



Emory Global Health Connection

Building Bridges for Better Health

October 2018

EGHI Awards First Global Health Innovation Seed Grant

The [Emory Global Health Institute](#) (EGHI) awarded its inaugural Global Health Innovation Seed Grant to a multidisciplinary team of Emory students developing a smartphone application designed to make medical records portable for refugees. The Emory student team, comprised of project leader Gabriel Perlow (joint SOM/RSPH), Wintana Bairu, (RSPH), and Puneet Anantharam (RSPH), designed the app, called LifeDoc. The purpose of LifeDoc is to provide a simple, secure way to obtain, store, and transmit PDF copies of medical records and other important documents using fax.

EGHI announced its first RFP for its Global Health Innovation Seed Grant Program in April 2018 and received 12 competitive proposals focusing on a wide range of health innovations. The proposals went through two review panels during the spring and summer. In August, EGHI awarded Perlow's team \$5,000 to develop and then test LifeDoc in Clarkston's refugee community.

Medical documents build a patient's medical history and help healthcare providers deliver high quality and timely care. Refugees move among several medical systems in their journey to and within the United States, so transmission of their medical history to the next provider is essential in ensuring that they receive appropriate care. In addition to storing medical records, the students also are working to include other important documents, such as proof of residency, in LifeDoc. These documents can facilitate and expedite refugees' ability to access other crucial social services and secure employment.

The Emory student team is collaborating with the Georgia Institute of Technology and World Relief, a refugee resettlement agency, to design, test, and implement LifeDoc through the volunteer/refugee network. Led by Ellen Zegura, Director of Georgia Tech's Compute4Good program, the participating Georgia Tech students are currently coding the app in iterative "sprints," in preparation for a user-testing event that will be organized in collaboration with World Relief and their volunteer/refugee units. After testing the app in the Clarkston community and making modifications based on its feedback, the team will make a version of LifeDoc available through a limited community rollout.

"Funding and academic support from EGHI have been essential to the LifeDoc project. App development is an expensive proposition, and even our unique opportunity to collaborate with Georgia Tech for the software itself was limited by our need for hardware, subscriptions to cloud services, and the cost of bringing people together for user testing. The application process added the benefit of creating a roadmap for the project as well as clarifying goals, aims, and metrics. We are deeply grateful for the support and opportunity that EGHI has given to us, and look forward to working with our partner World Relief to begin testing LifeDoc in the refugee community," says Perlow.



EGHI's Global Health Innovation Seed Grant Program provides support to Emory students, residents, and fellows who propose projects that apply innovative approaches to global health problems in resource-poor settings. EGHI defines innovation as addressing new and emerging health challenges with solutions that will have a measureable impact, improve health outcomes, and be sustainable. While in its first year, EGHI hopes to continue its Global Health Innovation Seed Grant Program so that it becomes a permanent part of the organization's portfolio of [student funding opportunities](#).



EGHI's First Global Health Innovation Seed Grant Recipient Project Leader, Gabriel Perlow.