



Emory Global Health Connection

Building Bridges for Better Health
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Can you describe your involvement with the Emory Global Health Institute (EGHI)?

Since 2015, I have been a part of the EGHI Faculty Fellows. This program has helped build relationships and support with other colleagues at Emory University. I have also had the opportunity to serve as a mentor within the EGHI Field Scholars Award Program. Through this program, I have mentored several multidisciplinary teams of students conducting research in Ethiopia and Cambodia. I have also participated as a judge in the Global Health Student Photography Contest. Additionally, I have been involved in projects that received funding from EGHI, including the Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI) and the Ethiopia-Emory TB Research Training Program.

Given your behavioral science background, how do you link your research to global health?

I fell in love with the global health field early in my career as an opportunity arose in Ethiopia soon after becoming a research assistant professor at Emory. I have always had an interest in health disparities and feel that a lot of the information and application of skills in both behavioral science and global health overlap.

Can you please describe some of your projects?

I evaluate and develop mentor training programs for three NIH Fogarty International Center-funded projects, including the MEPI Scholars Program for Developing Research Capacity of Junior Faculty at Addis Ababa University, the Ethiopia-Emory TB Research Training Program, and the Emory-Georgia TB Research Training Program.

These programs build mentorship capacity in Ethiopia and the country of Georgia and support mentor-mentee relationships for developing public health research projects in these countries. The programs help researchers conduct internationally recognized tuberculosis (TB) research and strengthen TB public health infrastructure. Through these projects, I truly appreciate the willingness of both mentors and mentees to share their work and provide feedback to one another. I continue to see the value these programs provide every year. The programs increase research skills in-country and build relationships among researchers within the country and with US collaborators as well.

What gets you excited about your work in these projects?

Honestly, I am a teacher at heart. I enjoy the personal relationships between students, mentors and mentees and arming our trainees with the skills they need to build successful careers in public health. The engagement and willingness of our collaborators to work with our programs on training, evaluation and mentoring fuels my excitement about global health and our ultimate goal of reducing health disparities. I love seeing the meaningful impact of our programs, and how research careers and mentoring relationships grow and thrive over the years.