



Emory Global Health Connection

Building Bridges for Better Health

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Tell me a little bit about your current role at Emory.

I am an Assistant Clinical Professor at Emory's School of Nursing. I teach in both the PhD and MSN programs; specifically, courses in health determinants, nurse midwifery, medical anthropology, and global health. I also serve as an advisor for students pursuing the dual MSN-MPH degree. In addition to my academic work, I practice midwifery with Emory's Dept. of GYN/OB in the Grady Health System.

What are some of your current global health research projects?

My primary interest involves women's access to reproductive health care in low-income contexts – particularly the influence of social and material inequalities on demand for and use of reproductive health services. My current research involves qualitatively exploring relationships between resistance to HIV stigma, HIV+ status disclosure, and engagement in PMTCT/HIV care among pregnant women and couples living with HIV in Kenya. In addition to research, I'm involved in several projects that seek to build capacity in countries requesting this assistance. One such project is the African Health Professionals Regional Collaborative (ARC), an Emory-CDC partnership that has been working to strengthen the ability of national nurse and midwife leaders to improve quality of nurse/midwife-led PMTCT services in high-HIV burden health facilities across 15 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. I also lead a project that engages MSN midwifery students in training *comadronas* (traditional birth attendants) in a rural mountainous region of Guatemala – in close partnership with the local Ministry of Health. Finally, I'll be starting work this spring on five-year grant that aims to improve capacity in quality improvement, research processes, and business model at Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

How does the Faculty Fellows group at EGHI support global health initiatives at Emory University?

The recently funded Tanzania project arose entirely from a collaboration with another Faculty Fellow at EGHI, who is a professor at Emory's School of Medicine. We found we had very similar commitments to capacity building in health development, and I lived in Tanzania previously and adore the country – so it was a perfect match! We anticipate that this work will lead to future clinical and research collaborations, particularly in the vein of implementation science. I truly believe I would have missed the chance to be involved in this project if it were not for EGHI's Faculty Fellow group.



Tell me something about yourself most people don't know.

My husband and I love golden retrievers. Our dogs compete in both AKC and UKC competitions – mainly conformation but occasionally agility and field events. We are members of the Atlanta Golden Retriever Club, and also work with animal adoption and rescue agencies in the area.