*January 18, 2022*

**CUGH Research Committee Annual Report**

**2021-22**

**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. Liz Grant, University of Edinburgh
4. King Holmes, University of Washington
5. Jonathan Patz, University of Wisconsin
6. Tom Quinn, Johns Hopkins University
7. Madelon Finkel, Weill Cornell Medicine
8. Jeremy Schwartz, Yale University
9. Melissa Salm, Trainee Advisory Committee
10. Monica Maria Diaz, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine
11. Olumide Abiodun, Babcock University
12. Florian Schmitzberger, University of Michigan
13. Jaime Montoya, University of the Philippines
14. Kari Nadeau, Stanford University
15. Katelyn Sileo, University of Texas at San Antonio
16. Margaret Kaseje, Association of Schools of Public Health in Africa
17. Katarzyna Kordas, University at Buffalo
18. Rosemin Kassam, University of British Columbia
19. Stephanie Chow Garbern, Brown University
20. Shama Patel, University of Florida-Jacksonville
21. Maureen Lichtveld, University of Pittsburgh

CUGH Administration & Communications Coordinator:

* Julia Zygiel, August 2020-present

**Research Committee meeting dates:**

* January 27, 2021
* February 24, 2021
* March 19, 2021
* April 28, 2021
* May 26, 2021
* July 28, 2021
* August 25, 2021
* September 22, 2021
* November 10, 2021
* December 7, 2021
* January 26, 2022

**Research Committee Goals**: The Research Committee’s goal is to explore 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:** Eleven new members were selected to join the research committee in December 2020, bringing the total to 21. There is active participation from most members. In December 2021, members whose meeting participation was under 67% but greater than 50% (N =4) were asked about any barriers to participation and encouraged to increase their engagement. Five members whose participation was under 50% (all were under 33%) were asked about barriers to participation and if they wanted to rotate off to allow someone else to participate. Call scheduling was a common barrier reported by members in other time zones or with work schedule conflicts. There are seven individuals who will have been members for three or more years in 2022 and will cycle off. The committee is well positioned to add new members in 2022.

**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. Two working groups were active in 2021.

* ***Climate Change and Global Health***, led by Jonathan Patz and M. Lichtveld. The workgroup engaged in developing, planning, and collaborating in the implementation of several workshops, conferences, other presentations, and a white paper. Two of these activities included a special satellite session with Caribbean experts during the 2021 CUGH annual meeting in March 2021, and the Climate Change and Health in Small Island Development States Conference held in October 2021. Prior to COP26, the RC participated and hosted a CUGH sponsored Climate and Health Summit on October 15. The climate and health summit included an accompanying white paper addressing recommendations for climate-related policies that offer human health benefits across sectors. Since the workshop and COP 26, working group leaders attended CUGH planning meetings and are in full communications (along with Keith Martin) with WHO, the Global Climate and Health Alliance, Africa CDC, and others to prioritize global health at the COP 27 next November in Egypt. In addition, the RC participated in the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) climate and health interest group which convened a special session in conjunction with the October 2021 NAM annual meeting. Finally, the RC proposed a Caribbean-focused panel on climate and health for the 2022 CUGH annual meeting which was accepted and scheduled.
* ***Addressing the Anti-science Movement***, led by Melissa Salm. The working group met three times during the year. They have drafted a commentary for publication and are finishing a literature review in collaboration with TAC members, which will support the commentary. They are also planning a satellite session for the CUGH 2022 annual meeting.

**CUGH annual meetings:** Research Committee satellite and panel sessions 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. The session focused on capacity building for global implementation science and was organized around: 1) refining a definition of implementation science; 2) considering which theories, frameworks, and models are applicable to global, low-resource settings and what the needs are for global implementation science; and 3) exploring which IS methods are relevant in the context of global health crises, specifically in the case of the COVID pandemic, and to examine further methods development needs. This satellite session included panelists from Bangladesh, China, Kenya, Nigeria, Peru, South Africa and the US. More than 130 people participated via Zoom.
* Panel/breakout session: “Borderlands - Leaving Disciplinism Behind in Search for Different Global Health Knowledge” – Melissa Salm. This panel highlighted the scientific importance of interdisciplinary research. The panelists shared strategies they have used to foster innovative research and build bridges between life, health, and human sciences. It was among the top ten most highly attended breakout sessions of the 2021 CUGH conference.
* In addition, the RC played an active role in planning and participated in the AFREhealth-CUGH Working Group satellite session. Africa CDC Director Dr. John Nkengasong was the keynote speaker. The session provided insights into North-South and South-South global health partnerships against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulted in a publication: Eichbaum Q, Sam-Agudu NA, Kazembe A, Kiguli-Malwadde E, Khanyola J, Wasserheit JN, Kilmarx PH, Nachega JB. [Opportunities and Challenges in North-South and South-South Global Health Collaborations During the COVID-19 Pandemic: The AFREhealth-CUGH Experience.](https://www.annalsofglobalhealth.org/articles/10.5334/aogh.3440/) *Annals of Global Health*. 2021;87(1):90.
* Ryan Hodgeman and other TAC members also engaged RC members in coffee hours and “mentorship minutes” during the conference.

For the CUGH 2022 meeting, the following sessions are being sponsored by the RC:

* Katelyn Sileo, Shama Patel, and Melissa Salm have organized a four-hour satellite session on addressing anti-science challenges. They successfully recruited and confirmed the participation of eight panelists and speakers from multiple countries and disciplinary backgrounds. *Including Heidi Larson, Peter Hotez and Maureen Lichtveld.*
* Breakout: Liz Grant, *Kasia* Kordas, and global partners have organized a session titled: “Understanding Populations Experiencing or Fleeing Conflict:  A Toolkit to Support Ethical Research.” This will be a 90-minute panel session exploring strategies to ensure research is co-created, and conducted ethically, safely, and sensitively in situations of conflict, and with those who have experienced physical, emotional, and psychological violence.  The panel will present a Toolkit for Ethical Action that frames and promotes contextual ethical reflection and accountability in research, from its conception to the legacy of the research. Case studies with those living in Syria and Colombia, and with communities that have fled violence and resettled as refugees in the United States will examine commonalities of research challenges and unique opportunities to promote ethical research journeys. Through an interactive discussion, participants will consider the ethical issues in researching trauma and mental health, intersections of power and marginality, security intelligence and evidence-based interventions for local sustainable development in Syria, and reproductive health concerns with Refugee populations. The panel aims to promote ways of identifying ethical challenges and dilemmas as they emerge in people relations, place differences, and shared or contested principles and precedents and to build together creative solutions.
* Judy Wasserheit, Peter Kilmarx, and colleagues are organizing a 90-minute plenary session on “Bridging the Research-Implementation Gap” by request of CUGH. The session will include recommendations on scaling up research findings, funding models, and aligning the relevance of research to public needs. Bryan Weiner; Kenny Sherr; Rachel Sturke

**Abstract Advising Program (APP):** For the CUGH 2022 annual meeting, members of the CUGH Research and Education Committees (**James Hudspeth** and **Tracy Rabin)** with support from the CUGH secretariat launched the second year of the 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. A website link was established on the CUGH annual meeting website and multiple email announcements were sent by the CUGH and AFREhealth secretariats to CUGH and AFREhealth members to solicit participation by registering on the website. A total of 65 individuals registered: 29 advisees, 29 participating advisors, and seven additional advisors who could not be matched. This was an increase from 50 participants for the 2021 meeting. Based on feedback from an evaluation of the 2021 program, participants were sent reminders for each step – sharing draft abstracts, providing feedback, sharing submitted abstracts, and reporting the final abstract status (accepted or not). An evaluation is planned for the program again in 2022.

**Other activities:**

* Peter Kilmarx is liaising with the AFREhealth Research Committee and identifying areas of mutual interest and potential joint activities. Jean Nachega is the liaison from the AFREhealth RC to the CUGH RC. Planning AFREhealth-CUGH session in CUGH 2022 meeting with Quentin. AFREhealth and CUGH RC members have collaborated on research protocols on COVID-19 in hospitalized patients from six countries in Africa.
* At one RC meeting, Joe Kolars presented data on viewership and participation in the 2021 CUGH annual meeting. Future engagement and analyses with the RC are planned.

**Updating 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. In 2021, four RC members served as primary and secondary reviewers to update each section of the website. The final revision is planned for Q1 2022. 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 the development of palliative care systems in resource-poor settings. The RC plans to review and update this page in 2022. See: <https://www.cugh.org/online-tools/research-questions/>

Thanks to Judy, very active members, Keith, Dalal, Julia.

Challenge including members on other time zones. Asynchronous work?