2023 Impact Report

CENTER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

2023

a year of

- **Expanded partnerships**
- **Increased representation**
- **New funding opportunities**
- **Solidified strategic direction**

In 2023, CGHE celebrated three years since our founding after a catalytic gift from Tachi and Leslie Yamada. Our journey began as the world reeled from the emergence of an unprecedented threat to global health, COVID-19. In this time of immense uncertainty, isolation, and fear, we drew strength from our founder's vision: a world where everyone, no matter where they were born, has access to the resources that they needed to live life to their fullest potential. And, since our founding, we've worked tirelessly to bring together others who share our dream of a brighter, healthier future for all.

This year, our community's commitment to global health equity once again gave us reasons tor celebrate. Together, we reached significant milestones, bringing us closer to our vision of a world where access to health resources is not a privilege, but a universal right.

329

total center members, up from 245 in 2022.

$10m

the size of a new gift from the Yamada Family to further support the Center's efforts to advance global health equity. Read more about the transformative gift on page 25.

18

Schools, college, and units represented from across all three U-M campuses in our member body

3

high-level visits hosted on the U-M campus with guests including: WHO's Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Rwanda's Minister of Health Sabin Nsanzimana, and Princess Zara Aga Khan.

67

faculty and researchers supported by CGHE funding

4

new supported scholars, three Impact Scholars and one Field Scholar

319

guests attended our Distinguished Seminar Series, focused on the health impacts of climate change.

$16.23m

in external funding enabled across 19 grant submissions

22

challenge group meetings held

$3.4m

in funding distributed to high-potential research initiatives since our founding in 2020.

1,688

followers on Twitter

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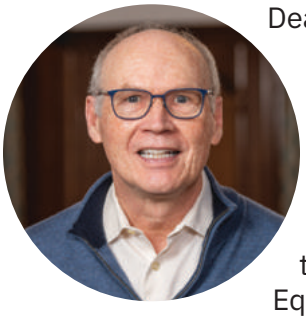
Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the strides we have taken together at the Center for Global Health Equity (CGHE). The mission we have embarked upon—to champion health equity worldwide—is ambitious. Yet, the accomplishments of 2023 have made it clear that when the diverse strengths of the University of Michigan converge, we can drive impactful, transformative change.

Central to our endeavors is the principle of collaboration. At CGHE, we have witnessed firsthand the power that emerges when experts from various disciplines across the University of Michigan unite. Medicine, public health, engineering, social sciences, and numerous other fields have coalesced around a shared vision, each contributing distinct and invaluable insights. This interdisciplinary approach has enabled us to identify innovative solutions and improve health outcomes in the communities we are privileged to serve.

Building a movement to improve health equity is no small task. It requires a multifaceted strategy. We have sought not just to influence the health of individuals, but to reshape the very systems that define health outcomes. This is evident in our endeavors to inform public policy, ensuring that decisions are underpinned by evidence and that the voices of marginalized populations are elevated. We are also pushing boundaries by creating technical solutions that address complex health challenges. But at the heart of our movement is our commitment to empowering women as leaders. We recognize that when women lead, communities thrive.

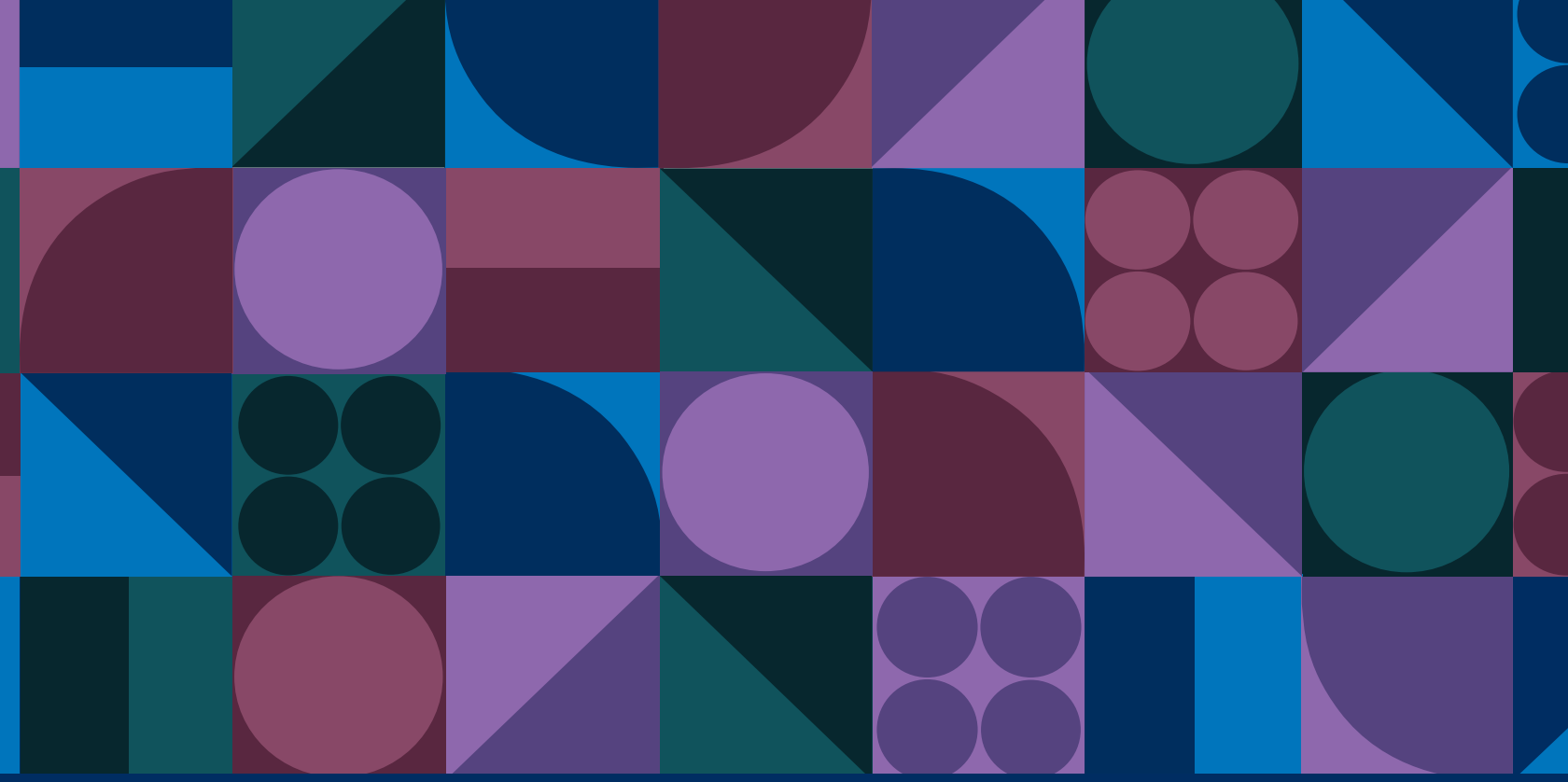
Yet, as we forge ahead, it is vital to remember that our role is not one of imposition, but of partnership. Each of our initiatives is fundamentally defined by leaders within the communities where we work. It is they who best understand the intricacies of their realities, identify the needs, develop research questions, and guide our collective journey. We stand alongside them, leveraging the unique strengths of our institution, but always acknowledging their expertise and leadership.

In this report, you will find stories of resilience, innovation, and hope. You will see evidence of what can be achieved when a community-centric ethos is paired with the academic excellence that the University of Michigan is renowned for.

I invite you to join us in celebrating these milestones, and to look forward to the horizons we have yet to explore. Together, we are not just envisioning a world where health equity is a reality for all—we are actively building it.

Warm regards,

Joseph C. Kolars, MD, MACP
Executive Director, U-M Center for Global Health Equity
Professor of Medicine & Health Professions Education, U-M Medical School
Professor of Health Management & Policy, U-M School of Public Health



Our Vision

Communities where everyone has sustainable opportunities to realize **optimal mental & physical health**

Our Mission

Advancing interdisciplinary engagement across our university and with global partners to **equitably prevent disease and improve health** in low- and middle-income countries

Strategic Themes

In our journey to effect lasting change, strategic themes have been pivotal in guiding our programming. These themes serve as a compass, providing clear focus and direction to our activities, ensuring alignment with our core mission. By concentrating on specific areas, we have maximized the impact of our limited resources, developing deeper expertise and delivering more effective solutions. This focused approach has also enhanced stakeholder engagement, fostering increased support and trust from our donors, volunteers, and the communities we serve.

Our adaptability and responsiveness to environmental changes have been strengthened by this strategic focus, allowing us to respond more effectively to evolving societal needs and funding landscapes. Additionally, it has opened doors for more strategic collaborations, amplifying our collective impact through partnerships with like-minded organizations and stakeholders.

Strengthening systems to improve health and health equity

Informing policy and programming related to the social determinants of health

Environmental justice & climate change

Developing data science & technologies

Empowering women & communities as effectors of equitable health

$3,440,313

invested in global health equity research since our founding in 2020.

Building the movement

We prioritize and invest in projects that advance the global health equity movement in every way possible— with project sites driven by the long-term relationships held by our members and partners on the ground.

We work closely with our collaborators to ensure that they have access to the resources, tools, and expertise necessary for success, tapping into our extensive network of experts and leaders here at the University of Michigan and beyond.

CENTER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Building the Movement

Strengthening Health Equity Partnerships with Aga Khan University

"The visit of Princess Zahra Aga Khan and the AKU delegation is a testament to the enduring bond between our institutions," remarked President Santa Ono, emphasizing their collective goal of a brighter, healthier future for Africa and beyond.

Central to this partnership is the UZIMA-DS initiative. Conceived as a Kenyan-led effort, UZIMA-DS, or the Utilizing Health Information for Meaningful Impact in East Africa through Data Science program, is a beacon of innovation. Thanks to a significant $6.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), this initiative uses cutting-edge artificial intelligence and machine learning to address two pressing health concerns among African youth: maternal and child health and mental well-being. The success of UZIMA's model and its third-year funding from NIH underscore the program's potential.

Building upon this momentum, the AKU-CGHE partnership has introduced a series of novel projects. One such endeavor, funded by a separate NIH grant of $750,000, targets colorectal cancer diagnostics in Africa, utilizing artificial intelligence and machine learning. Colorectal cancer, a growing concern across the continent, often sees delayed diagnosis due to a lack of specialized training and advanced diagnostic tools. With this grant, AKU, in collaboration with CGHE, aims to revolutionize cancer detection methods, bringing faster, more accurate diagnostic solutions to communities in need.

In February, the collaboration was again in focus when U-M's Center for Global Health Equity's Director, Joseph Kolars, spearheaded a delegation to AKU's Nairobi campus. These meetings were a testament to the blossoming partnership, showcasing the progress made since the signing of the MOU. The discussions held during this visit highlighted the successes of ongoing collaborative efforts—including UZIMA-DS and the Longitudinal Study of Health and Aging in Kenya (LOSHAK)—and served as a platform to explore future project expansions and new projects.

Akbar Waljee, U-M professor of learning health sciences and data collaborative director at CGHE, commented on the profound connection between the two institutions, "This NIH grant is a testament to the incredible research collaboration between U-M and AKU. Together, we are committed to advancing healthcare and promoting equity in health outcomes for all." →

In a speech to U-M students during her visit, Princess Zahra Aga Khan celebrated the partnership, emphazing that the alliance between U-M and AKU exemplifies the transformative potential of international academic partnerships to tackle key health challenges,. Through their joint efforts, they are crafting a narrative of hope, equity, and progress, ensuring that the future of healthcare in Africa and beyond remains bright. ■

Externally Funded Projects

- Leveraging Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Technology to Overcome Specialized Training and Technology Barriers for the Diagnosis and Prognostication of Colorectal Cancer in Africa
- **Eneza Data Science**: Enhancing Data Science Capacity and Tools for Health in East Africa
- **LOSHAK**: Longitudinal Study of Health and Aging in Kenya
- **UZIMA-DS**: UtiliZing Health Information for Meaningful Impact in East Africa through Data Science

AKU & CGHE PARTNERSHIP

By the numbers

$8.6m
active external funding

150
faculty, fellows, and staff engaged

20
trainings, certifications, seminars, & presentations

10
scholarly exchanges

11
collaborative publications

Senior leadership from U-M and AKU, including Princess Zahra Aga Khan, convened to celebrate the ongoing partnership in Ann Arbor.

CGHE member Bhramar Mukherjee gave a presentation on her research to a delegation of AKU leadership.

Sulaiman Shahabuddin, president of AKU, engaged with CGHE researchers after a series of faculty presentations.

CGHE member Brahmajee Nallamothu updates AKU senior leadership on his research.

U-M students hosted a luncheon for Prinecss Zara Aga Khan during her visit to Ann Arbor.

CGHE member Akbar Waljee and founding executive director Joe Kolars provided a campus tour to Princess Zahra.

Princess Zara (left) and AKU president Sulaiman Shahabuddin (middle) met with senior U-M leadership including U-M Provost Laurie McCauley (right) to share the achievements of the AKU-CGHE partnership to date.

U-M president Santa Ono met with senior leadership from AKU, including Provost (pictured here), envisioning expanded partnerships.

SCAN ME

See the best moments from the October 2023 visit of AKU's senior leadership to Ann Arbor!

Understanding Water Access Beyond Piped Connections: A Comprehensive Study in Mexico

Traditionally, metrics for assessing water access have centered on the availability of piped water connections to households. However, a landmark research project supported by CGHE offers a more comprehensive understanding of water accessibility by assessing water intermittency at the household level in Mexico. This interdisciplinary project, led by Elizabeth Roberts from the Department of Anthropology at the University of Michigan, helps close a significant gap in knowledge as policymakers seek to make urban water safer, more sustainable and more equitable.

Global efforts have significantly boosted the number of people able to access a water connection, with some estimates placing the world on target for 94% coverage by 2030. These numbers represent one of the largest public health victories achieved to date. However, simply having a water connection nearby is not a guarantor of clean water, emphasizes Roberts. When water supply is intermittent, people need to collect and store water to ensure they have enough to meet their needs. This, in turn, increases the the risk of contamination from bacterial growth as the water stagnates.

Almost one billion people worldwide are estimated to live with an intermittent water supply—with these numbers predicted to increase as water supplies are strained in the face of rapidly changing weather patterns and infrastructure declines. Marginalized communities often bear the brunt of this threat to health, further exacerbating already existing health and economic disparities. In particular, women within these communities are doubly burdened as they are often responsible for both water management as well as ongoing household management responsibilities. Despite the known challenges related to intermittent water supplies around the world, emphasizes Roberts, data related to how often individuals actually receive water from their primary collection point remains scarce.

> “The binary metric of ‘piped water: yes or no’ often used in evaluations overlooks the crucial aspect of water supply reliability”.
>
> *— Elizabeth Roberts*

Both she and her co-investigators — students and researchers with deep ties to Mexico — wanted to know how this challenge impacted communities across the country. Representing a wide range of disciplines, the team's approach was remarkable for the breadth of expertise the team brought to the table with specialists from public health, anthropology, nutrition, economics, and biostatistics. The composition of the team, representing both academia and the public health sector, exemplifies the critical role that such co-designed research and interventions play in driving systemic changes and enhancements that benefit community populations.

The team comprised (in alphabetical order):

- Zoe Boudart, Anthropology, U-M Medicine
- Juan Carlos Figueroa Morales, Biostatistics, Drexel University
- Faith Cole, Anthropology, UCLA
- José Luis Figueroa-Oropeza, Health Economics, Evaluation & Survey Research at the National Institute of Public Health, Mexico
- Alejandra Rodríguez, Health Economics, Evaluation and Survey Research, National Institute of Public Health, Mexico
- Brisa Sánchez, Biostatistics, Drexel University
- Martha (Mara) Téllez Rojo, Center for Nutrition and Health Research, National Institute of Public Health, Mexico

While almost 95% of Mexican households have a water connection (according to the national census) preliminary research conducted by the team found that this number does not necessarily mean that households have regular and predictable access to water. Combined results from open-ended household interviews, ethnographic observations about household water infrastructure and water management, and analysis of a large survey from Mexico City, found that household members spent significant parts of their day managing their water supply. And, the team found, that households have developed robust storing practices to buffer themselves from the impacts of intermittent supply.

According to research team lead Mara Téllez Rojo, "Overconfidence in this 95% number as a metric of success hides the fact that regular and predictable water supply is not a guarantee for these families. The challenge now is to understand the depth of

this intermittency issue and find solutions to ensure reliable water access for all."

Téllez Rojo, Roberts, Figueroa-Oropeza and their team led an effort to place several questions about water intermittency on the Encuesta Nacional de Salud y Nutrición (ENSANUT), an annual national survey about health and nutrition carried out in 10,000 households. As part of the 2022 edition of the national survey, the team gathered information about how many days per week and hours per day respondents had access to water, rather than simply asking if households had a water connection.

The findings show that, even with extensive water network connections, numerous households contend with considerable challenges due to intermittent water supply. In fact, only 17% of families had continuous water all year long, necessitating the need for water storage solutions. While households across socio-economic classes experienced some level of intermittency, households not connected to the water infrastructure faced the most extreme levels of water scarcity. These households relied on neighbors to share their public supply or on water deliveries from tanker trucks that deliver water to fill neighborhood or →

household storage containers for a fee. And, emphasized researcher Figueroa-Oropeza, the team's findings are important to help other researchers better understand the challenges faced by communities so that future health interventions are more successful.

> "The results of our new study help to quantify the scale of the problem in Mexico so that researchers can better understand important contributors to chronic health conditions and, one day, **build the interventions necessary to improve the health of these communities.** "
>
> *— José Luís Figueroa-Oropeza*

This project was funded by a CGHE Challenge Grant.

Related Publications

(PLOS Water)
Making Scarcity "enough": The hidden household costs of adapting to water scarcity in Mexico City
myumi.ch/Z39Jb

(Salud Pública de México)
¿Agua para todos? La intermitencia en el suministro de agua en los hogares en México
myumi.ch/x7GZm

In the news

(Reforma)
Resiente el 83% de hogares la escasez de agua
myumi.ch/kxX63

(Michigan News)
How households adapt to water scarcity: New study sheds light on hidden costs of global issue
myumi.ch/gR46W

Next-Generation Vaccine Cards: New Tech for Improved Equity in Africa

As rates of vaccine coverage sharply decline around the world, an interdisciplinary team of researchers from the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) and the University of Michigan has co-designed an ambitious project to promote vaccine equity in Kenya and Uganda—a digital vaccine card. The Next-Generation Vaccine Card project was awarded $1.1 million from the U-M Center for Global Health Equity as part of the Center's Global Vaccine Equity Initiative because the project's secure, open-source application complements—rather than competes with—existing provider-facing electronic medical record and vaccination record systems.

Kenya and Uganda both rank among some of the least vaccinated countries in the world. In Kenya, only 80% of children aged 12-23 months complete recommended vaccinations, with only 55% of children in Uganda receiving their vaccinations. These figures are well below the 90% target set by the World Health Organization (WHO). A significant stumbling block for caregivers as well as health officials is the difficulties in maintaining and safeguarding paper-based vaccine records. For caregivers, this document is meant to provide a single list of the vaccinations the children in their care have received. However, these important records of care are easily lost, often do not have backups, and are difficult to compare across clinics—a challenge not just to patients and their families, but also to health officials looking to ensure children across large geographic areas are receiving the care they need. And, emphasizes Gershim Asiki, research scientist with the APHRC and co-PI on the project, the lack of easily accessed patient-level vaccination data poses a threat to public health.

> "A lack of precise, reliable information of to whom, when, and where vaccines were administered at individual, facility, and population levels **hinders effective control of vaccine-preventable diseases**."
>
> *— Gershim Asiki*

Asiki and his colleagues are hoping to address this significant challenge "by centering the needs of parents and caregivers [and] then moving outward to address the needs of healthcare providers and database officials," said project co-lead Emily Treleaven, who is a faculty member of the U-M Institute for Social Research and a member of CGHE.

Other members of the project team represent a wide range of subject matter experts and researchers with deep ties to Ghana and Kenya.

Members include (in alphabetical order):

- Godfrey Adero, APHRC
- David Hutton, U-M Public Health
- Patrick Ilboudo, APHRC
- Caroline Karugu, APHRC
- Gwenyth Lee, Epidemiology & Biostatistics, Rutgers University
- Stephen Luchacha, APHRC
- Daniel Maina, APHRC
- Emily Martin, U-M Public Health
- Nelson Mbaya, APHRC
- Richard Sanya, APHRC
- Geoffrey Siwo, U-M Learning Health Sciences

In addition to the core research team, efforts are also being guided by critical stakeholders from the Kenyan and Ugandan Ministries of Health. Ministry representatives have directly informed the study's design and also hold ongoing consultative roles as the project moves forward towards implementation and assessment stages.

It's this collaborative spirit that the team hopes will lead to a successful roll out of a tool that, if well implemented, could help health workers ensure that their patients are getting the right care in the right way at the right time. ■

This project was funded by the CGHE Global Vaccine Equity Initiative.

About the CGHE Global Vaccine Equity Initiative

In 2023, CGHE awarded $1.9 million to advance the development of technologies and interventions designed to reduce vaccine inequity in low- and middle-income countries.

An interdisciplinary team of researchers from the Universitas Syiah Kuala and the University of Michigan received $827,000 for their project to partner with religious and community leaders in Muslim-majority communities in Indonesia as advocates for routine childhood vaccinations.

Learn more about the project: myumi.ch/zXV6b

Researchers from the African Population Health and Research Center and the University of Michigan —alongside partners from the Ministries of Health in Rwanda and Kenya— are joining forces to develop digital vaccination records, accesible to patients via mobile phone.

Learn more about the project: myumi.ch/wyAjz

Three Years In, CGHE Marks Early Successes with High Profile Celebration at U-M

In March, the University of Michigan hosted a wide-ranging celebration of global health equity work across the university, punctuated by a visit from Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the World Health Organization.

With the School of Public Health and the President's Office, the Center was part of leading a convocation and panel discussion on Monday, March 13, during which Dr. Tedros received the Thomas Francis Jr. Medal in Global Public Health, one of the highest honors conveyed by the university.

On Tuesday, March 14, the Center hosted C*elebrating the Movement: Global Health Equity at Michigan*—a large gathering of many of the university's faculty, staff, and student leaders in global health. Guests met U-M student organization and global health unit leaders, engaged in poster and lightning presentations about U-M research projects in global health equity, and explored the Center's history and ongoing development—including Tachi Yamada's important legacy in global health and the impact of the Yamada family's generosity in catalyzing the Center.

Dr. Tedros was the keynote speaker at the celebration event, and he reminded the assembly that, for all the recent advancements made in health, we still have a thirty-year difference in life expectancy between countries with the strongest health systems and those with the least developed. "Access and affordability are two of the most important determinants of health outcomes," Tedros observed.

> "Health is not only a fundamental human right, but it is also a means to development."
>
> *— Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus*

Along with Dr. Tedros, many members of the Yamada family, including Tachi's wife Leslie, joined us to celebrate the growing movement around global health equity on campus and beyond. With the Center's remarkable early success—including a large, growing network of U-M and global members and nearly $3 million already invested in impactful →

research projects around the world—the energy at the event and the participants' passion for global health equity were undeniable.

In his remarks, Dr. Tedros shared the World Health Organization's commitment to continue working with the University of Michigan. "I wish to applaud the emphasis the Center is placing on equity, which I find relatively unique," he said.

> "I am very glad that the Center is here, and the WHO can benefit from what you are doing."
>
> *— Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus*

The response from those in attendance was encouraging. "The passion and commitment of the people involved was palpable and inspiring," said Sanae Yamada, daughter of Leslie and Tachi Yamada. "I felt my dad was with us in spirit, and I know it all would have made him incredibly happy."

"It's clear from all of this that we're doing well, that we should be doing more of precisely this kind of work, and that we're propelling a vibrant movement," said Kolars. "That kind of external validation is priceless given how new the Center is and how ambitious we are in our mission to support health equity being realized in communities around the world." ■

View the full recording of the main event on our Youtube channel!

(L-R) U-M President Santa Ono, Director-General of the WHO Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, CGHE Executive Director Joe Kolars.

Members of the The Quito Project, a CGHE-supported student organization: (L-R) Alana Rodriguez, Darius Moore, Ryann Halland, Roni Kane, Chelsea Schroeder-Lozada

During the event, attendees had the opportunity to learn more about the work of CGHE members during a poster session where researchers presented their findings.

CGHE members and U-M faculty shared the results of ongoing efforts to advance global health equity across disciplines.

CGHE member and Assistant Professor of the Department of Health Behavior and Biological Sciences Massy Matumba gave a presentation during the event.

Takao Yamada, son of founding donors Tachi and Leslie Yamada, engaged in discussion with U-M provost Laurie McCauley during a celebration reception for CGHE members.

Director-General of the WHO Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus engaged with CGHE members, learning more about their work to advance global health equity.

U-M faculty and CGHE members engaged with student organizations who presented their work in global health equity.

Director-General of the WHO Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus spoke to the importance of global health equity during his keynote address.

CGHE member and Professor of Civil Engineering Nancy Love presented the results of a recent study she led focusing on the interface between water, infrastructure, and public health.

The poster session hosted by CGHE provided a platform for U-M faculty to share their research with colleagues from across the university.

Founding donor Leslie Yamada spoke with CGHE members as she toured the research poster display.

New Collaborative Platform in Ghana Advances Healthcare through Partnership

Over the last two years, CGHE has made significant steps towards the development of a groundbreaking collaborative platform in Ghana, marking a significant evolution in the longstanding partnership between U-M and Ghana's national health leadership. Known as the Ghana U-M Health Impact Platform, this initiative aims to transform healthcare delivery and outcomes through interdisciplinary research, capacity building, and clinical training, across a wide range of health disciplines.

CGHE is placing significant investments to further leverage longstanding, bidirectional partnership between the University of Michigan and a consortium of national-level stakeholders in Ghana including the Ministry of Health, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the College of Nurses and Midwives, and the Christian Health Association of Ghana. The ultimate avvv This collaborative platform is poised to broaden the scope of high-quality healthcare by sharing knowledge and resources strategically, fostering cross-disciplinary research, and offering clinical training designed to yield tangible improvements in the quality and accessibility of healthcare services. Our strategic direction emphasizes the expansion of these partnerships beyond academic medical centers, empowering regional hospitals to evolve into centers of excellence for training, research, and service delivery. These hubs will be instrumental in elevating health outcomes across Ghana, reaching out into areas far beyond the major cities and advanced care facilities.

To achieve these goals, the platform will employ a multi-disciplinary strategy that unites medical professionals, academics, and field experts dedicated to enhancing health research and building clinical capabilities. This alliance of diverse expertise will be critical in shaping

Senior leadership from the CGHE and Ghana's health sector are building on years of partnerships and collaborations to drive impactful projects to improve health outcomes throughout the country under the new Ghana U-M Health Impact Platform.

a more equitable and sustainable health environment in Ghana.

The first project delivered through this platform will focus on strengthening health systems in the Bono East region of the country with the aim of developing scalable models of capacity building in training, research, and community engagement. Over the next year, CGHE members will work in close collaboration with the Ghana Health Service and the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons, to conduct a needs assessment in regional hospitals and health centers. The assessment will be used to identify further areas of partnership to improve health outcomes at the population level. ■

Leaders from the Government of Ghana, a consortium of Ghanaian medical schools, and external supporting partners gathered with the CGHE to discuss the new platform in 2022.

Senior leadership from the CGHE and Ghana's health sector collaborated to design the Impact platform in meetings held in Ghana in November 2022.

Community stakeholders and traditional leaders in Techiman convened for a sensitization meeting prior to the platform's launch.

Senior leadership from Holy Family Hospital, a collaborating partner, met with CGHE members during a recent site visit.

Announcing a New $10M Gift from the Yamada Family

The Center for Global Health Equity (CGHE) is excited to announce a generous donation of $10 million from Leslie Yamada and her family, further solidifying the University of Michigan's commitment to advancing global health equity. This substantial contribution follows an initial gift of $10 million made by Leslie and her late husband, Tadataka "Tachi" Yamada, to establish the Center. With this newest commitment, the Yamada family has now pledged $20 million to the Center to advance global health equity.

Through their gift, the Yamada family brings resources and attention to critical efforts to advance global health equity. Their profound dedication to the Center's mission and longstanding relationship with the university have been a guiding light since the Center's launch in 2020. Their initial gift created the Center, provided substantive funding for impactful global health equity research, and supported the work of various partnerships singularly focused on improving the health and well-being of communities in low- and middle-income countries. Their vision of a world where everyone has sustainable opportunities to realize optimal mental and physical health sits at the heart of the Center and all that we do.

This new donation contributes significantly to the Center's long-term financial stability, allowing us to build a robust foundation for future programming.

"We are profoundly grateful for the Yamada family's continued commitment to our mission," said Joseph C. Kolars, MD, executive director of CGHE.

> "This latest donation is not only a reinforcement of their belief in our work, but also a crucial step in preserving and honoring Tachi's legacy as a visionary in this field."
>
> *— Joseph Kolars*

"Their continued support and dedication are vital in our pursuit of a world where equitable access to health care is not an aspiration but a reality," said Kolars.

"We extend our deepest gratitude to Leslie and her family for their unwavering commitment to advancing global health equity. Their legacy is a beacon of hope and a reminder of the power of collective action in addressing some of the most pressing health challenges of our time." ■

Hear CGHE executive director Joe Kolars speak about the impact of the Yamada Family's initial $10m commitment to global health equity at the University of Michigan.

CENTER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Nuturing Early-Career Scholars

Impact Scholars

Preparing exceptional early-career scholars for work in global health equity research & program development

Advancing Global Health Equity—One Researcher at a Time

Collaborating with a multidisciplinary team of U-M faculty mentors, each Scholar at the Center for Global Health Equity (CGHE) actively participates in projects that offer a direct line of sight to tangible impact. These projects span across multiple key themes prioritized by the Center, all integral to promoting health equity on a broader scale. Distinct from traditional post-doctoral programs, CGHE's approach emphasizes this direct impact potential over conventional metrics such as extramural grants, publications, and academic promotions.

Our focus is on the real-world effects of our research, aiming to quantify the actual change in terms of lives transformed, impacted, and improved. Each scholar is required to demonstrate a clear path to meaningful impact.

This unique commitment to people-centric outcomes distinguishes our program and aligns with our goal of molding future researchers. We aim to equip them to be effective change-makers in the communities they engage with. The program is tailored to support early-career researchers dedicated to conducting research that promises significant health benefits, especially in low- and middle-income countries. ■

2023 COHORT

Nazeeba Siddika

Mentor Marie O'Neill, U-M Public Health

Topic Climate Change, Air Pollution, Temperature, Greeness: Impact on Birth Outcomes

María José Baeza Robba

Mentor Michelle Munro-Kramer, U-M Nursing

Topic Intimate Partner Violence: Help-Seeking Behaviors and Responses in Low- & Middle-Income Countries

Kevin Martínez-Folgar

Mentor David Flood, U-M Internal Medicine

Topic Strategies for Reducing Chronic Disease Incidence and Disparities in Urban Environments

Nate Nessle

Mentor Joe Kolars, CGHE

Topic Preventing Death, Improving Life, & Decreasing the Burden of Disease in Children with Cancer Sickle Cell Disease in Sub-Saharan Africa

Host organization Kenya-Moi University

2022 COHORT

Heather Tucker

Mentor — Gary Harper, U-M Public Health

Topic — Enhancing Health Research Impact & Data Quality through Feminist Ethnography & Participatory Methods

Uttam Sharma

Mentor — William Axinn, U-M Institute for Social Research

Topic — Leveraging Applied Economics Research to Better Invest in Health & Wellbeing

CENTER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Student Programs

CGHE Launches New Grant Program for U-M Student Organizations

This year, CGHE introduced its inaugural Student Organization Global Health Equity Challenge. This multi-month program encourages U-M student organizations to create equitable collaborations aimed at enhancing health and well-being in low- and middle-income countries.

An introductory workshop, held in Ann Arbor on December 1, 2023, marked the beginning of the Challenge. The event, spanning four hours, provided students with essential knowledge and tools for crafting effective proposals. The workshop featured interactive learning and discussions, facilitated by trainers from CGHE, The Ginsberg Center for Community Service and Learning, and the Taubman Health Sciences Library. Topics covered included sustainable health interventions and community partnerships, with a focus on interactive learning and brainstorming.

Asmita Tuladhar, a participant from student organization M-HEAL Project Mesa, felt that she gained a solid foundation in equitable programming and co-design approaches to use when developing impactful mission work in the future.

> "I came in not knowing what to expect, but I feel like I stepped away with a strong foundation in how we can be more effective in our mission to make an impact."
>
> *— Asmita Tuladhar*

Post-workshop, student organizations were invited to submit pitch proposals detailing innovative solutions or interventions to improve health in targeted countries. Finalists will collaborate with CGHE faculty and staff to refine their pitches for a competition event in early 2024. The competition offers up to $5,000 in funding for winning projects and will be judged by a panel of interdisciplinary experts from U-M. Projects will be implemented with ongoing support from CGHE and global partners. ■

Research Internships

CGHE's paid summer research internship program matches highly motivated graduate students with U-M faculty working to advance global health equity.

Aneesha Parvathaneni
U-M Public Health

Mentor — Basit Zafar, U-M Economics

Topic — The Role of Informational and Psychological Constraints in Childhood Immunization Uptake

Reva Butensky
U-M Environment & Sustainability

Mentor — Omolade Adunbi, U-M African Studies Center

Topic — Mitigating the Health & Socio-economic Impacts of Water Intermittency in Mexico

Praneetha Vissapragada
U-M Medical School

Mentor — Scott Greer, U-M Public Health

Topic — Governance Incentives for Sharing Misinformation: Informing Health and Political Behavior in India

Amit Das
U-M Information

Mentor — Lee Schroeder, U-M Pathology

Topic — Improving the Effectiveness of Lab Networks for Infectious Diseases in Ghana

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Maya Almoussa
U-M Medical School

Mentor — Elizabeth F.S. Roberts, U-M Anthropology

Topic — Mitigating the Health & Socio-economic Impacts of Water Intermittency in Mexico

Cristian Cruz Moreno
U-M Applied Economics

Mentor — Michelle Bellino, U-M Education

Topic — Peace Education & Social Integration in Bogotá, Colombia

Elizabeth Foot
U-M Nutritional Sciences

Mentor — Maria Muzik, U-M Psychiatry

Topic — Developing a Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Address Maternal Depression

Nidhi Tigadi
U-M Social Work

Mentor — Gary Harper, U-M Public Health

Topic — Integrating Mental Health into Community-Based HIV Prevention & Care

Kawechi Katundu
U-M Nursing

Mentor — Michelle Munro-Kramer, U-M Nursing

Topic — Gender-Based Violence on University Campuses Across Sub-Saharan Africa

Wendy Tsay
U-M Health Informatics

Mentor — Prashant Mahajan, U-M Emergency Medicine

Topic — Emergency Care Delivery Systems Across the World

Lauren Wojciechowski
U-M Design Science

Mentor — Julia Kramer, U-M Mechanical Engineering

Topic — Improving Family Planning Counseling & Follow-Up Approaches

Navdeep Kaur
U-M Public Health

Mentor — Emily Treleaven, U-M Institute for Social Research

Topic — Innovations in E-Records to Improve Vaccine Equity in Rural and Urban Settings in East Africa

LEARN MORE

For more information about our internship program and to view descriptions for each project, visit our website!

Student Research Development Grants

CGHE’s grant program supports the field work of early career researchers advancing global health equity in their field.

CGHE proudly marked the first year of grant programming for graduate students at the university. A cornerstone of our mission, this initiative has made significant strides in advancing global health equity. This year, we've supported an even more diverse cohort of scholars from disciplines including Anthropology, Environmental Studies, History, Medicine, Public Health, and Social Work. These early career researchers have undertaken exciting projects, as seen on the next page, that showcase the expansive and multifaceted realm of equity-focused health research.

More than financial support, CGHE has provided a robust framework for professional development. Tailored pre-departure training, ongoing fieldwork support, and reflective post-trip sessions have been integral in equipping our scholars with the tools and mindset to drive meaningful change in global health equity.

The diversity of academic backgrounds among our researchers has been a rich source of innovative ideas and solutions. Each scholar brings their unique expertise to the table, creating a vibrant community united by a common goal: forging a more equitable world. As these emerging leaders progress in their careers, they embody CGHE's ethos of collaborative and inclusive health research.

Looking ahead, CGHE is excited to expand upon this legacy. We are committed to nurturing a new generation of global health equity leaders, consistently pushing the boundaries of what's possible in healthcare research. ■

Talia Bailes
U-M Medical School
Topic — A Collaboration to Investigate Community Dance on Children's Health and Well-Being in Colombia

Allison Cheung
U-M Medical School
Topic — Developing a Locally-Informed Climate Risk Survey to Characterize the Health Impacts of Climate Change in Western Kenya

Ayleen Correa
U-M Anthropology, History
Topic — Developing Psychological Communal Responses to Trauma from Post-State Violence in the Dominican Republic

David Grace
U-M Environment & Sustainability
Topic — The Impact of Religious Networks on Forest Conservation and Health Outcomes in India

Phong Hong
U-M Public Health
Topic — The Promise of Early Warning Systems for Dengue Control

Maheen Humayun
U-M Epidemiology
Topic — Understanding Gaps in Tuberculosis Surveillance in Pakistan

Kieu Anh Phan
U-M Public Health
Topic — Investigating the Disparities and Impacts of Climate Change on Food Choices among Urban Youth in Vietnam

Irene Routte
U-M Social Work, Anthropology
Topic — Environmental Determinants Impacting the Mental Health of Refugee Youth in Camp Settings in Rwanda

LEARN MORE

For more information about our research grant program for graduate students and to view descriptions for each project, visit our website!

Student Organizations

CGHE is home to two global health student organizations, providing mentorship and guidance to their members and their projects around the world.

The Quito Project

Established in 2004, The Quito Project (TQP) enhances health and education in Quito, Ecuador, through dynamic partnerships with local educators, health professionals, and communities. Committed to social justice and fostering global citizenship among its student members, TQP has developed long standing partnerships with Ecuadorian partners at the Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Cáritas la Primavera, and Fundación Hospital de los Valles to co-design and fund a health and lifeskills summer program for children aged 5-12. This past summer, the program expanded to serve over 100 children.

Global Health Alliance

Global Health Alliance (GHA) is a grassroots student organization strengthening the movement for global health equity both here in Michigan and abroad. Emphasizing a sustainable partnership model, GHA ensures mutual respect and shared decision-making in collaborations. Committed to long-term impact, GHA partners with organizations for at least five years, aiming to nurture them towards self-sufficiency. GHA's support extends to fundraising, developing educational materials, staffing events, and community outreach. Key partnerships include Green Umbrella in Tutor, Cambodia, and Joy Southfield Community Development Corporation in Detroit, Michigan.

The Year in Pictures

JANUARY

CGHE leadership, faculty, and staff gathered for a team-building retreat on the Ann Arbor campus.

FEBRUARY

CGHE leadership and members travelled to Kenya for the annual UZIMA-DS meeting, held on the AKU campus in Nairobi.

MARCH

The U-M global health community, including CGHE, welcomed Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the WHO to campus.

JUNE

Impact Scholar Heather Tucker (left) met with colleagues from the Western Kenya LBQT Feminist Forum: Caroline Rucah and Rebecca Ogembo Odhiambo.

JULY

The Quito Project, a U-M student organization supported by CGHE, kicked off their third year of programming in Ecuador.

AUGUST

Members of Eco2librium distributed tree seedlings to a community in Busia County, Kenya during a site visit by Allison Cheung, a recipient of a research development grant from CGHE.

OCTOBER

CGHE hosted Princess Zahra Aga Khan (far right) and a delegation led by Aga Khan University president Sulaiman Shahabuddin (far left).

OCTOBER

Members came together for our Fall Community Gathering event to build networks and learn about new research in global health equity.

OCTOBER

CGHE staff and members met with Ghana Platform partners during the project kick off for the Ghana U-M Health Impact Platform.

APRIL

Minister of Health of Rwanda Sabin Nsanzimana led a discussion on global health equity on the Ann Arbor campus.

MAY

CGHE and the William Davidson Institute co-hosted their first-ever Global Health Commercialization Competition.

MAY

CGHE hosted the 2023 cohorts of our Summer Development Grant and Research Internship programs for a one-day workshop focused on health equity.

AUGUST

Phong Hong, recipient of a research development grant from CGHE, presented the findings from a dengue forecasting app to community members in Vietnam.

SEPTEMBER

CGHE hosted its first ever Joint Challenge Group meeting at the School of Public Health.

SEPTEMBER

CGHE member Jody Lori was awarded the U-M President's Award for Distinguished Service in International Education.

NOVEMBER

As part of our ongoing seminar series focused on the impacts of climate change on health, CGHE welcomed Paige Fischer to share her research on wildfires and health.

DECEMBER

Representatives from global health student organizations participated in our first-ever workshop marking the launch of our Student Organization Global Health Equity Challenge.

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