*FINAL: January 18, 2023*

**CUGH Research Committee Annual Report**

**2022-23**

**Research Committee Members:**

* Peter Kilmarx (Co-Chair, March 2020), Fogarty International Center, NIH
* Judith Wasserheit (Co-Chair, March 2020), University of Washington

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| Alex Mremi | Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College |
| Augustine Asante | University of New South Wales |
| Carmel Bouclaous | Lebanese American University |
| Christine Ngaruiya | Yale School of Medicine |
| Iyabo Obasanjo | College of William and Mary |
| Jonathan Patz | University of Wisconsin |
| Julia Dickson Gomez | Medical College of Wisconsin |
| Kari Nadeau | Harvard University |
| Katelyn Sileo | University of Texas at San Antonio |
| Liz Grant | University of Edinburgh |
| Martha Lucero Bravo Vasquez | TAC |
| Maureen Lichtveld | University of Pittsburgh |
| Megan Fitzpatrick | University of Wisconsin-Madison |
| Melissa Salm | TAC |
| Mobolanle Balogun | AFREhealth |
| Olumide Abiodun | Babcock University |
| Paul Kilgore | Wayne State University |
| Rosemin Kassam | University of British Columbia |
| Shahd Mahmoud | TAC |
| Shama Patel | Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health |
| Theresa Wicklin Gillespie | Emory University |
| Tom Quinn | Johns Hopkins University |
| Wenhui Mao | Duke Global Health Institute |

**CUGH Administration & Communications Coordinator:**

* Julia Zygiel, August 2020-present

**Research Committee meeting dates:**

* January 26th, 2022
* February 23rd, 2022
* May 6th, 2022
* June 22nd, 2022
* July 22nd, 2022
* September 28th, 2022
* October 26th, 2022
* December 13th, 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:** The RC has a total of 25 members, including the co-chairs. Of them, 14 members are ongoing members and 11 started in April 2022. In Q1 2022, existing members were asked to indicate their interest in continuing participation and nominations for new members were solicited by CUGH. Members voted on the final selection. Both the new and returning members groups are diverse with regard to gender, research interests, and geography except for under-representation from Asia and Latin America. The co-chairs were re-elected for another term by the members. All members including the co-chairs are slated to rotate off in March 2024.

* **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 2022 and are ongoing: one on ***Climate Change and Global Health*** and the other on ***Addressing the Anti-science Movement.*** Both are discussed below. RC members have also begun to consider development of two new foci and related working groups: one on Housing and Homelessness Research and the other on Cancer Research. Additional discussion is planned to assess levels of interest and refine the foci of these efforts if they go forward.
* ***Climate Change and Global Health***, led by Jonathan Patz and Maureen Lichtveld.
	+ WG members wrote a white paper for the Conference of the Parties (COP27) and are leading a formal submission into the UNFCCC Global Stocktake process --feeding into COP28 – to highlight to need to prioritize health and equity objectives as countries work to establish new climate policies to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.
	+ WG members played a key role in a CUGH – National Academy of Medicine virtual Summit: The Road to COP27: Climate Change and Health Through Three Lenses.
	+ WG members participated in COP 27 in Egypt and are working with CUGH, National Academy of Medicine, and UK National Academy of Medicine to develop a proposal for COP 28 in Dubai in November 2023.
	+ The WG published a manuscript resulting from their 2021 CUGH satellite session. Neta G, Pan W, Ebi K, Buss DF, Castranio T, Lowe R, Ryan SJ, Stewart-Ibarra AM, Hapairai LK, Sehgal M, Wimberly MC, Rollock L, Lichtveld M, Balbus J. Advancing climate change health adaptation through implementation science. Lancet Planet Health. 2022 Nov;6(11):e909-e918.
	+ WG members presented at the 2022 ILA meeting how the 12 for 12 Leadership Program targeting mid-career health professions teams in LMICs can provide a tailored opportunity to counter the challenges and seize the opportunities for health leadership development. *Covert, H., & Lichtveld, M. (2022). Leadership development in health services through the lens of low- and middle-income countries. Oral presentation at International Leadership Association Healthcare Leadership Conference, May 2, 2022*.
	+ WG members and colleagues in the Caribbean presented a webinar entitled “*Climate and Health Adaptation Strategies in the Caribbean: From Health Systems Strengthening to Technology Applications*, as a CUGH Annual Global Health Conference Panel, March 28, 2022. The panel focused on specific climate and health adaptation strategies for the Caribbean. Speakers included Daniel Buss, PhD, Advisor, Pan American Health Organization, the Regional Office for the World Health Organization for the Americas (PAHO/WHO), Adrian Trotman, Chief, Applied Meteorology and Climatology, Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), Barbados, Lindonne Glasgow, Deputy Chair and Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, St. George’s University, Grenada, Maureen Lichtveld, MD, MPH, Dean, Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh and Hannah Covert, University of Pittsburgh
* ***Addressing the Anti-science Movement***, led by Melissa Salm. The workgroup engaged in developing, planning, and organizing the implementation of two satellite sessions with international and transdisciplinary experts: one during the 2022 CUGH annual meeting and another for the upcoming 2023 CUGH annual meeting. Their work also includes a commentary entitled, "Towards a transdisciplinary research agenda on anti-science," which has been drafted for publication and is awaiting the conclusion of a supporting literature review in collaboration with TAC members. In addition, the workgroup developed and published educational products for addressing anti-science attitudes and misinformation, which are available on the CUGH website.

**CUGH annual meetings:**

* **2022:**
	+ ***2022 Satellite session***: “Towards a Transdisciplinary Research Agenda on ‘Anti-Science’”.  The four-hour interactive session introduced the problem of "anti-science" trends affecting global health efforts, ranging from anti-vaccination sentiments, misinformation campaigns, and COVID-19-related conspiracy theories. The event was organized around the premise that transdisciplinary research approaches are needed to address this complex problem and therefore featured two panels, each composed of experts from different parts of the world representing diverse disciplines. Panelists were from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Bangladesh, Peru, and the United States. The event also included a keynote address from a well-known science writer and included several breakout sessions.
	+ ***2022 Breakout session***: Liz Grant, Kasia Kordas, and global partners organized a session titled: “Understanding Populations Experiencing or Fleeing Conflict:  A Toolkit to Support Ethical Research.” This was 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 presented 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 examined commonalities of research challenges and unique opportunities to promote ethical research journeys. Through an interactive discussion, participants considered 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 promoted 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.
	+ ***2022 Breakout session***: The RC Climate Change and Global WG held a session entitled “Health Climate and Health Adaptation Strategies in the Caribbean: From Health Systems Strengthening to Technology Applications” with the following presenters: Daniel Buss, PAHO/WHO); Adrian Trotman, Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology, Barbados; Lindonne Glasgow, St. George’s University, Grenada; Maureen Lichtveld, University of Pittsburgh. This panel focused on specific climate and health adaptation strategies for the Caribbean and demonstrated the transdisciplinary nature as a pre-requisite to addressing climate change threats.
	+ ***2022 Breakout session***: Judy Wasserheit, Peter Kilmarx, and colleagues organized a 90-minute plenary session on “Bridging the Research-Implementation Gap” at the request of CUGH. The session included recommendations on scaling up research findings, funding models, and aligning the relevance of research to public needs. The session moderators were Rachel Sturke, Fogarty International Center, and Kenneth Sherr, University of Washington. The Panelists were Patricia Garcia, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Peru; Peter Cherutich, Ministry of Health, Kenya; Agnes Binagwaho, University of Global Health Equity, Rwanda; Malabika Sarker, BRAC University, Bangladesh; Roman Xu, Southern Medical University, China; Anita Zaidi, BMGF; John Reeder, WHO/TDR; George Mensah, NHLBI; and Lola Adedokun, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation/The Aspen Institute.
	+ In addition, the RC played an active role in planning and participated in the ***AFREhealth-CUGH Working Group satellite session*** with Dr. Jimmy Volmink, Professor, Department of Global Health, Stellenbosch University, as the keynote speaker.
* **2023:**
	+ ***2023 RC Satellite session***: “Apprehending ‘anti-science’ - A virtual roundtable.” This satellite session advances the dialogue initiated last year at the 2022 CUGH conference, again highlighting the need for transdisciplinary perspectives on how to approach and intervene into rising trends of mistrust in scientific knowledge and expertise. The event will be organized as a moderated discussion among an international panel of experts from a variety of fields - public health, anthropology, philosophy, political science, data science, etc. Invited panelists are from Peru, Brazil, Czech Republic, Hong Kong, South Africa, Denmark, Canada, UK, and US. Topics of discussion will focus on new approaches for researching anti-science and proposed strategies for rebuilding/maintaining trust in science.
	+ ***2023 RC Breakout session***: “Climate Change and Malnutrition” will seek to understand the multifaceted intersection of climate change, nutrition, and health and investigate its impact on sustainable and resilient responses to emerging public health outcomes of interest (e.g., vector borne disease, infectious diseases, food born illnesses, and nutrition-related non-communicable diseases), and to explore the factors that impact translation and implementation of evidence-based climate-related, nutrition interventions. Speakers are being finalized and will have diverse global representation.
	+ ***2023 RC plenary session***: Research Committee co-chairs and several RC members have worked closely with CUGH leadership on an initiative that explores *What is Global Health in the 21st Century?* The impetus for this initiative is recognition that there has been major evolution of the drivers, tools, approaches, and conceptual foundations of global health since the field emerged about 20 years ago, as well as tectonic sociodemographic, geopolitical, and economic changes with dramatic improvements in health systems and services in some parts of the world, while other communities have been left behind, and new global challenges like climate change. This effort is being launched with a plenary panel on “*Reimagining Global Health in the 21st Century*” at the April 2023 Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) Conference. The discussions during this panel of internationally recognized leaders will lay the foundation for a publication that we hope will catalyze broader discussion about the current status and trajectory of our field.

**Abstract Advising Program (APP):** For the CUGH 2023 annual meeting, members of the CUGH Research and Education Committees (**James Hudspeth** and **Tracy Rabin)** with support from the CUGH and AFREhealth secretariats launched the third 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 102 individuals registered: 51 advisees and 51 advisors with no-one left unmatched. They are from 21 countries and 23 are AFREhealth members. About half are male and half female. This was an increase from 58 participants for the 2022 meeting and 50 in 2021. Based on feedback from evaluations of the 2021 and 2022 programs, more explicit commitments from advisees were solicited for program participation and participants were sent reminders for each step – sharing draft abstracts, providing feedback, sharing submitted abstracts, and reporting the final abstract status (accepted or not).

**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 took place in Q1 2022. Another update should take place in 2023-24. 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 reviewed the page in 2022 and reached out to the contact people for the questions on the page. Based on the low response rate and further discussion within the RC, this page may be retired in 2023. See: <https://www.cugh.org/online-tools/research-questions/>