crisis.”

Main Organizer: NIH

The aim of this panel is to demonstrate the scientific importance and urgent need for research in humanitarian crisis as well as describe what research strategies work in these contexts.

Format: 90-minute session with short presentation and panel discussion with a diversity of panelists discussing immediate global crises.

Objectives: (1) demonstrate the scientific importance and urgent needs for high-quality health research in the context of humanitarian crises; and (2) describe strategies for working in these challenging settings.

Summary: Globally, one in six children lives near a conflict zone and nearly 71 million people have been forced to flee their homes due to war or disaster. Humanitarian crises – including armed conflict, forced displacement, disease outbreaks, and natural disasters – affect more people today than any point in recorded history. As discussed in the past several CUGH annual meetings, these crises are becoming more complex, frequent, and intense. Yet, the evidence base informing how humanitarian organizations respond to them is weak. This panel discussion will build on previous CUGH sessions with a focus on how the global health community is helping address this evidence gap by conducting timely, high-quality, ethical, and actionable research and ensuring that evidence is used to inform humanitarian policy and practice.

Conducting research in the context of a crisis involves many methodological, logistical, and ethical challenges and in this session, researchers will share their own experiences from the field studying important public health issues amidst these challenges.

Panelists will describe research on the mental health of Syrian refugees, sexual and reproductive health among Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, Ebola virus disease control in Sierra Leone, and environmental impacts of hurricanes in Puerto Rico.

Discussion focus: The discussion will highlight the scientific importance of health research in humanitarian crises and the cross-cutting challenges that the panelists have faced in their work. Importantly, panelists will share strategies they have used, such as flexible and adaptive research methodologies, partnerships with humanitarian organizations, engaging with affected populations, building humanitarian research capacity, and collaborating across disciplines, to bridge the gap between evidence and humanitarian action.

Speakers:

Brandon Kohrt - Charles and Sonia Akman Professor in Global Psychiatry; Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Global Health, & Anthropology George Washington University

Bachera Aktar - Co-Assistant Director of Centre of Excellence for Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (CGSRHR); BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University. Bangladesh

Rana Dajani - Associate Professor of Molecular Cell Biology, Hashemite University, Jordan [currently studying refugee youth with Yale University and the epigenetics of trauma across generations, member of UN Women Jordan advisory council, recognized as one of the most influential women scientists in the Islamic World, including being awarded the Jordan star of science by His Majesty King Abdullah II. She has spoken at the World Economic Forum and several TEDx events and has written in *Science* and *Nature*, among other publications. She is the author of the

book, *Five Scarves, Doing the Impossible: If We Can Reverse Cell Fate Why Can't We Redefine Success?*

Lara Ho - Deputy Director, Health Unit, International Rescue Committee, USA
based in Washington, DC, working as Deputy Director of the Health Technical Unit at IRC, managing 30 Technical Advisors in a portfolio of projects in primary health, environmental health, nutrition, family planning and reproductive health, child health, health systems, and health research for populations affected by crisis.

Denisse Vega Ocasio - PhD candidate in Translational Biomedical Sciences University of Rochester, USA. PhD is evaluating the influence of psychosocial distress on an individual's immune response toward mosquito-borne diseases in Ecuador. Co-principal investigator on impact of Hurricanes Irma and María in Puerto Rican communities both in Puerto Rico and in the United States.

Committee Activities delivering to the Research Committee Strategy

RESEARCH COMMITTEE CONSIDERATIONS

Issues discussed throughout the year:

a) SDG platform (Planetary Health)

Development of a partnership between our Research Committee and the Planetary Health-One Health-Environmental Health Working Group to create an e-book outlining policies, programs or interventions to address those sustainable development goals associated with planetary health, one health and environmental health challenges.

This evolving activity has been shaped by three different considerations:

- Need to catalogue the research base, curate the academic evidence and identify the gaps in responding of the SDGs
- Need to understand and make public how universities can contribute to the SDGs – in their research, teaching, governance, and outreach
- Opportunity to build partnership between Planetary Health Committee and the Research Committee to create synergies

The RC is at the beginning of this initiative. Considerations include ensuring work aligns and builds upon the UN “knowledge platform”: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg3> & <https://www.who.int/sdg/global-action-plan/accelerator-discussion-frames>

- b) **Mapping University contribution to the SDGs** - Higher Ed Institutions have developed an SDG Accord, which encourages universities to “localize” SDGs by embedding them into the curriculum, campus, and university ethos. The University of Edinburgh has committed to embedding the SDGs into the University's 2030 Strategic Plan.
- c) Strengthening more **equitable Research Capacity** everywhere – recognizing the lack of equity between High and Low- and Middle-income countries and the gender disparities in research publishing and identifying partnership work to build equitability
- d) **Mentorship** - Requests from Afrehealth for mentorship of rising academic stars. While the Research Committee recognizes the value of mentorship there isn't capacity among the Committee members to individually deliver to the mentorship need. However, the Committee recognize that it has a role in advocating for CUGH as a large membership body to encourage members to recognize the power of sharing and supporting younger scientists, especially young women scientists and scientists from LMICs supporting more widespread dissemination of different types of academic mentorship. For example:

- a. Micro mentorship
- b. Mentoring for abstract submissions
- c. Highlighting resources available on the CUGH Research webpage such as the FHI360 one on “distance mentoring.”
- d. Option of working with African Academy of Science to offer “free” individual membership to all the applicants for the Academy’s prestigious and highly competitive Mentorship Programme, regardless of their success in getting onto the scheme. This would provide incentives for the applicants to continue to link with global partners, and have access to the CUGH resources.

e) Inequitable authorship for research papers

- a. Based on the wider work led by the CUGH Board of Directors shaped by the following publications the Research Committee has gathered together on site resources to address the continuing inequity in authorship and has discussed how to increasing equity in authorship for scientific papers – while there was some appetite to develop a series of guidelines there was recognition that guidelines such as those by COHRED exist.
 - i. [Open Data Sharing and the Global South - Who Benefits?](#) – *Science*
 - ii. [Africa's science 'millionaires': survey spotlights top-funded researchers](#) – *Nature*
- b. Examples of useful online resources include:
 - i. NIH e-learning resources: <https://www.fic.nih.gov/Global/Pages/training-resources.aspx>
 - ii. NIH weekly funding news, including non-NIH funding opportunity announcements: <https://www.fic.nih.gov/Funding/News/Pages/default.aspx>
 - iii. GCRF Global Challenges Research Funding (UK Based 1.6billion for tackling global challenges with partners in LMICs): <https://www.ukri.org/research/global-challenges-research-fund/>
 - iv. Wellcome: <https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/nihr-wellcome-global-health-research-partnership>
 - v. NIHR (UK) RIGHT Research In Global Health Translation <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/funding-programmes/global-health/>
- c. Additional resources such as:
 - i. Fogarty newsletter: <https://www.fic.nih.gov/News/GlobalHealthMatters/Pages/default.aspx>
 - ii. Wellcome: <https://wellcome.ac.uk/>
 - iii. Papers on equitable research: <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2755864>
 - iv. Research Committee member PK from NIH is engaged in an NIH task of establishing standard metrics for health research capacity and systematically assessing capacity in member countries. Once available on the NIH site a summary can be added to the CUGH Research Committee site.
- f) **Creating a data base of all the large global health research prizes.**
 - a. Committee members have identified some prizes, but a larger database would be helpful. This is a task that the Communications Office of NIH will be doing and once completed will be forwarded to the Committee.
- g) Webinar
 - a. **The Impact of Non-renewable Energy Policies on Human Health and Climate**

The general function of a Committee/Subcommittee shall be to strengthen CUGH's activities across global health research, education and service; make recommendations concerning improving CUGH's activities; gather and disseminate information on good research practices, training modules, opportunities for collaborative research; facilitate partnership development; improve articulation and coordination of GH research activities between member institutions, and consider any additional matters requested by CUGH's Secretariat and Board of Directors.

Research Committee members are expected to:

- Actively participate in committee meetings and activities;
- Attend at least 50% of committee calls and sub-committee calls as needed;
- Actively participate in 1-2 projects per year through the committee or its working groups.

Length of a Research Committee member's term (including the chair) is 3 years and can be extended for an additional term by a majority vote of the committee.

III. Composition

The CUGH Research Committee shall consist of no less than 15 members. In addition, at least two student representatives shall be included.

The chair(s) of the CUGH Research Committee shall:

- Provide leadership for the Committees and its Subcommittees;
- Serve as a liaison to the CUGH Secretariat;
- Have access to a facilitator within the CUGH Secretariat to assist in scheduling, minutes of meeting, and coordination;
- Serve a term of 3 years that will begin immediately following the annual meeting in the year in which he/she is elected and continue until another election occurs 3 years hence;
- Must be a member of CUGH, either institutional or individual
- The members of each Committee and Subcommittee shall select their chair through a vote;
- Form a Nominating Group annually to:
 1. Send out a call for new members on an annual basis;
 2. Vet nominees and conduct a vote by the full Research Committee;
 3. Tally votes and send final list to Chair(s) of the Research Committee.

IV. Ad Hoc Committees, Sub-Committees, and Working Groups

The CUGH Board of Directors must approve the creation of new CUGH ad hoc committees, subcommittees and working groups. All requests to create ad hoc committees, subcommittees, and working groups should be submitted to the CUGH Secretariat.

V. Meetings

CUGH Committee and subcommittees will meet monthly. Meetings will be held by teleconference using the CUGH conference line or in person.

VI. Duties of the Research Committee Chair(s)

The Chair(s) shall:

- Act as liaison between the Committee-At-Large and the CUGH Board and Secretariat;
- Establish a date and time for all Committee/Subcommittee meetings;
- Convene and conduct all meetings;
- Call for agenda items prior to the meetings;
- Facilitate the development, implementation, and evaluation of the strategic planning process;
- Submit an annual report to the Board of Directors to be presented at the annual Board Retreat;

- Appoint a Research Committee Nominations Sub-Committee to vet individuals that are interested in joining the Research Committee.

Terms of Office:

In the event that a chair(s) of the Research Committee resigns, the Research Committee will elect a new member from its ranks that will fill the vacancy for the remainder of that person's term. Sub-committees fill their chair positions through the Research Committee.

VII. Duties of the Secretariat Administrator

The CUGH Administrator shall:

- Provide a connection between the Research Committee and the Secretariat;
- Record the minutes of the meeting of the Research Committee;
- Maintain a current Listserv of members for the Research Committee;
- Submit the minutes to the Committee Chair for approval within one week (maximum) after the meeting and seek timely corrections to the minutes, providing a minimum of three days for review by the Chair of the Committee'
- Provide the approved minutes of meeting to the participants of the CUGH Committee no later than two weeks after the meeting.

VIII. Committee/Subcommittee Membership

Each committee/subcommittee is responsible for recruiting its members.

Membership commences on the day the person is elected. The Chair of each Committee/Subcommittee sets elections.

VIII. Adoption and Amendment of Procedures

CUGH's Executive Committee must approve amendments to the procedures. Proposed Amendments to the procedures shall be distributed to the Committee/Subcommittee membership a minimum of two weeks prior to a vote.

Adopted: 27 July 2015.

Revised: 12 July 2017