



UMB GLOBAL NEWSLETTER

Sharing UMB Updates From Around the World

UMB COVID-19 Updates

Dr. Bonnie Bissonette, Director of Education Abroad and International Safety for the Center for Global Engagement, is currently serving on UMB's President's Emergency Management Committee that was created to manage the impact of the coronavirus on the university. If anyone in our international community has questions or concerns, please feel free to share them with Dr. Bissonette at globaltimore@umaryland.edu

UMB COVID-19 website
<https://www.umaryland.edu/coronavirus/>

UMB Events & Opportunities



All Faculty - GLOBALtimore Teaching Fellowship Program Applications Open April 1st

All UMB faculty are eligible to take their interest in curricular internationalization to the next level by applying to become a GLOBALtimore Teaching Fellow. The program consists of workshops, support stipends and membership in a learning community of faculty from across UMB's professional and graduate schools to learn about global education and how to integrate global concepts into new or existing courses. The seven selected fellows will be awarded a stipend of \$2,000.

The GLOBALtimore Teaching Fellows funds (\$2000 per fellow) will be deposited into the fellows' school's revolving fund, and the faculty then work with their finance folks on distribution, according to UMB and school guidelines. The funds CAN be used to buy faculty time, for supplies, workshop attendance, GRAs, or any other expense related to curriculum internationalization that the school finance office approves.

[Learn more](#)



UMB Graduate School Will Award Scholarships for Global Health Innovation Certificate Students

The University of Maryland Graduate School is excited to announce the 12-credit Certificate in Global Health Innovation launching this Fall. The first 10 applicants will receive a **\$7,000 scholarship** towards their tuition costs.

This unique 12-credit graduate certificate offers students an opportunity to learn about global health and health care innovation in Costa Rica, a country recognized

as a global leader in translating good ideas into positive health outcomes—especially in the areas of biotechnology and health care delivery. The certificate is designed to be completed in one 10-week semester with all of the content delivered during a 10-week learning experience in Costa Rica. The program offers courses in Intercultural Communication and Conflict Resolution; Global Health and Social Innovation; Innovations for Universal Health Care; Urban Health and Social Innovation; and a final practicum, all of which are taught by bilingual Costa Rican faculty from the InterAmerican [Center for Global Health](#) (CISG).

The final practicum will require students to conceptualize the transfer of a health care innovation across borders, considering the steps required to approve, scale up, and introduce innovations to a new setting. The students' analysis will be guided by a recognized need for community input and empowerment and opportunities for students to develop cultural sensitivity, humility, and business ethics while supporting their desire to make an impact.

The program concludes with a hands-on practicum that provides students the opportunity to integrate theory and practice to address real-world challenges faced by policymakers and communities looking to create lasting change in the global health area. It will provide students the possibility to engage and support public, private and non-governmental organizations to solve complex issues related to global health in Costa Rica, a developing country with unique demographic, epidemiological and urbanization conditions. After completing their foundational course requirements, students will have their practicum experience either in the southern region of Costa Rica or in San José and its vicinities. Students will be partnered mainly with non-governmental organizations, although opportunities exist for partnerships with other stakeholders, such as government institutions.

[Learn more](#)



MARCH 25: Learn About Creating Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) Courses

March 25, noon-1pm: "Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL): Team-Taught Courses with an International Partner" presented by Dr. Caroline Burry, UMB School of Social Work, and Bill Piermattei, JD, Carey School of Law.

Register below. You will receive a follow-up email with the webinar login information. If you are interested in presenting as part of a Global Meet-Up, please, email [Bonnie Bissonette](mailto:Bonnie.Bissonette@umb.edu) with your idea. All UMB faculty, staff and students worldwide are welcome.

Register [HERE](#)

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Samba Sow



World Health Organization Names UMSOM Faculty Member as COVID-19 Advisor

Samba Sow, MD, MSc, FASTMH, Director General of the Center for Vaccine Development in Mali (CVD-Mali), and Adjunct Professor of Medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, was appointed by the World Health Organization to serve as a special envoy on issues related to coronavirus COVID-19.

Dr. Sow, was named by WHO [Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, PhD, MSc](#), as one of [six special envoys on COVID-19](#), to provide strategic advice and high-level political advocacy and engagement in different parts of the world, including Africa. The appointment comes as WHO has identified several priority countries in Africa at risk because of their direct links to China or their high volume of travel with China. WHO officials have formally declared the outbreak of the novel coronavirus that first emerged in Wuhan China a public health emergency, and they are weighing whether spread of the virus will result in a pandemic.

“I am honored to help better understand and contain this novel coronavirus. I applaud Dr. Ghebreyesus for taking such a strong leadership role in addressing this issue on a global scale. There are many unknowns about this new illness, but what we have learned from past experience is that a proactive approach can help to contain spread of contagious illnesses,” said Dr. Sow.

Dr. Sow has a distinguished career in public health. Most notably, he received the highest honor from the French Government, when he was decorated as a Knight of the Legion of Honor, for his role in containing an outbreak of the Ebola virus in West Africa. Dr. Sow has also served as Mali’s Minister of Health and Public Hygiene and as the chief architect of health policy aimed at improving maternal health and reducing child mortality, a model that could set the stage for global health initiatives. He continues to lead CVD-Mali, a venture established in 2001 by Mali’s Ministry of Health and the UMSOM Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health (CVD).

“Dr. Ghebreyesus’ selection of Dr. Sow is another testament to the high regard in which Dr. Sow is held in the global public health community, and it is an acknowledgement of his exceptional work during the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.”, said [Kathleen Neuzil, MD, MPH](#), The Myron M. Levine MD, DTPH, Professor in Vaccinology and Director of the CVD.

Dr. Sow’s career has been focused on reducing morbidity and mortality. Among his work, he led clinical trials that informed the introduction of a vaccine that has nearly eliminated Meningitis A in areas of Africa where the deadly disease was common. To date, more than 220 million people have received this vaccine in more than two dozen countries.

His expertise in infectious diseases was credited as helping to contain the Ebola virus outbreak, which occurred primarily in West Africa from 2013 to 2016. During that outbreak, more than 28,000 people were infected, resulting in more than 11,000 Ebola-linked deaths. In Mali, the disease was contained to 8 cases. Dr. Sow is credited for the limited exposure in Mali,

which was the result of his collaboration with the Malian government, civilian leaders, religious figures and others to contain the epidemic.

“Dr. Sow’s extensive experience in understanding and controlling infectious diseases will greatly benefit WHO as they face this newest challenge in COVID-19. He has received the highest recognitions globally for his work in helping to contain the spread of the deadly Ebola virus six years ago, and he continues to champion important initiatives that impact the lives of millions at risk with some of the world’s most complex diseases,” said UMSOM [Dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA](#), who is also Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, UM Baltimore, and the John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor, University of Maryland School of Medicine.“

[Learn more](#)

UMB Global News



IHV Clinician Selected as UMSOM 2020 Fellow of the Academy of Education Excellence

Devang M. Patel, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, was selected as a UMSOM 2020 Fellow of the Academy of Educational Excellence.

[Devang M. Patel, MD](#), Assistant Professor of Medicine, Institute of Human Virology (IHV) at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM), was selected as a UMSOM 2020 Fellow of the Academy of Educational

Excellence, established by Carolyn J. Pass, MD '66 and Richard J. Susel, MD '66. This honor, which was made possible through the generosity of Dr. Pass and Dr. Susel, is designed to recognize faculty members and other educators who demonstrate excellence in bedside, classroom and/or innovative medical education.

Dr. Patel is actively involved in medical education and serves as the Associate Program Director for the infectious disease (ID) fellowship program at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC). Dr. Patel is Director for the Pre-Clerkship Curriculum at UMSOM and oversees medical student and resident electives in infectious diseases.

“Dr. Patel was selected by current fellows of the Academy of Educational Excellence,” said [Anthony Amoroso, MD](#), who is currently Associate Professor of Medicine and Associate Director of [IHV's Division of Clinical Care and Research](#), and heads IHV's clinical programs.



Anthony Amoroso, MD

“Dr. Patel’s peers felt strongly that his contributions to the education of physicians’ past, present and future merit this most prestigious honor, and that he is an exemplary role model to students, embodying the highest ideals of the medical profession and displaying an uncommon commitment to the students’ best interests.”

Dr. Patel will be permanently installed into the Academy of Educational Excellence at the 14th annual Student Awards Ceremony and Dinner on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 from 6:00 until 9:30 p.m. at the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yards.

In 2010, Dr. Patel started a dedicated ID consult service for the Medical Intensive Care Unit at UMMC and was the chief of service until 2016. In 2016, he became chief of service for the inpatient HIV and Infectious Diseases service - MED ID.

Dr. Patel graduated from the Medical College of Virginia in 2003. He then completed a residency in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at the University of Maryland Medical Center in 2007, serving as Chief Resident for the Med/Peds residency during his 4th year. Following residency, he stayed on at UMMC for his fellowship in Infectious Diseases. In 2009, he joined the faculty at the Institute of Human Virology (IHV) at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. While on faculty, he lived in Lusaka, Zambia working with the University of Zambia (UNZA) to develop a residency program in HIV Medicine for Zambian physicians at UNZA. Subsequently, Dr. Patel developed a similar program for the University of Notre Dame-Port au Prince in Haiti.

[Learn more](#)



UMSOM Pediatric Infectious Disease Experts Sound Alarm Over Risk of Outbreaks in U.S. Border

Detention Centers

Over the past year, at least seven children have died from diseases including influenza while being detained by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection agency. Mark Travassos, MD (UMSOM Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health) and other infectious disease experts at the University of Maryland School of Medicine called for protections like influenza vaccinations to prevent serious outbreaks.

“Detention centers have become tinderboxes for infectious-disease outbreaks,” warned [Mark Travassos, MD](#), Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at UMSOM and a pediatric infectious disease specialist in the UMSOM Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health (CVD). In a commentary published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, Dr. Travassos and UMSOM Pediatrics-Internal Medicine Resident [Carlo](#)

[Foppiano Palacios, MD](#), said that it is not a surprise that thousands of detained migrants and asylum seekers have been quarantined because of influenza, mumps and chickenpox outbreaks.

“Children and adults are being held in crowded conditions without adequate sanitation or medical care,” they wrote, adding that the physical and emotional stress and trauma that migrants and asylum seekers experience can also weaken their immune systems, thereby increasing their risk of systemic infection.

The rise of outbreaks and deaths in these detention centers point to the urgent need for mandatory influenza immunization for migrant children and an opt-out vaccine policy for adults in CBP detention centers, Dr. Travassos and Dr. Foppiano Palacios warned.

“The logistics of vaccine administration are relatively straightforward. Influenza vaccine is simple to administer and carries a low risk of adverse effects. In the event that a detainee has previously been immunized, there is no drawback to receiving multiple vaccinations,” they said.

Kathleen Neuzil, MD, MPH They also recommended that employees at these detention centers be held to similar vaccination standards as health care workers at U.S. hospitals during influenza season, citing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices’ recommendation that all people who work in health care facilities receive annual influenza vaccines. “Mandatory immunization of these workers is critical to limiting the spread of diseases such as influenza,” they asserted.

Infectious disease specialists at the CVD highlight the importance of the seasonal influenza vaccine. “We know that influenza spreads easily, particularly among children and in crowded conditions, and we know that vaccines are an important tool to prevent outbreaks,” said [Kathleen Neuzil, MD, MPH](#), the Myron M. Levine Professor in Vaccinology, Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics and Director of the CVD.

For more than four decades, experts in the CVD have been developing and testing vaccines to protect against infectious diseases like seasonal influenza, as well as emerging strains of this virus. Physician-scientists are also researching ways to develop a longer-lasting seasonal influenza vaccine.

“Our infectious disease research at the University of Maryland School of Medicine has served as a critical tool in protecting even the most vulnerable populations, the elderly and those with weakened immune systems, from complex and emerging diseases. Vaccines are an important tool in preventing serious illnesses such as influenza, measles, mumps and chickenpox,” said UMSOM Dean [E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA](#), who is also Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, UM Baltimore, and the John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor, University of Maryland School of Medicine.

[Learn more](#)



UM School of Medicine Research Shows Less Severe Cases of Diarrheal Illness can Still Lead to

Child Deaths

The Global Enteric Multicenter Study (GEMS) is the largest, most comprehensive study of childhood diarrheal diseases ever conducted in developing country settings. Now, researchers at the University of Maryland School of Medicine found that even milder cases of diarrheal diseases can lead to death in young children.

This research, the latest report from the [Global Enteric Multicenter Study \(GEMS\)](#), published in *Lancet Global Health*, “provides a strong rationale for vigorously acting to prevent or to treat all cases of diarrheal illness, regardless of severity,” according to [Myron M. Levine, MD, DTPH](#), the

Simon and Bessie Grollman Distinguished Professor and Associate Dean for Global Health, Vaccinology and Infectious Diseases. Dr. Levine, who served as the overall coordinating investigator for GEMS research, led a large international consortium of investigators from North America, Europe, sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Australia.

“Our international team of investigators showed that for the individual child moderate-to-severe diarrheal illness posed a significantly greater risk of death than less-severe diarrhea. However, in the overall pediatric populations in which our team worked, more total deaths derive from less-severe cases of diarrhea because they are more than three times more common than moderate-to-severe cases,” said Dr. Levine.

Since many of the deaths occurred more than 14 to 21 days after the children were enrolled in the study, Dr. Levine suggests that where resources and logistics make it feasible active follow-up visits and interventions for all cases of diarrhea could help reduce fatalities.

GEMS, funded by the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#), is the largest, most comprehensive study of childhood diarrheal diseases ever conducted in developing country settings. The study, under the direction of [Karen Kotloff, MD](#), Professor of Pediatrics at UMSOM and the Principal Investigator for Clinical and Epidemiological Research in GEMS, enrolled 22,568 children under five years of age in developing country settings including The Gambia, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. Dr. Kotloff, previously reported that children who were stunted at baseline (a sign of malnutrition) were significantly more likely to die during the two to three months following their GEMS diarrheal illness. The additional adverse nutritional consequences (stunting) that followed GEMS diarrhea cases may further increase the risk of severe or fatal outcomes.

Dr. Kotloff noted that the *Lancet Global Health* report showed that the risk of death from diarrheal illness was greater among young children in the four GEMS sites in sub-Saharan Africa than in the three sites in South Asia. She further noted that at the one site in Asia (Pakistan) where the risk of death following diarrhea was higher than at the other two Asian sites (India and

Bangladesh), the Pakistani children were significantly more malnourished at baseline, providing further proof that malnutrition unfavorably affects the outcome of diarrheal illness.

Leading Cause of Death in Young Children

Globally, diarrheal diseases are the second leading cause of death among children under five years after the newborn period, despite the existence of effective treatments such as oral rehydration solutions (ORS) and zinc supplements and preventions such as rotavirus vaccines. This amounts to more than half a million deaths each year globally. Although many different bacteria, viruses and protozoal pathogens cause diarrheal disease, this recent report from GEMS shows that a relatively small number of pathogens were associated with a significantly increased risk of death, including three different categories of diarrhea-causing *Escherichia coli*, *Shigella*, *Aeromonas*, and two protozoans (*Cryptosporidium* and *Entameba histolytica*). Among these pathogens, *Shigella* can cause both dysenteric (gross blood in diarrheal stools) and non-dysenteric clinical forms of moderate-to-severe diarrhea. Whereas dysentery is an indication for treatment with anti-*Shigella* antibiotics, non-dysenteric diarrhea is not typically treated with antibiotics. Thus, it was of particular interest to observe that *Shigella* not only significantly increased the risk of death in children with non-dysenteric moderate-to-severe diarrhea, but it was also quite common when detected by highly sensitive molecular diagnostic techniques.

“CVD’s GEMS research provides important data showing the need to better prevent and treat diarrheal illness. Over the past decade we’ve seen a decline in child mortality linked to diarrheal illness, but certainly more needs to be done,” said [Kathleen Neuzil, MD, MPH](#), the Myron M. Levine Professor in Vaccinology, Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics and Director of the Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health (CVD).

E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBAThe research is designed to help set a path for better prevention and treatment of diarrheal illness in children. “This research underscores our commitment to take on the most challenging illnesses for the world’s vulnerable populations,” said Dean [E. Albert](#)

[Reece, MD, PhD, MBA](#). “Our Global Enteric Multicenter Study research continues to serve as a key guide for policy makers as they move toward preventing child mortality and designing the best interventions for children suffering from diarrheal illness,” added Dean Reece, who is also Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, UM Baltimore, and the John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor, University of Maryland School of Medicine.

[Learn more](#)

External Global News & Opportunities

Consortium of
Universities
for Global Health



MARCH 24: CUGH Hosts Webinar on "Gun Violence in the Americas Focus: Mexico"

With the world's highest rate of lethal gun violence, the Americans are in the midst of an unmitigated public health crisis. But activists, medical professionals, human rights workers, and policy experts are working together to stop this bloodshed and the vectors that make it happen. This webinar brings together leading researchers and advocates who are organizing an international conference on Gun Violence in Mexico and Central America: Challenges and Paths to Solutions.

[Register here](#)

Consortium of
Universities
for Global Health



MARCH 27: The Lancet & CUGH Hosts Webinar Series on "Building Your Career in Global Health and International Development"

Global health is an ever-changing field. Take this opportunity to ask leaders in this space questions about how to advance your career in global health and international development. These leaders have a broad range of experience in the field and have occupied very senior positions in academia. Students and junior faculty in low and middle-income countries are particularly encouraged to register for this webinar.

[Register here](#)



APRIL 7: The National Academy of Medicine Hosts Anniversary Symposia Series on "Immunology & Vaccines, Digital Innovation, and Climate Change"

The National Academy of Medicine (NAM) will host three regional scientific symposia this year celebrating 50 years since the founding of the Institute of Medicine (now NAM). Taken together, the symposia will highlight the unique role and contributions of your organization and members, and explore new and exciting trends on the horizon within the fields of health and medicine.

[Register here](#)

CGE Opportunities



Mentors Wanted for the International Student Peer Mentorship Program Fall 2020

The International Student Peer Mentorship Program aims to help new international students to have a smooth, cultural, academic, and social transition to life in the U.S. and Baltimore. Your experience and guidance about studying at UMB will be invaluable to those incoming students. The application deadline is **March 20, 2020**.

[Learn more](#)

Global Safety & Security

Worldwide reach Human touch



All UMB faculty, staff and students traveling internationally on UMB business or programs are required to register their international travel itineraries and emergency contact information in the UMB International SOS travel registry. International SOS is a worldwide information, medical, and travel security assistance provider for a full range of support to those traveling internationally. Check out the UMB International SOS portal page for more information and to download the assistance app.

Questions? Contact Bonnie Bissonette at bbissonette@umaryland.edu.

[Go to the SOS Portal](#)



umaryland.edu/global

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The Center for Global Engagement is the university-wide hub for interprofessional global health and education. **The Office of International Services** provides immigration and other support services to UMB's international scholar and student community.

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