Message from the Director

Welcome to the new Global Health Consortium (GHCI) newsletter!

The GHCI is a global health initiative at the FIU’s Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work. The goal of our bimonthly newsletter is to feature emerging issues, scientific news pertaining to global health. The newsletter will also include highlighted faculty & student initiatives and opportunities as well as upcoming global health events to stay engaged on campus and in the community.

The primary goal of global health is to make the world a healthier place. Unfortunately, inequities in health resources and healthcare access threatens that goal. For example, people born in the US can anticipate to live into their eighties, however, individuals living in Chad, Guinea-Bissau, or Nigeria have life expectancies of just over 50 years. Every day thousands of children in Sub-Saharan Africa die before their fifth birthday from treatable diseases and illnesses such as pneumonia and diarrhea, undoubtedly revealing that basic healthcare and public health measures are lacking in many countries.

As global citizens, we are obligated to address these challenges. The GHCI’s vision to become an internationally recognized innovative global health leader helps to support and connect global health advocates & stakeholders and develop innovative solutions to the most challenging health problems throughout the world.

We welcome your contributions, thoughts and suggestions to help promote global health activities and events, share ideas, disseminate information, host discussions, lectures, and courses, and provide information on how to get involved with the GHCI.

Dr. Carlos Espinal Tejada
Director Global Health Consortium

GHC 2017 Activities

**AMR Expert Consultation**  
FIU D.C.  
January 26th - 27th 2017  
Collaborative activity with PAHO and international AMR experts to define preliminary output indicators to monitor and evaluate AMR interventions in the context of National Action Plans in the Americas.  
[Learn More](#)

**Antimicrobial Stewardship**  
FIU MMC and FIU D.C.  
Jun 29th and Oct 31st 2017  
Meetings to develop Antimicrobial Resistance Stewardship guidelines for Latin America and the Caribbean.  
[Learn More](#)

**7th International Conference on Global Health**  
FIU MMC  
March 6th - 9th 2017  
The International Global health Conference was held at FIU on March 9-12, 2017. Key topics included Antimicrobial resistance, HPV vaccination, policy and public health priorities in Mexico, climate change, migration and health, health disparities and arbovirus control and prevention.  
[Learn More](#)

The expert consultation meeting was a collaboration between GHCFIU and invited international AMR experts. Country-specific implemented strategies of AMR monitoring and containment were presented to build a foundation for the development of National Action Plans (NAP). The end goal is to enhance the evidence for monitoring and evaluating AMR awareness, surveillance, containment and economically sustainable AMR research were proposed and discussed to contribute to a global process. The preliminary output indicators developed from the M&E expert consultation meeting are available at this link.

Development of recommendations and guidelines for the implementation of Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs (ASP) for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

GHCFIU and PAHO proposed to develop a robust set of implementable guidelines for ASPs for (LAC) countries. The underlying theme for ASPs is to improve the rational use of antibiotics in order to reduce or stabilize resistance, and improve clinical outcomes. One of the barriers in delivering a functional and effective ASP is the lack of single set of guidelines that can be implemented, tracked and evaluated, and updated periodically.

Review of National Immunization Programs of the Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI) in countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

This project aims to conduct a case comparative study of Latin American and Caribbean countries to assess their EPI national immunization schedules, determine specific reasons for disparities in vaccination coverage rates, evaluate the introduction/implementation of new and future vaccines and describe the financial and funding mechanisms of the EPI in the Region.

Assessment of the national Pertussis immunization program in countries using acellular pertussis vaccines (aP): Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama.

The objectives of this project is to document the decision process for introducing acellular pentavalent and hexavalent vaccines in Mexico, Costa Rica and Panama based on goals, objectives, justification and budget appropriation. Additionally, this project will evaluate the implementation strategy and identify best practices and obstacles that could be used as references for other countries interested in the introduction of aP combination vaccines. The project will also assess the impact of the vaccination strategy and the acceptance of Health Care Workers (HCWs) and the community.


GHCFIU proposes to evaluate the epidemiological profile of diabetics in Latin America and the Caribbean by developing a systematic review compiled of several subject matter experts, and holding a regional workshop with a goal of stimulating and supporting the adoption of effective measures for diabetes surveillance, prevention, and control in the region.

State of the art prevention and control of pertussis in Latin America and the Caribbean

This project is a joint effort between the GHCFIU and Sabin Vaccine Institute, WDC. The aim of this project is to evaluate the current situation of pertussis control and prevention programs in LAC countries, and bring up to date the advances on diagnostic tools, disease surveillance and clinical management. In addition, the project aims to identify current gaps in knowledge and best practices on pertussis prevention and control, and review the effectiveness and public health impact of vaccination programs in infants, adolescents, and maternal immunization. The project will also propose recommendations regarding pertussis control strategies, health policies, and community engagement.

Lead and Mercury Contamination and Population Risk in Colombia

This an ongoing initiative developed in partnership with the Colombian Ministry of Health, the National Association of Health Secretaries (COSESAM), the National Association of Industries (ANID) and Colombian Universities (National, Cartagena, Cordoba, Los Andes, Valle, Antioquia) to develop key strategic interventions to reduce the risk of heavy metals contamination for at risk populations.

FIU multidisciplinary approach includes the contribution and expertise of Dean Tomas Guiart and Carlos Espinal from Robert Stempel College and the GHC, Yong Cai, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry and SouthEast Environmental Research Center, Piero R. Gardinard of Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, School of Integrated Science and Humanity (SISH) and Southeast Environmental Research Center, School of the Environment and Society (SEAS).
Health in the Americas is the new interactive platform from PAHO, which is now home to PAHO’s repository of health information on the region of the Americas. The content based on the Health in the Americas 2017 document encompasses four chapters: Universal Health, Main Health Problems and Challenges, Regional Outlook of Health in the Americas, and a Prospective View to Health. It is an excellent resource to stay updated on the health situation of the Americas Region as well as a source for students, professors, communicators, researchers and anyone interested on the matter. Each type of user has a profile tailored to their preferences.

Obesity rates have inflated tenfold in the past four decades in children’s aged five to 19 years. By 2022, more children and adolescents will be obese compared to moderately or severely underweight should the current trend continue, reveals a new study led by Imperial College London and WHO.

A report launched on September 20th, 2017 by the World Health Organization (WHO) confirms a severe lack of new antibiotics under development to combat the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Most of the drugs currently in the clinical pipeline are modifications of existing classes of antibiotics and are only short-term solutions. The report found very few potential treatment options for those antibiotic-resistant infections identified by WHO as posing the greatest threat to health, including drug-resistant tuberculosis which kills approximately 250,000 people each year. Learn More

World Antibiotic Awareness Week
13-19 November 2017

Image courtesy of PAHO
Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a worldwide public health problem, and is receiving increased global attention because of its rapid spread. Although aging, diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and kidney syndromes are known to be the predominant risk factors for CKD, thousands of individuals in Central American countries have developed CKD of nontraditional causes (CKDnT), which is compatible with a chronic interstitial nephritis that rapidly progresses to end-stage renal disease (ESRD). Environmental and occupational exposures are hypothesized to play a large role in the development of CKDnT and this condition has been described in clusters of agricultural communities, particularly among male workers. Women are also at increased risk for CKDnT in these areas.

Malaria Champions

The GHC is proud to have partnered with PAHO in the recognition of the new Malaria Champions from Brazil, Haiti and the Dominican Republic for their exceptional work in interrupting malaria transmission and developing local systems to access malaria diagnosis and treatment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>News Release</th>
<th>Dominican Republic and Haiti Video</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil Video 1</td>
<td>Brazil Video 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Upcoming Events on Global Health

- **The Landscape Symposium 2017**, presented by Global Health Council
  - Washington, DC, United States
  - December 8, 2017
  - [Event Site](#)

- **18th International Congress on Infectious Diseases**
  - Buenos Aires, Argentina
  - March 1 - 4, 2018
  - [Event Site](#)

- **The 9th Annual CUGH Global Health Conference Health Disparities: A Time for Action**
  - New York City, NY, United States
  - March 15 - 18, 2018
  - [Event Site](#)

- **5th International Conference on Tropical Medicine, Infectious Diseases & Public Health**
  - Lisbon, Portugal
  - September 17 - 18, 2018
  - [Event Site](#)

Social Media and Contact

Click or tap below to connect with us and help us grow

[ghc.fiu.edu](http://ghc.fiu.edu)

To provide feedback on this newsletter, please contact us at ghc@fiu.edu