*February 17, 2021*

**CUGH Research Committee Annual Report**

**2020-21**

**Research Committee Members:**

1. Peter Kilmarx (Co-Chair, March 2020), Fogarty International Center, NIH
2. Judith Wasserheit (Co-Chair, March 2020), University of Washington
3. Richard Deckelbaum, Columbia University
4. Liz Grant, University of Edinburgh
5. King Holmes, University of Washington
6. Jonathan Patz, University of Wisconsin
7. Raymond Terry, Morgan State University
8. Tom Quinn, Johns Hopkins University
9. Madelon Finkel, Cornell University
10. Jeremy Schwartz, Yale University
11. Ryan Hodgeman, Trainee Advisory Committee
12. Sarah Abigail Matthews, Trainee Advisory Committee
13. Melissa Salm, Trainee Advisory Committee
14. Monica Maria Diaz, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine
15. Olumide Abiodun, Babcock University
16. Florian Schmitzberger, University of Michigan
17. Jaime Montoya, University of the Philippines
18. Kari Nadeau, Stanford University
19. Katelyn Sileo, University of Texas at San Antonio
20. Margaret Kaseje, Association of Schools of Public Health in Africa
21. Katarzyna Kordas, University at Buffalo
22. Rosemin Kassam, University of British Columbia
23. Stephanie Chow Garbern, Brown University
24. Shama Patel, University of Florida-Jacksonville
25. Maureen Lichtveld, University of Pittsburgh

CUGH Administration & Communications Coordinator:

* Julia Zygiel, August 2020-present
* Arisa Koyama, through August 2020

**Research Committee meeting dates:**

* January 23, 2020
* February 20, 2020
* March 19, 2020
* April 22, 2020
* May 27, 2020
* June 24, 2020
* July 22, 2020
* September 23, 2020
* October 28, 2020
* November 25, 2020
* December 18, 2020
* January 27, 2021

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

**Membership:** In August 2020, six members who had not attended at least half of the meetings over the previous year were released from the Committee. Meanwhile, there were 75 applications to join the research committee of which four were screened out by a membership check, resulting in 71 valid applications. A panel of four current members reviewed each application, with two reviewers per application, and evaluated the applicants’ 1) global health research experience and capacity relative to their career stage and 2) expressed commitment to contribute to the mission of the research committee. Applicant’s country of residence, career stage, gender and research area were also considered to help ensure diversity. Using this approach, 11 new members were selected to join the research committee in December 2020. The Committee is also on the lookout for opportunities to engage applicants who were not selected in future service opportunities.

**Working Groups**: The Co-Chairs solicited suggestions for priority focus areas from the Committee members. Members were asked to commit to taking a leadership role in forming and implementing activities for any working group that they proposed. To date, three working groups have been established.

* ***Climate Change and Global Health***, led by Jonathan Patz and M. Lichtveld
* ***Addressing the Anti-science Movement***, led by Melissa Salm
* ***Involving Campus Representatives on Research Committee Projects***, led by Ryan Hodgeman, Sarah Matthews, and Melissa Salm

Additional working groups are anticipated as new members have recently joined the Committee.

**CUGH annual meetings:** A Research Committee satellite session and a panel session were selected for the CUGH 2020 meeting. However, that meeting was cancelled, and the selection process was reopened for the 2021 meeting for which the following were selected:

* Satellite session: “Implementation Science for Global Health: Building Research Capacity” – Judy Wasserheit and Rachel Sturke
* Panel/breakout session: “Borderlands - Leaving Disciplinism Behind in Search for Different Global Health Knowledge” – Melissa Salm

In addition, the Research Committee played an active role in planning and will participate in the AFREhealth-CUGH Working Group satellite session.

**Abstract Advising Program (APP):** For the CUGH 2021 (virtual) annual meeting, members of the CUGH Research and Education Committees (REC) with support from the CUGH secretariat launched a program to connect early-career CUGH members (advisees) with more experienced CUGH members (advisors). Once linked, the advisor and advisee worked together in a relatively brief, focused interaction to improve the quality of the advisee’s abstract prior to submission for the CUGH conference. The goals were to:

1. Provide guidance to early-career CUGH members (advisees) in improving abstract quality,

2. Provide a service opportunity for more experienced CUGH members (advisors),

3. Improve the quality of abstracts submitted for the CUGH annual meeting,

4. Pilot a system for focused, short-term interactions between early-career and more experienced CUGH members.

A website link was established on the CUGH annual meeting website and multiple email announcements were sent by the CUGH secretariat to CUGH members to solicit participation by registering on the website. Registration was open from August 13, 2020, initially to September 30, later extended to October 7 as the abstract submission deadline was also extended. A total of 50 CUGH members registered, 29 advisees and 21 advisors. CUGH REC volunteers matched advisor-advisee pairs based on abstract topic area (“Scientific,” “Programs/Projects,” or “Education and Training”) and sent them a standardized email to link them together. Of the 21 advisors, 13 were assigned to one advisee and 8 were assigned to two advisees. A formal quantitative and qualitative evaluation is underway. The results of the evaluation will be used to assess the success of the AAP in achieving its goals (above), assess the satisfaction of the advisors and advisees with the AAP, solicit suggestions for future improvements, provide background information for future programs to facilitate similar, short-term “micro-mentoring” interactions.

**Other activities:**

* Ryan Hodgeman and other TAC members are planning to engage Committee members in coffee hours and “mentorship minutes” during the CUGH virtual annual meeting.
* Ryan Hodgeman and other TAC members are planning to engage Committee members and students/trainees in a coffee hour networking event during the CUGH virtual annual meeting.  Additionally, they are preparing a “mentorship minutes” video series for new investigators – providing basic advice for starting a careering global health research.
* Richard Deckelbaum is liaising with the AFREhealth Research Committee and identifying areas of mutual interest and potential joint activities.
* Committee members are providing feedback and will help disseminate a survey from the Medical College of Wisconsin on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on global health partnerships.

**Research Committee Web Resources:**

* The **CUGH Research Products** page features guidelines and frameworks, select publications, online courses, toolkits, and other resources of interest for the global health research community that have been vetted by CUGH Research Committee members. See: <https://www.cugh.org/resources/research-products/>
* The **CUGH Crowdsourcing Research Questions** page was created to connect real world problems to research capabilities. Questions posted include those concerning tuberculosis in children, tuberculosis and gender, and development of palliative care systems in resource-poor settings. See: <https://www.cugh.org/online-tools/research-questions/>