

Hebrew University-Hadassah

Braun School of Public Health & Community Medicine

International MPH Alumni Newsletter

April 2014



Director's Message

Dear IMPH family,

Greetings from Jerusalem!

As you all may recall, springtime in Jerusalem is a time of wild flowers, changeable weather, and furious housecleaning leading up to the Festival of Passover, the festival of Matza, and freedom, symbolizing the exodus from Egypt. During this time our thoughts are with all the nations of the world in which many freedoms are not self-evident.

We are so proud of our alumni working in all parts of the globe where their IMPH-honed skills are helping to combat and prevent disease, deal with man-made and natural disasters and set policy to promote health -in the broad sense of the world- for much of the world's population. At the Braun School we have been honoured by visitors and speakers from around the globe, Canada, the US, Europe and Africa. We have had "pop-in" visits from many of our alumni. A highly successful conference on Malaria was held in Jerusalem. An amazing Regional meeting was held in Kampala, bringing together our East African graduates and others. Due to modern technology all of you will be able to feel as if you were there. Thank you, Maureen and Yehuda, for organizing this wonderful event and thanks to the Pears Foundation for the wisdom and foresight to fund such events and keep the IMPH family well nourished with networking and Public Health content!

We are making a grand effort to expose this year's IMPH class to the various elements of Public Health in Israel – out of the classroom and into the field. As usual the students are hard at work in their second semester courses, working on COPC and writing their research proposals. Unfortunately, you may have heard that our mother institution, Hadassah, has found herself in a grave financial crisis. So far this has not affected the IMPH program and we sincerely hope that with the help of our generous donors, the University and the dedicated IMPH staff we will ride this wave and be able to preserve all aspects of this unique program.

Now is the time (deadline is May 1) to recommend wonderful, talented and deserving candidates for next year's IMPH program. We are actively seeking candidates from Africa and India – so if you know of worthy potential students, please encourage them to apply NOW and write a letter of recommendation on their behalf.

Please continue to keep in touch and provide us with both personal and professional news. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Shulamit Amir for her incredible dedication in getting this newsletter out and for helping us to keep in touch with all of you.

Wishing you and your families a Happy Spring, Easter and Passover season,

**Ora Paltiel,
IMPH Director**

**IMPH ALUMNI EAST AFRICA REGIONAL MEETING
KAMPALA, UGANDA * 10-12 FEBRUARY 2014
HEALTH SYSTEMS IN GLOBAL AND LOCAL CONTEXTS**

**Meeting Organisers: Dr. Maureen Malowany, Dr. Peter Waiswa
Chair: Prof. Yehuda Neumark**

With the 2015 end-date for the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in sight, communities at national and regional levels have been asked to contribute to a global conversation on sustainability, led by the United Nations and its specialized agencies. Meetings with health professionals at country and regional level are being held in many countries of the world through 2014-2015 to address the challenge of sustainability for those MDG goals attained by 2015 and to examine strategies to ensure continued progress toward successful attainment of health targets. The Pears Foundation East Africa Alumni Regional Meeting was co-hosted with the Makerere University School of Public Health, one of the leading Schools of Public Health in sub-Saharan Africa. Twenty-seven IMPH alumni from Ethiopia, South Sudan, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda and seven non-alumni invited Health Systems experts met to explore the timely and pertinent theme of "Health Systems in Global and Local Contexts". Meetings with health professionals at country and regional level are being held in many countries of the world through 2014-2015 to address the challenge of sustainability for those MDG goals attained by 2015 and to examine strategies to ensure continued progress toward successful completion of health targets. This meeting provided an opportunity for the following IMPH alumni, working in and on health systems, to present their experience at the local, national, regional and global levels:

**Josephine Ojiambo, Norbert Rakiro, Mieraf Tadesse, Solomon Worku Beza,
Elias Yesuf, Norah Obudho, Emmanuel Otto Omony**

Dr. Josephine Ojiambo, in her position as Chief of the Executive Board and External Relations Branch at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), delivered an impassioned introduction to the meeting challenging our alumni to be 'the new Africans' leading public health agendas; to engage in the murky world of policy as each was directed to "pick your fight", and not to be afraid to challenge! Josephine's words echoed throughout the meeting in comments and discussions among participants.

Our invited speakers were drawn from experts working in or on all levels of health systems organizations, from the local NGOs to national Ministries of Health. Their presentations provided the evidence required to explore and compare health systems at the regional level noting challenges met and challenges that remain.

Rwanda is considered to have developed the most efficient and interesting health systems model for the country. Dr. Parfait Uwaliraye, Ministry of Health, outlined the model's framework and its delivery that have led Rwanda to be a model for health systems and health care delivery in sub-Saharan Africa. As one alumnus from Ethiopia noted, although he had attended many conferences off the continent, this was the first time he had visited another African country and there was much to share. His country's (Ethiopia) programs, presented by Dr. Mieraf Tadesse and Dr. Elias Yesuf, and those of Rwanda were explored for their complementary strengths and challenges. This meeting provided the opportunity for our alumni to learn from each other as public health practitioners. In addition, the broad regional focus facilitated interaction and engagement. Following the evaluations and recommendations from the IMPH Alumni 2013 Conference, the Kampala meeting was designed to provide ample time for informal discussions and networking among our alumni and between our alumni and our invited speakers. Every break found the participants in small groups – building new friendships and renewing others – actively engaging with the topic at hand and their own experiences working 'on the ground'.

The Pears-funded Alumni initiatives for mentorship, the next round of 'Seed Grant' program funding and the launch of a new social networking platform were presented during the second meeting day. The IMPH team has elected to work with the Israeli start-up platform – alum.ni – on a one-year trial basis (a free platform) to facilitate interaction among our alumni and provide a protected, common space for sharing of personal information, career opportunities in research and practice, and to make available IMPH alumni program materials.

Mentorship Program materials which outline our expectations for Mentors and Mentees, were presented at the meeting and will be available on the alum.ni platform to be launched by April 2014. We informed the meeting of the next round of Seed Grant project proposals/funding opportunities which will be formally announced to all alumni in mid-March. Two of the currently-funded four Seed Grant project recipients presented their progress and results to date in formal presentations to meeting participants.

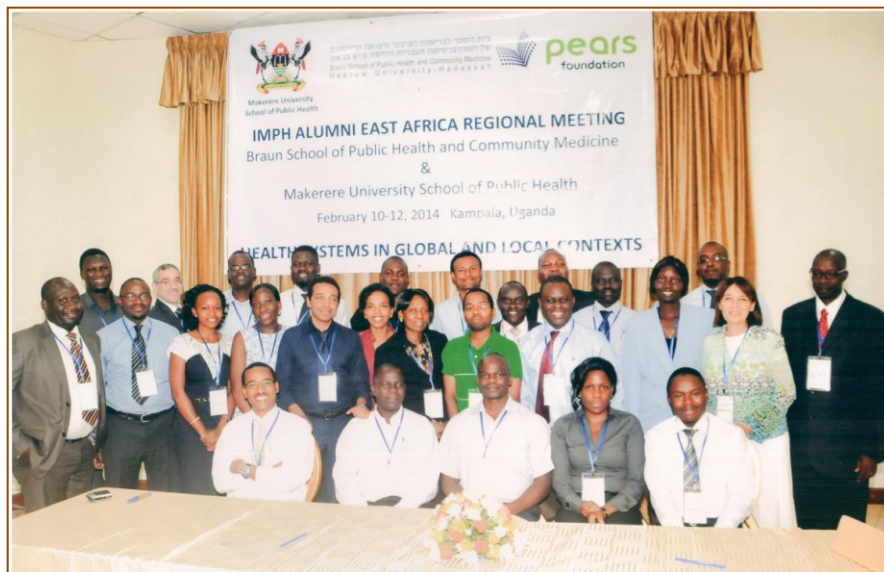
We were very pleased to co-host this meeting with the Makerere University School of Public Health. Our alumnus, Dr. Peter Waiswa, facilitated the connections with MUSPH Dean Prof. W. Bazeyo, their administrative secretary (Mrs. Josephine Adikini) and selected speakers. Makerere University is one of the oldest public universities in sub-Saharan Africa and stands out for its excellence in both research and teaching. The MUSPH was very pleased to have the Braun School IMPH program as their co-hosts. Our visit to the School reinforced our appreciation for the contributions that Makerere University has made to the teaching and training of health professionals over the past 65 years. Prof. Bazeyo will likely be visiting Israel later this year and we look forward to his visit to the Braun School.

We are currently exploring options for the most appropriate institutional host for the West Africa meeting to be held late November-early December 2014 in either Ghana or Cameroon.

For those alumni who were unable to attend this regional meeting and all IMPH alumni from other parts of the world, the entire meeting – presentations, discussions - including the incredibly enjoyable cultural evening at the Ndere Centre, Kampala, were audio-visually recorded. These recordings will be available on the IMPH website.

We look forward to the 2014 meeting in the West Africa region!

Maureen Malowany, Ph.D., MHlthSc., MA
IMPH Alumni Academic Coordinator



MEETING PARTICIPANTS:

IMPH EAST AFRICA REGION ALUMNI:

ETHIOPIA:

Dr. Argaw Aberra Shire, 2008, Regional Director, SNNP Regional Office; Center for International Programs-Culobia University (ICAP-CU)-Ethiopia

Dr. Solomon Worku Beza, 2008, Project Manager, Continuing Medical Education at Jhpiego, Ethiopia

Dr. Elias Ali Yesuf, 2012, Assistant Professor, Health Policy and Management, Jimma University, Ethiopia

Dr. Mieraf Teddesse, 2009, Public Health Specialist, HSS Consultant, World Bank, Ethiopia

KENYA:

Dr. Norbert Rakiro, 2005, Deputy Chief of Party/Technical Director, National Health Training Mechanism (FUNZO Kenya Project)

Mr. Raphael Mando, 2013, Lecturer, Technical University of Mombasa

Dr. Evelyn Kimani, 2013, Ministry of Health, Kenya

Dr. Grace Apiyo, 2012, Medical Officer-ICU, MP Shah Hospital; Medical Epidemiologist, CDEC,

Nairobi (part-time)

Dr. Haron N. Njiru, 2010, Global Steering Group for eMTCT, Technical Advisor, M&E

Mr. Jonathan Abel, 2013, Lecturer, Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya

Mr. Jordan Kyongo, 2009, PhD candidate, University of Antwerp

Dr. Ulo Benson, 2003, Director, Prisons HIV/AIDS and TB Program, International Medical Corps, Kenya

Ms. Norah Obudho, 2009, Director of Programs, Mildmay Kenya

TANZANIA:

Mr. Emmanuel Koyano Buzari, 2012, Research Associate, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Tanzania

SOUTH SUDAN:

Dr. Margaret (Betty) Eyobo Lejukole, 2013, Senior M&E Advisor, Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals and Services (SIAPS), Management Sciences for Health, Juba, South Sudan

Dr. Ally Ahmed Ramadhan Lasu, 2011, Program Manager, US Department of Defense, Department of HIV and AIDS Prevention Program, South Sudan

Dr. Patrick Buruga, 2012, Technical Manager, IntraHealth International, South Sudan

UGANDA:

Dr. Fred Ssewankambo, 2008, Senior Medical Officer, Naguru Hospital, Ministry of Health, Uganda

Dr. Emmanuel Otto Omony, 2009, District Health Officer, Agago District Local Government, Uganda

Dr. Simon Kaddu Ssentamu, 2011, District Health Officer, Ntoroko District Local Government, Uganda

Mr. Barnabas Natamba, 2006, Lecturer, Gulu University, Uganda

Dr. David Okia, 2013, Regional Project Officer (West Nile Region), Ministry of Health, Uganda

Dr. James Waako, 2005, Medical Superintendent, Iganga Hospital, Iganga District, Uganda

Dr. Sara Achen, 2012, Epidemiologist, Epidemiology and Surveillance Division, Gulu District, Uganda

Mr. Richard Batamwita, 2009, Technical Advisor M&E, Management Sciences for Health (USAID), Uganda

Dr. Peter Waiswa, 2003, Lecturer, Dept. of Health Policy, Planning and Management, Makerere University School of Public Health, Kampala, Uganda

INVITED SPEAKERS:

Dr. Josephine Ojiambo, IMPH Alumna, 1999, Kenya Chief of the Executive Board and External Relations Branch at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA);

Dr. Samuel Were, Senior Assistant Director, Medical Services and Head of Public-Private Partnership Unit, Ministry of Health, Kenya

Dr. Parfait Uwaliraye, Director of General Planning, M7E and HIS, Ministry of Health, Rwanda

Prof. Pius Okong, Chair, Health Service Commission, Government of Uganda

Dr. Francis Omaswa, Executive Director, African Centre for Global Health and Social Transformation, Uganda

Dr. Jotham Musinguzi, Regional Director, Partners in Population and Development, Africa Regional Office, Uganda

Dr. Frank Kaharuza, Research Fellow, MUSPH, Uganda

Dr. Frederick Golooba-Mutebi, Private health consultant, Uganda

Revisiting Malaria: Moving from Control to Sustainable Elimination 8-12 December 2013, Hebrew University-Hadassah, Jerusalem

It has been 90 years since **Dr. Israel Kligler** first outlined a visionary malaria control and elimination program for Mandate Palestine. Having arrived from the Rockefeller Institute in 1921, Dr. Kligler embarked upon pioneering epidemiological research studies and joined Hebrew University in 1925. In that same year, the prestigious League of Nations Malaria Commission (including two of the most influential malariologists of the period - NH Swellengrebel and SP James) toured Mandate Palestine. Kligler convincingly demonstrated that within a short time his integrated model would eliminate malaria from Mandate Palestine. Indeed, the visionary work of Dr. Israel Kligler during the Mandate Palestine period was one of the most outstanding success stories of malaria control and elimination in the 20th century.

Despite many successes over the past 100 years, malaria continues to inflict a major toll on developing regions of the world, where, of the reported 660,000 annual malaria deaths globally, an estimated 90% of malaria deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa each year. The Braun School together with the Kuvim Centre of Hebrew University-Hadassah hosted a five-day conference, drawing upon lessons learned in malaria control and eradication, bringing Kligler's work back to the forefront of the malaria control and elimination discussion. The group of 20 international experts came to Jerusalem to revisit the strategies deployed successfully for malaria (vector) elimination in Mandate Palestine. The conference also highlighted success stories from other parts of the world. Identification of prerequisites for successful elimination, augmented with recent technological advances, have paved the way for the development of novel strategies for permanent and sustainable malaria elimination.

The conference included presentations from invited participants from sub-Saharan Africa, Europe and North America, and local Israeli experts who engaged in small group work, brainstorming sessions, and plenary feedback presentations. Conference participants developed a practical malaria elimination program for one specific East African epidemiologic malaria zone and recommendations that could lay the foundation for another in West Africa. In addition, a conference proceedings report is expected to be published and distributed internationally. This timely conference provided an opportunity to explore the development of scientific research and field experience over the past 120 years and the relevance to contemporary malaria challenges. The conference honoured the pioneering scientists, especially Kligler, and their contributions to malaria control, eradication and elimination that continue to stimulate and inform the malariology world.

We have uploaded the Conference Program and the audio-visual recordings of the opening sessions of the Conference to the IMPH site [here](#).

Watch this space on the Braun School site for the Jerusalem Declaration, post-Conference Proceedings and photos!

Maureen Malowany



Highlighting IMPH Graduates

It is with great pleasure that we highlight today two graduates who have recently become a couple – **Vinita Sharma, originally from Nepal and Miguel Reina from Ecuador**. They both graduated from the IMPH program in 2011 and can be reached at vinita.sharma.luitel@gmail.com Pictures of the wedding ceremonies appeared in the December 2012 Newsletter.

Vinita writes: Miguel and I are doing great!

After graduating from the Braun School I worked for a year as Program Officer for the USAID-funded national HIV/AIDS and Family Planning Project in Nepal called Saath-Saath Project. During this time I also travelled to the States to present my paper at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America (PAA) in California, and to Ethiopia to attend the AIDS Conference under full scholarship. Immediately thereafter Miguel and I got married in Nepal (in October 2012) and moved to Tampa, Florida. Since then I have worked as a Consultant on the Saath-Saath Project, and have been giving conferences on HIV/AIDS at public and private universities which have been widely advertised and covered by local news. I plan on returning to the US at the end of 2013 to prepare for a PhD in Public Health (specifically HIV/AIDS).

Miguel: After graduation Miguel returned to Ecuador and worked as the Quality Director of Laboratory, Provincial Hospital of Esmeraldas. In January 2012 he attended the University of South Florida, Tampa for a PhD in Global Communicable Diseases under full scholarship. His academic record has been excellent with a perfect 4.00 GPA. He was also selected to be a proud member of the PhiKappaPhi Society. He has presented his research papers at numerous conferences throughout the USA. Currently he is in Ecuador as co-instructor for a workshop-cum-training on the use of remote sensing and GIS in health, as well as collecting data for his doctoral thesis.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Pears IMPH alumnus **Babatunde Olaiya** (Nigeria, 2011-12, tunde.olaiya@mail.huji.ac.il) on his recent marriage to Oluwatosin. Mazal tov to the beautiful couple!



Our Graduates Write:

Bhanu Pratap (India, 2006/07, drbhanupratap@gmail.com): Greetings from Manila! Tanya and I along with our 2 kids Ashima and Siddharth have moved to Manila, Philippines. I will be working here for International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent as Health Coordinator based at Manila. I will work with the Philippines Red Cross Society to plan, implement and manage the health components of the Typhoon Haiyan emergency response and recovery programme. I will also support Philippines Red Cross Society in coordinating with Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners and with external agencies on health matters, as well as in establishing collaborations and partnerships. The key components of the job are: Strategy and Programme support, Coordination and representation, Knowledge and information management, Resource mobilization and Human resource management. I must say that the learnings from the school has broadened the scope of my understanding about the health and care based upon evidence based medicines with sound knowledge and participation of community based approaches.

Narmada Acharya (Nepal, 1997/98, acharyan@unaids.org): I am so pleased to share with you that **Bayo (Fatunmbi)** has joined the WHO office in Cambodia for a regional Malaria project and he is going to work from our office in UNAIDS. I was so excited to see him coming to UNAIDS this afternoon and to know that we are working from the same office. Though work life is different from student life, I am sure we will find time and ways to enjoy our social life in a balanced way. We will probably go for a joint dinner this weekend as his wife also follows him to Cambodia.

Chandra Yogal (Nepal, 2012/13, c.myogal@gmail.com): Namaste. I hope this mail finds you well. I am doing fine and working in Dhulikhel Hospital, Kathmandu University Hospital in the Department of Community Program. I joined the hospital in October 2012 as program manager. Now I am responsible for conducting a heart study, longitudinal cohort study and emergency care

all in Dhulikhel hospital, also infection prevention and control collaboration with Hadassah and also other new initiatives. infection prevention. I would like to thank the Hebrew University and Hadassah for providing skills and knowledge to manage this work. I can proudly say – the Hebrew University is the best for learning.

Argaw Aberra (Ethiopia, 2007/08, argawabera@gmail.com): Thank you very much for updating us about what has been going on with fellow alumni, new IMPH students and the activities of the School. I am very proud to learn that more and more graduates continue to share their outstanding achievements and bravery throughout the world.

Lola Adekunle (Nigeria, 1972/73, loladekunle2001@yahoo.co.uk): Thanks for the last Newsletter. I wish the New Intakes a beautiful and successful year of study in Israel. Every October reminds me of my own period far back in 1972/73. As we have succeeded in life and impact knowledge gained in service and humanity, they will also succeed. This is my opening prayer for the group. Shalom.

Joyce Bagina (Ghana, 2007/08, jkbagina@yahoo.com): Thank you for keeping us in touch with what is going on in the School and with the alumni. I wish the new IMPH class an exciting and successful year in Israel. Kind regards to you and all the lecturers and staff of the School.

Visit to the School

We were delighted to welcome IMPH Alumnus **Itzjak Kadar** (Colombia, 2011/12) who recently visited the School.



Condolences

Dr. Trelle Gonzaga (Philippines, 1981/82), R.I.P.

Dr. Estrella P. Gonzaga, also known as 'Trelle' to colleagues, friends and family, passed away quietly last 23 March 2014. Since 2001, she had served as a full-time Professor at the Department of Family and Community Medicine under the College of Medicine of the De La Salle University Health Sciences Institute. Because of her sharp mind, her vast experience in public health and systems development, and her warm dynamism, Doc Trelle was one of the most sought-after facilitators and resource persons of the Department of Health and UN Agencies. As an IMPH alumna, she had imbibed the spirit of the School when she inspired young Filipino physicians and health professionals 'to take the road less traveled' and to venture into public health. She will be truly missed but her work and legacy will resonate in the lives of the people she had touched.

Rene Gerard Cruz Galera, Jr, MD (Philippines, 2012/13) rene.galera@mail.huji.ac.il

Message from Yehuda:

Yehuda encourages graduates working in Schools of Public Health Departments to consider joining the Association of Schools of Public Health in Europe (ASPHER). www.aspher.org

Error

We deeply regret an error that occurred in our previous Newsletter. The correct address of Martz is martzcoleman@gmail.com and not as it appeared. We apologize and are glad to announce that Martz's health has improved and she is back at work.



Contact Information

**For any address changes, personal updates, comments, etc., please e-mail:
Shulamit Amir, Alumni Newsletter Editor - samir@hadassah.org.il**