Global Health Field Scholar Project Summary Countries
Summer 2020

Brazil
Costa Rica
Ethiopia
Ghana (summary coming soon)
Mexico
Peru
South Africa
Tanzania
USA (two projects)
**Brazil**

**Country/City:** Curitiba, Brazil

**Key Terms:** Violence against Women, Health Policy, Femicides, Intimate Partner Violence, Law Enforcement, Legislation, Risk Assessment

**Faculty Name:** Dabney P. Evans, PhD, MPH

**Faculty School/Department:** Rollins School of Public Health/Hubert Department of Global Health

**Contact:** dabney.evans@emory.edu; 404-727-3061

**Project Name:** Femicide Prevention in Brazil: Understanding women’s experiences and validating a femicide risk assessment tool

**Project Dates:** Summer 2020

**Language Requirement:** Oral and written Portuguese preferred, but not required

**Partner Organization(s):** Universidade Federal do Paraná/Federal University of Paraná and Casa da Mulher Brasileira-Curitiba/House of the Brazilian Women of Curitiba

**Project Description:** Brazil ranks fifth in the world for female homicides [1] of which more than a third are the result of intimate partner violence (IPV). [2-3] IPV results in significant negative health outcomes and in the case of femicide, mortality. [3] The Maria da Penha (MDP) Law – enacted in 2006 - codified, criminalized and established penalties for Violence against Women (VAW) and established formal support systems for abused women. [4] In 2015, Anti-Femicide legislation was passed further strengthening existing law by criminalizing gender-based killings. [5] However, there is insufficient evidence relating to justice and law enforcement interventions and no data on their effectiveness in preventing or responding to VAW. [6] To address this gap, the proposed study will explore the experiences of women who have survived a femicide attempt and validate a Portuguese translation of the Danger Assessment, a femicide risk assessment tool. Formative validation of the translation has already been completed and this project will build upon that work. Data collection will take place at the Casa da Mulher Brasileira in Curitiba, Brasil. Emory students will be partnered a student/students from the Federal University of Paraná.

**Student Responsibilities:**

Students with qualitative experience: Will work with the faculty advisor to develop original in-depth interview guides for survivors of attempted femicide and key informants working with survivors of intimate partner violence. Will work with the staff of Casa da Mulher Brasileira to identify women for inclusion in qualitative interviews about their experience of attempted femicide. Will conduct in-depth interviews with women identified for inclusion in the study and analyze the subsequent data. Will similarly conduct interviews with key informants working with survivors of intimate partner violence and analyze the subsequent data.
Students with quantitative experience: Will work with the staff of the Casa da Mulher Brasileira to identify women for inclusion in the quantitative validation of the Danger Assessment instrument. Will collect and analyze the data for instrument validation. May also include a review of the current processes for the identification and referring system for women at high risk of femicide.

Student Responsibilities (3-5 students per multidisciplinary student team):

- Collect and analyze quantitative data to validate the Portuguese translation of the Danger Assessment;
- Design a qualitative in depth interview guide for use with femicide attempt survivors;
- Conduct and analyze qualitative interviews with femicide attempt survivors;
- Provide a presentation of preliminary data to community partners before the conclusion of time in country.

Preferred qualifications:

- Portuguese preferred
- Quantitative analysis skills
- Qualitative data collection and analysis skills using MAXQDA
- Survivor centered/trauma informed care
- Ability to compassionately listen to stories of femicide survivors
- Strong written and oral communication
- Willingness to work on a team in a middle-income country including behaving with cultural humility and reflexivity about power and privilege.

Students from these schools are preferred:

Public Health, Medicine, Nursing or other health sciences, Emory College or Laney Graduate School (Anthropology, Sociology, Master of Development Practice)

How to apply: Interested candidates should contact Dr. Dabney Evans, dabney.evans@emory.edu to set up a time to meet to discuss the project.
COSTA RICA

Country/City: Multiple rural sites, Costa Rica

Key Terms: Rabies, bats, spatial analysis, zoonosis, risk assessment

Faculty Name: Dr. Thomas R. Gillespie

Faculty School/Department: Departments of Environmental Sciences and Environmental Health, Emory University and Rollins School of Public Health

Contact email and phone: thomas.gillespie@emory.edu 404.727.7926

Project Name: Ecology of bat rabies in Costa Rica: from field surveys to disease management

Project Dates: Summer 2020

Language Requirement/Preferences: Spanish

Partner Organization(s): University of Costa Rica

Project Description: Land use changes, such as farming and agricultural intensification, increase the interactions among humans, domestic animals and wildlife, allowing for exposure to pathogens that cause illnesses and economical losses. One important example, Rabies, is a fatal but preventable viral disease that infects the central nervous system. Although, most rabies cases in people around the world are caused by dog bites, rabies most frequently occurs in wild animals like raccoons, squirrels and bats. From Mexico to northern Argentina, where the common vampire bat (Desmodus rotundus) occurs, bats are an important source of wildlife rabies and livestock rabies cases occur with striking frequency. Intensification of livestock rearing has created a novel, abundant and reliable source of blood that has caused population growth and geographic range expansions for vampire bats. These resource shifts paired with other pressures related to human encroachment, can also have important consequences for the transmission of rabies by altering community composition, animal interactions and host immunity.

Our project aims to better understand how human activities and human-bat-livestock overlap affect the dynamics of rabies (i.e., prevalence) in bat communities, with special focus on vampire bats. We will compare communities of bats that roost in permanent structures, such as caves and tunnels, in landscapes of undisturbed forests and those roosting near pastures and agricultural landscapes in Costa Rica. We will assess the health status of the bat communities, describe the diversity of rabies genotypes and compare them with strains that have been reported before for humans and domestic animals through phylogenetic analysis. Additionally, we will assess the risk of transmission using spatial analysis to contrast rabies cases, land use and livestock rearing intensity. Finally, we will conduct surveys with farmers living in close proximity to sampled roosts, to assess their knowledge, attitude, perception, and encounters with bats. This information will be used by our in-country partner, the University of Costa Rica, as well as state public health professionals, and the Ministries of Health and Agriculture. This work will help identify human populations demonstrating risky behaviors, including rural populations who may have higher rates of interaction with bats.
Student Responsibilities (3-5 students per multidisciplinary student team):

RSPH/Anthropology/Sociology student: This student will help develop a Knowledge Attitude Perception (KAP) survey about rabies and bats. The student will work with the staff and students from the University of Costa Rica to identify farms and communities around sampling sites for inclusion in field survey. Student may also conduct interviews to identified population at risk.

RSHP student: This student will work on spatial analysis integrating data on land use, livestock density and rabies epidemiology at the national level to help identify risk factors associated with the disease. The student will also integrate the empirical findings from other team members in the analysis.

Environmental Sciences/Biology/GDBBS student: This student will collaborate with the staff and students from the University of Costa Rica to survey caves and tunnels where bats roost. The student will process, sample, and release bats in the field.

Environmental Sciences/Biology/GDBBS/RSHP student: This student will collaborate with staff and students from the University of Costa Rica to conduct laboratory analyses of the bat samples collected in our field survey. Analyses will take place at the University of Costa Rica in the Virology section of the Faculty of Microbiology. These include molecular and serological analyses.

Preferred qualifications:

- Oral and written Spanish preferred or required
- Strong oral and written communication, as well as interpersonal and organizational skills
- Willingness to work on a team in a developing country.

Students from these schools are preferred: Rollins School of Public Health (Global Health, Environmental Health, Epidemiology, Statistics), Emory College (Environmental Sciences, Biology), Laney Graduate School (GDBBS, Anthropology, Sociology)

Additional Project Info: Students must be vaccinated against rabies

How to apply: Interested candidates should contact Dr. Thomas Gillespie at thomas.gillespie@emory.edu to schedule a time to meet to meet with members of our lab group to discuss the project.
ETHIOPIA

Country/City: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Key Terms: drug-resistant; tuberculosis, outcomes, catastrophic costs, quality of life, mental health

Faculty Name: Russell Kempker, MD, MSc*

Additional Faculty: Henry Blumberg, MD*; Dawn Comeau, PhD^

Faculty School/Department: *School of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases: ^ Emory Rollins School of Public Health, Department of Behavioral Sciences and Health Education

Contact email and phone: rkempke@emory.edu; 404-251-8701

Project Name: A Multidisciplinary Evaluation of Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis

Project Dates: Summer 2020 (~June-August)

Language Requirement/Preferences: No requirement; Preference for Amharic

Partner Organization(s): Addis Ababa University (AAU); Armauer Hansen Research Institute (AHRI)

Project Description: Tuberculosis is the leading cause of infectious disease related mortality in the world with most disease and related death concentrated in low and middle-income countries. Ethiopia, the setting of this research project, is a WHO declared high burden country for tuberculosis including both prevalent tuberculosis and HIV coinfection cases as well as drug-resistant disease. Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis disease is a particular concern as it is a hard to treat form of disease associated with high rates of mortality. Additionally, treatment may require a prolonged hospitalization period of a few months and a total duration up to 20 months. Tuberculosis remains a stigmatizing disease and one associated with high financial costs and negative social consequences for patients. We are proposing a mixed methods study to explore various aspects of drug-resistant tuberculosis including the following: 1) an evaluation of the clinical and social behavioral outcomes of patients with drug-resistant tuberculosis receiving newly implemented and approved anti-TB drugs; 2) a gender based comparison of clinical and social behavioral outcomes for patients with tuberculosis disease; 3) an assessment of the financial burden of TB on the patients and family members; and, 4) an assessment of the legal policies in Addis Ababa that exist to enforce TB treatment adherence; 5) qualitative evaluation of trainee perceptions of the impact of NIH-funded research training programs in Ethiopia including the “Ethiopia-Emory TB Research Training Program”). These studies will be carried out in collaboration with long-standing in-country partners at Addis Ababa University, the Armauer Hansen Research Institute (AHRI), and the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI). Students will utilize each of their unique skillsets and disciplinary training to accomplish specific project goals while collaborating to meet the overall project objectives.
**Student Responsibilities:**

**SOM:** Collaborate on a clinical research project focused on evaluating the clinical and social behavioral outcomes of patients with pulmonary drug-resistant tuberculosis. This project would be conducted among approximately 50 patients with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis receiving a bedaquiline based regimen at the ALERT hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Bedaquiline is the first FDA approved new anti-TB drug in > 50 years. Students will analyze quantitative data from medical records and conduct qualitative interviews with patients undergoing treatment.

**RSPH:** Explore gender differences between men and women who are undergoing TB treatment or who have completed treatment. Qualitative interviews will seek to understand the following domains: perceptions of TB diagnosis and illness, impact of diagnosis and treatment on family relationships and economic status, health care seeking behaviors, cultural understandings of TB and TB treatment, mental health consequences of diagnosis and treatment, and impact on quality of life.

**SOL:** Review and analyze the legal policies in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, that address how the city or country legally intervene when a patient does not adhere to treatment after they are diagnosed with TB and are at risk of transmitting the disease in the community. This includes an in-depth analysis of recent cases of possible forced quarantine or other interventions to prevent the transmission of disease. Cross-country comparisons may be integrated into this project.

**GBS:** Evaluate the financial burden on patients with tuberculosis including an evaluation of catastrophic costs. One of the most critical targets for the WHO is to end all catastrophic costs for patients with TB. This project will conduct a baseline assessment that will provide valuable data to inform future patient support programs.

**Preferred qualifications:**

Oral and written Amharic preferred
Strong oral and written communication, as well as interpersonal and organizational skills. Willingness to work on a team in a low-income country
Quantitative and qualitative skills including but not limited to: survey design, interviewing, quantitative and qualitative data analysis

**Students from these schools are preferred:** Law, Medicine, RSPH, Business, or Social Sciences.

**How to apply:** Interested candidates should contact Russell Kempker at rkempke@emory.edu to schedule a time to meet to discuss the project.
MEXICO

Country/City: Oaxaca de Juárez, Oaxaca, México

Key Terms: Maternal and child health, obstetrics and gynecology, nursing, midwifery, human rights, respectful maternity care, obstetric violence,

Faculty Name: Dr. Helen Baker and Dr. Priscilla Hall

Faculty School/Department: Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing

Contact email and phone: helen.baker@emory.edu / 404 727 2157 and pjhall@emory.edu

Project Name: Exploring the practice and contributing factors related to obstetric violence in IMSS Hospitals in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Project Dates: Summer 2020

Language Requirement/Preferences:

- Oral and written Spanish fluency

Partner Organization(s): Mexican Institute of Social Security (Instituto Mexicano del seguro social (IMSS))

Project Description:

At the convening of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo and the 1995 United Nations’ Fourth World Conference on Women, 189 nations defined a global agenda and platform to ensure the protection of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), specifically the protection of women and girl’s rights around the world.¹ These conferences have ensured that SRHR rights have been included in every nation’s human rights agenda and inspired countries to adopt interventions and legislation promoting and protecting SRHR and gender equality.² Following the adoption of these platforms in Latin America, various human rights committees, including the Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women’s Rights, began to formally document human rights abuses against women within the public sector, including types of abuses that occur against women within the public health system. Paralleling this legal documentation, public health researchers from Brazil and Venezuela began to investigate and draw attention to the abuses, mistreatment, and violence women often experience during childbirth. Since the beginnings of this research, several Latin American countries, including Mexico, have adopted the concept and advocated the prevention of obstetric violence which was formally defined by the Venezuelan government in 2007.³

This Latin American concept of obstetric violence and the research that has explored respectful maternity care have served as catalysts for countries around the world to examine obstetric practices and respectful, patient-centered care within their own health systems. In response to this growing evidence of abuse during childbirth, leading health organizations, such as the World Health Organization, White Ribbon Alliance, and United Nations Population Fund came together to create the Maternity Care Charter: the universal right to childbearing which affirms that during childbirth “women’s basic rights, including respect for women’s autonomy, dignity, feelings, choices, and preferences” should be upheld by health care professionals. The charter outlines 7 categories of abuse during childbirth as well as women’s rights during childbirth, including freedom from harm, right to information and informed consent, confidentiality, respectful care, and right to timely care. Women’s experiences with abuse during pregnancy and birth not only are a violation of human rights, but limit women’s access to responsive and timely maternity care and contribute to maternal morbidity and mortality.

The 2016 National Survey of Dynamics of Household Relationships completed by the Mexican National Institute for Statistics and Geography found that 33.4% of Mexican women who gave birth within the past 5 years had experienced at least one form of abuse during childbirth. Furthermore, with a cesarean section rate of almost 49%, Mexico has the second highest c-section rate in Latin America and one of the highest in the world. Over 19% of women who delivered by c-section were not informed about or did not give consent to the procedure. This project will specifically build off national research in Mexico examining women’s experiences of obstetric violence within the public hospital system. The project will consist of a mixed-methods research project examining both the practices of obstetric violence and contributing factors to practices in two Mexican Institute of Social Security (IMSS) hospitals in Oaxaca. The project will consist of direct observations on labor and delivery units as well as interviews with patients and health personal from the two hospitals.

Student Responsibilities (3-5 students per multidisciplinary student team):

- **School of Nursing**: This research partnership with IMSS’ hospitals in Oaxaca will require support in qualitative data collection and analysis. Students from the School of Nursing interested in women’s health and obstetrics can support a multidisciplinary health team in the qualitative component of the research by completing direct observations of labor and delivery utilizing a standard clinical observation checklist. Students from the School of Nursing might also support the research project by completing chart audits and interviews with hospital health staff to identify contributing and supporting factors to current obstetric practices. The nursing student will also provide valuable support in supporting qualitative data analysis of collected data and drafting summary findings and recommendations.

- **School of Medicine**: This research partnership with IMSS’ hospitals in Oaxaca will require support in qualitative data collection and analysis. Students from the School of Medicine interested in women’s health and obstetrics can support a multidisciplinary health team in the qualitative component of the research by completing direct observations of labor and

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delivery utilizing a standard clinical observation checklist. Students from the School of Medicine might also support the research project by completing chart audits and interviews with hospital health staff to identify contributing and supporting factors to current obstetric practices. The nursing student will also provide valuable support in supporting qualitative data analysis of collected data and drafting summary findings and recommendations.

- **School of Public Health/Department of Anthropology/ Women’s Studies/Sociology/ Development Practice:** This research partnership with IMSS’ hospitals in Oaxaca will require support in the quantitative data collection and analysis. Students from the School of Public Health interested in maternal and child health and/or sexual and reproductive health and rights will provide vital support to a multidisciplinary health team by helping implement surveys and interviews with labor and delivery patients as well as health staff in the two research sites. Students will support the team in quantitative data analysis, including descriptive and analytical statistics as well as analysis of collected qualitative data and drafting findings and recommendation to hospital leadership. Experience and understanding of SPSS is preferred.

**Preferred qualifications:**

- Oral and written Spanish fluency
- Graduate student
- Proficiency in SPSS
- Global public health experience. Specific experience in Latin America and on maternal and child health or sexual and reproductive health projects is preferred.
- Qualitative and quantitative research experience, including implementation of data collection tools and data analysis

**Students from these schools are preferred:**

- School of Nursing
- School of Medicine
- School of Public Health
- Department of Anthropology
- Department of Women’s Studies
- Department of Sociology
- Department of Development Practice

**Additional Project Info:**

**How to apply:** Interested candidates should contact Drs. Helen Baker and Priscilla Hall at: [helen.baker@emory.edu](mailto:helen.baker@emory.edu) and [pjhall@emory.edu](mailto:pjhall@emory.edu) to schedule a time to meet to discuss the project.
PERU

Country/City: Peru, Cusco

Key Terms: Women’s Health, Pap exam, cervical cancer, breast exam, breast cancer

Faculty Name: Quyen Phan

Faculty School/Department: Nursing

Contact email and phone: qphan@emory.edu, 404-712-8558

Project Name: Breast and Cervical Cancer awareness improvement in underserved Peruvian women in Cusco region

Project Dates: Summer 2020

Language Requirement/Preferences: Spanish

Partner Organization(s): CerviCusco

Project Description: Cervical cancer incidence rates and mortality rates was high in Peru (Luque, 2016), with cervical cancer was the leading cause of death in women between 15 and 44 years of age in 2012 (Luque, 2016), and breast cancer incidence rates catching up and surpassing that of cervical cancer. Cervical and breast cancer screenings allow early cancer detection and in-time treatment. However, there was disparity in screening tests among the women in the Andean region (Soldan et al, 2008), in which the city of Cusco belongs. CerviCusco is a non-profit organization established in 2008, both in Peru and in the US, in response to Pan American request to address cervical cancer. The organization employs an interdisciplinary approach with groups from nursing, medicine, public health and allied health, both from local and international countries, to set up campaigns to educate the public and provide screening and diagnostic services on cervical and breast cancers. The proposed project will incorporate interdisciplinary groups of students from Emory to assist CerviCusco in this important mission by using culturally appropriate public health approach to raise cervical and breast cancer and early detection awareness among the Andean women in Peru.

Student Responsibilities (3-5 students per multidisciplinary student team):

Nursing student: Works with volunteer coordinator from CerviCusco to schedule cervical and breast exam campaigns; Provides patient education on breast and cancer screening and prevention.

Public health student (preferably BSHE student): Assess current patient awareness and understanding of breast and cervical cancer; works with film and nursing students to design a public health campaign in response to the needs assessment; designs an evaluation tool to measure success of campaigns to be used by CerviCusco staff.

Film/media student: Collaborate with nursing and public health students to design a public health campaign using available resources in Cusco – to be used by CerviCusco staff.

Preferred qualifications:
- Oral and written Spanish
- Flexibility and willingness to work in a low-resource setting
- Strong interdisciplinary work experience preferred

**Students from these schools are preferred:** Nursing, public health, film and media,

**Additional Project Info:**

**How to apply:** Interested candidates should contact Quyen Phan at qphan@emory.edu to schedule a time to meet to discuss the project.
South Africa

Country/City: South Africa/Durban

Key Terms: HIV, Adolescents, Perinatal infection, South Africa, Healthcare transitions

Faculty Name: Brian Zanoni, MD, MPH

Faculty School/Department: School of Medicine/Pediatric Infectious Diseases

Contact email and phone: bzanoni@emory.edu; (404) 727-4162

Project Name: InTSHA: Integrative Transition Support for HIV-infected Adolescents in South Africa using Social Media

Project Dates: Summer 2020

Language Requirement/Preferences: English, isiZulu – would be great but not necessary

Partner Organization(s): University of KwaZulu-Natal, Nelson Mandela School of Medicine

Project Description:

South Africa has the highest number of perinatally HIV-infected children in the world. With antiretroviral therapy, these children are surviving into adulthood and will need to transition from pediatric based care to adult care to achieve long-term successful outcomes. Adolescents living with HIV and transitioning to adult care have shown high rates of mortality, virologic failure, and loss to follow up. The proposed research will develop and evaluate a social media behavioral intervention based on the Social-ecological Model of Adolescent and Young Adult Readiness to Transition (SMART). Based on in-depth qualitative interviews conducted with healthcare providers, adolescents, and caregivers we will develop and iteratively adapt the social media intervention using focus groups.

Student Responsibilities (3-5 students per multidisciplinary student team):

Medicine, Nursing, Public Health or other Health Sciences: Students will work with staff at the Nelson Mandela School of Medicine to design, develop, and test a social media intervention to assist with adolescents living with perinatally-acquired HIV with transition to adult care. Students will assist with literature reviews and content development for the social media intervention. Students will assist with launch of the intervention and demonstration of its use for focus groups. Students will assist in the data collection from focus groups and assist with the iterative development of the intervention. Students will also have the opportunity to observe pediatric and infectious disease rounds at King Edward VIII Hospital and be involved have the opportunity to be involved with other research opportunities within the South African unit.

Sociology or Anthropology: Students will work with the staff at Nelson Mandela School of Medicine to conduct and analyze in-depth interviews and focus groups to obtain feedback on experience with HIV, transition, and stigma in order to inform the development of a social media intervention for adolescents living with HIV.
IT, Communications, Film and Media Studies: Students will work with the staff at Nelson Mandela School of Medicine to develop, produce and direct educational material to be delivered via social media as part of an intervention to improve transition to adult care for adolescents living with perinatally acquired HIV. In particular, students with experience with App development in an Android platform will assist with development and field test health related mobile technology apps.

Preferred qualifications:

Strong written and oral communication skills, flexibility and ability to work with multicultural team, strong computer and IT literacy, health background helpful

Students from these schools are preferred: Medicine, Nursing, Public Health, Health Sciences, Film, Media Studies, Sociology, Anthropology, Communications, Information Technology

Additional Project Info:

How to apply: Interested candidates should contact Dr. Brian Zanoni at bzanoni@emory.edu to schedule a time to meet to discuss the project.
TANZANIA

Country/City: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Key Terms: Maternal and Child Health, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Database Development, Health Systems Strengthening, Quality Improvement, Needs Assessment

Faculty Name: Brittany Murray, MD

Faculty School/Department: Emory School of Medicine

Contact email and phone: brittany.murray@emory.edu

Project Name: Evaluation and Expansion of Data Collection for Health Systems Strengthening at Muhimbili National Hospital, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Project Dates: Summer 2020

Language Requirement/Preferences: English; Kiswahili would be a great asset

Partner Organization(s): Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH)

Project Description: Launched in 2018, the Emory-Muhimbili Partnership for Health Administration Strengthening and Integration of Services (EMPHASIS) seeks to collaboratively build capacity for quality improvement, research infrastructure, and business models at Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH). In order to achieve success in the first two areas, the partnership team identified a need for ongoing electronic data collection on key indicators – specifically noting a lack of high quality, readily available data. This team will build upon the successful implementation of an Obstetric and Neonatal Database in Summer 2019 in order to further strengthen baseline data collection at MNH. Team members will work with hospital leadership as well as providers to determine the needs for baseline data collection in hospital wards, assist in developing data use frameworks, and collaborate to develop REDCap instruments for data capture. The team will collaboratively work towards evaluation of baseline data collection measures and identification of quality improvement projects in conjunction with staff at MNH. Team members should be prepared to contribute to several areas of the project during their field time.

Student Responsibilities:

Medicine or Nursing

Role of this student in project: Will conduct an informal needs assessment at MNH to determine which departments might benefit from baseline data collection for quality improvement and will work with providers (physicians, nurses, and midwives) to develop REDCap databases in designated hospital wards. May provide assistance on development of quality improvement projects in the Labour and Delivery Ward. Possible QI topics relate to partograph use, estimating blood loss, or identification of fetal distress. Students participating in the project should be prepared to work each weekday, and some weekends while on site, and will need to be flexible to meet overall project goals.
Language Skills Necessary: English (but Swahili would be a great asset!)

Prior Training and Skill Mix Necessary: Prior rotation or experience in a labour/delivery ward (preferred), experience working in low-resource contexts, preferably sub-Saharan Africa (preferred), willingness to work in a team (required), ability to multitask and prioritize activities to meet goals of the project (required), comfort with basic REDCap and Excel skills (required - REDCap introduction could be completed on campus at Emory prior to travel)

Public Health Sciences

Role of this student in project: Will conduct an informal mixed methods study of quality improvement needs by clinical department at MNH through surveys and interviews with department leadership. Students participating in the project should be prepared to work each weekday, and some weekends while on site, and will need to be flexible to meet overall project goals.

Language Skills Necessary: English (but Swahili would be a great asset!)

Prior Training and Skill Mix Necessary: Experience conducting qualitative or quantitative research (required); database management (preferred); project management (preferred); comfortability working in clinical environments; willingness to work in a team (required); comfort with basic REDCap and Excel skills (required - REDCap introduction could be completed on campus at Emory prior to travel)

Business, Bioethics, Health Policy and Management, Undergraduate

Role of this student in project: Will work with the Training, Research, and Consultancy Unit to develop best practices for data use in the hospital relating to electronic databases. Potential role in improving IRB processes or research reporting systems at MNH. Will assess the reporting systems within the Labour and Delivery Ward and make recommendations for streamlined reporting systems.

Language Skills Necessary: English (but Swahili would be a great asset!)

Prior Training and Skill Mix Necessary: project management (preferred); comfortability working in clinical environments (required); willingness to work in a team (required); Students participating in the project should be prepared to work each weekday, and some weekends while on site, and will need to be flexible to meet overall project goals. Undergraduate students with bioethics, research, IRB, or other relevant experience will be considered.

Additional Project Info: Onsite housing provided at Muhimbili University of Health and Allies Sciences (MUHAS). A formal visit to a travel clinic will be required for each student participating. Yellow Fever, Typhoid, Hep A, and Hep B vaccines and malaria prophylaxis required. Self-funded local excursions possible

How to apply: Interested candidates should contact Meron Siira, EMPHASIS Project Manager, at msiira@emory.edu to schedule a time to meet to discuss the project
USA

Country/City: Atlanta and surrounding areas

Key Terms: Asylum, detainees, medical-legal partnerships

Faculty Name: Amy Zeidan, MD, Dabney P. Evans, PhD, MPH

Faculty School/Department: School of Medicine, Department of Emergency Medicine & Rollins School of Public Health

Contact email and phone: ajzeida@emory.edu

Project Name: Assessing the legal need for medical evaluations of asylum seekers in Metropolitan Atlanta

Project Dates: Summer 2020

Language Requirement/Preferences: Spanish preferred

Partner Organization(s): Georgia Asylum and Immigration Network (GAIN), Tahirih, Center for Victims of Torture (CVT), Southern Poverty Law Center Southern Immigration Freedom Initiative (SPLC/SIFI), Georgia State University Immigration Clinic

Project Description:

The number of individuals forcibly displaced globally has reached a record high of 70.8 millions, which includes internally displaced individuals, refugees, and asylum seekers [UNHCR]. The United States has seen a surge in new asylum applications, with over 150,000 applications in 2018 [MPI]. The top five countries of origin of applicants include Venezuela, China, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Mexico [MPI]. An asylum seeker is an individual who has fled their home country due to persecution of fear of persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group [UNHCR]. These individuals often have experiences of severe trauma and torture in their home country and a forced return is potentially a death sentence. Asylum seekers in Georgia face an especially difficult journey; the Atlanta circuit’s asylum grant rate of less than two percent, compared to the national average of approximately 30% [AJC article, MPI/immigration forum]. Additionally, Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin County, Georgia holds more immigrants than most detention centers [TRAC data]. As a state with particularly harsh practices towards asylum seekers, this project seeks to 1) understand the current case demand including case outcomes, 2) explore the challenges face by legal teams representing asylum clients, and 3) explore medical-legal partnerships with local immigration attorneys to understand how attorneys and clinicians can collaborate to support asylum seekers.

1) Evaluating demographics and case outcomes over the past two years
   a. Team members will collect and analyze quantitative data from the Atlanta Asylum Network and Physicians for Human Rights to determine the demographics of asylum seekers and case outcomes over the past two years to determine the proportion of asylum cases receiving asylum evaluations.

2) Challenges faced during the asylum process
a. Team members will conduct qualitative interviews with key stakeholders engaged in the
asylum process including asylum seekers, attorneys and representatives from
organizations serving asylum seekers. These interviews will explore the challenges and
opportunities for increased local capacity and medical-legal partnership in serving
asylum seekers.

3) Explore Medical-Legal Partnership
   a. Medical-legal partnerships address legal issues that affect health outcomes and health
inequities. Students will learn how an individual’s medical and social needs are
interrelated and how incorporation of legal teams can improve legal issues that may
affect healthcare. As part of this type of partnership, the team members will work with
local attorneys to develop a medical-legal partnership model focused on asylum cases
and asylum medicine [AAMC].

Student Responsibilities (3-5 students per multidisciplinary student team):

   • Collect and analyze quantitative case data from the Atlanta Asylum Network and Emory’s
     student chapter of Physicians for Human Rights;
   • Design qualitative in depth interview guides;
   • Conduct and analyze qualitative interview with key stakeholders; and
   • Explore and develop medical-legal partnerships using the AAMC Medical-Legal Partnerships
     Logic Model.

Preferred qualifications:

   • Spanish language preferred
   • Quantitative analysis skills
   • Qualitative data collection and analysis skills using MAXQDA
   • Survivor centered/trauma informed care
   • Ability to compassionately listen to stories of asylum seekers including experiences of torture
   • Strong written and oral communication

Students from these schools are preferred:

   • Law Student
   • Medicine
   • Public Health
   • Emory College: Anthropology or Sociology preferred

Additional Project Info:

How to apply: Interested candidates should contact Amy Zeidan at ajzeida@emory.edu to set up a
time to discuss the project.
Country/City: Clarkston, GA

Key Terms: Refugees, Diabetes, Diabetic Retinopathy, Blindness, Refugee Health

Faculty Name: Dr. Soroosh Behshad and Dr. Fara Gulaid

Faculty School/Department: Emory University School of Medicine/Department of Ophthalmology

Contact email and phone: farah.gulaid@emory.edu; 404-778-2020

Project Name: Assessing Diabetes and Diabetic Retinopathy in the Refugee Community in Clarkston, GA

Project Dates: Summer 2020

Language Requirement/Preferences: TBD

Partner Organization(s): Clarkston Community Health Clinic

Project Description: Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) is the leading case of vision loss globally and more specifically in adults aged 20-74 years. From 1990-2010, diabetic retinopathy ranked as the fifth most common case of moderate to severe visual impairment. Of an estimated 285 million people with diabetes mellitus worldwide, approximately one-third have signs of DR, and of these, an additional one-third of DR is vision threatening DR. With this study, we hope to examine the rates of diabetes and diabetic retinopathy in the Clarkston Community Health Clinic as we assess people who are most refugees in the city of Clarkston. We will also assess quality of life refractive error and need for vision corrective lenses.

Student Responsibilities (3-5 students per multidisciplinary student team): TBD

Preferred qualifications: TBD

Students from these schools are preferred:

- School of Medicine
- School of Public Health/Epidemiology Concentration
- School of Nursing
- Emory College

Additional Project Info:

How to apply: Interested candidates should contact Farah Gulaid at farah.gulaid@emory.edu to schedule a time to meet to discuss the project.