

Year in Review 2022-2023

VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER

Institute for Global Health



John F. Kennedy Medical Center, Monrovia, Liberia



MISSION

To provide leadership in interdisciplinary research, education, health systems strengthening, and advocacy for health and development in resource-limited settings around the world

VISION

To improve health and well-being of people in local and global environments



Message from the Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As we learn to navigate in a post-COVID-19 world, our engagement with international partners has regained momentum, and our work is more important than ever. I am grateful for the collaborations with peer institutions, internal departments, and among colleagues. The [Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health \(VIGH\)](#) remains committed to ensuring a healthy future for everyone, regardless of where you live.

This Annual Report showcases our new collaborations with international partners and colleagues and highlights the recent work of our faculty members and staff. As you scan these pages, you will see how we tackle health challenges impacting underserved communities with optimism for the future. VIGH faculty appointments span eight Vanderbilt schools and colleges, and our adjunct faculty are based worldwide.

Global partnerships are at the heart of our mission, and capacity building is a core value of the institute and is reflected in our robust commitment to training and research programs at home and abroad. Collaborating with new and existing partners, we added several new noncommunicable disease projects to our research and training portfolio, including surgery, cardiovascular disease, cancer epidemiology, radiology, vaccinology, and the humanities. Some of these new projects expanded our geographical reach into Central and South America and Southeast Asia. Other new project topics include biostatistics, HIV, tuberculosis, monkeypox, COVID-19, respiratory disease, biomedical informatics, and mHealth. Relationships are vital to developing new areas of research and discovery, and we are open to working with others on ideas of mutual interest.

Our team's robust education and training initiatives foster strong student interest in global health. Students and trainees are well-prepared for successful careers, and our graduates are making a global impact. We embrace Vanderbilt University's global approach and engage with students at every level. I am grateful for the faculty's support of our global health education programs.

Reflecting on this past year's work and our mission of improving health in resource-limited settings and underserved communities worldwide, I am thankful for the effort of many people at VIGH and the broader Vanderbilt community. We exist to facilitate, assist, and foster global health programs. It is the commitment of our people that makes it possible. We are here and ready to collaborate.

I appreciate your support as we partner to ensure a healthy future for all.

Sincerely,

Muktar H. Aliyu

Muktar Aliyu, MD, DrPH, MPH
Director, Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health
VUMC Endowed Directorship in Global Health
Professor of Health Policy and Medicine,
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Mission and Vision2
- Director's Message3
- Quick Facts.....4
- Leadership Team.....5
- Faculty6-7
- Grants.....8-9
- Publications 10
- Friends in Global Health..... 11
- VU Education Programs 12
- Scholar Profiles 13
- Awards and Recognition 14
- DEI 15

QUICK FACTS

Grant Portfolio

New in FY23

\$9.4M

Total FY23 Grant Funding **\$106M**
(of which **\$57M** were global)

FY23 Publications

630

Faculty and Staff

147

Global Health Grand Rounds

20

meetings with international guest speakers

Global health at VUMC is a collaborative experience where we focus on relationships between faculty, partners, staff, and communities who seek to improve health equity and well-being of underserved people both globally and locally. Our approach is rooted in applying new knowledge to bridge the gaps in care worldwide.

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored our interconnected world and the importance of collaboration within the scientific research community. From the Americas to Asia and throughout Africa, Vanderbilt scientists have projects spanning diverse disciplines which include clinical investigation, capacity building, data science and vaccine development.

VIGH's expertise represents a multi-discipline approach to global health with over 125 faculty members with appointments that span eight Vanderbilt schools and colleges. We foster new international partnerships and encourage existing global relationships between Vanderbilt faculty and staff and affiliated institutions. Our programs are designed to develop and strengthen scientific leadership and expertise needed for research at institutions in low- to middle-income countries (LMICs).

Operating as an institute without walls, the [Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health](#) collaborates with Vanderbilt experts and international partners to educate and train the next generation of global health leaders and provides support to health researchers working in LMICs.

Innovation and creative solutions are necessary to overcome the challenges of delivering equitable healthcare worldwide. It requires rigorous scientific study, a multidisciplinary approach, and a focus on community engagement. VIGH serves as a hub for international health research and education programs at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC). We are here to improve health and well-being for the most vulnerable, impact global public health and make global health local.

Leadership Team



Muktar Aliyu, MD, DrPH, MPH

Director, Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health
VUMC Endowed Directorship in Global Health
Professor of Health Policy and Medicine,
Vanderbilt University Medical Center



Carolyn Audet, PhD, MSci

Associate Director for Research, VIGH
Associate Director, Center for Clinical Quality and Implementation Research
Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Health Policy,
Vanderbilt University Medical Center



Holly Cassell, MPH

Assistant Director for Collaborative Relations, VIGH
Vanderbilt University Medical Center



Lynn Garrett, MS, BBA

Assistant Director, Office of Sponsored Programs
Vanderbilt University Medical Center



Ron Jannetta, MBA

Chief Business Officer, Vanderbilt Institute for Medicine and Public Health
Vanderbilt University Medical Center



Marie H. Martin, PhD, MEd

Associate Director, Education and Training, VIGH
Associate Professor of Health Policy, Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Director, Global Health Track, Master of Public Health Program, Vanderbilt University



C. William "Bill" Wester, MD, MPH

Associate Director, Global Health Faculty Development, VIGH
Co-Director, Global Health Pathway (Internal Medicine Residency)
Professor, Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases,
Vanderbilt University Medical Center





Mary Adam, MD, MA, PhD, FAAP
Head of Research,
AIC Kijabe Hospital, Kenya



Rebecca "Ribka" Berhanu, MD
Assistant Professor, Medicine (Infectious Diseases)



Eden Biltibo, MD, MSCI
Assistant Professor, Medicine



Merranda Holmes, MD
Assistant Professor, Clinical Medicine and Pediatrics
Co-Director Internal Medicine, Global Health



Leigh Howard, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor, Pediatrics



Rondi Kauffmann, MD, MPH, FACS
Vice Chair for Global Surgery
Associate Professor, Surgery



Audrey Bowden, PhD
Associate Professor, Biomedical Engineering
Vanderbilt School of Engineering
Associate Professor,
Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences



Jessica Castilho, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor,
Medicine (Infectious Diseases)
and Health Policy



Salome Charalambous, MBBCh, MSc PhD
Group Chief Scientific Officer,
The Aurum Institute, South Africa



Annet Kirabo, DVM, MSc, PhD, FAHA
Associate Professor, Medicine
and Molecular Physiology & Biophysics



Lauren Klein, MD
Instructor of Pediatrics, Gastroenterology,
Hepatology, and Nutrition



J. Matthew Kynes, MD
Associate Professor, Anesthesiology



Richard Davis, MD
General Surgeon,
AIC Kijabe Hospital, Kenya



Nhue Do, MD
Associate Vice Chair, Global Surgery
Assistant Professor, Pediatric Cardiac Surgery
and Biomedical Informatics



Vinodh Edward, BSc, DTech
CEO: South Africa, The Aurum Institute
Adjunct Assistant Professor,
Yale School of Public Health



Mark Newton, MD, FAAP
Director, Vanderbilt International Anesthesia
Professor, Anesthesiology



Jessica M. Perkins, PhD
Assistant Professor, Human and
Organizational Development,
Vanderbilt Peabody College



Kaylyn Sachse, MD
Assistant Professor,
Clinical Anesthesiology



Digna Velez Edwards, MS, PhD
Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology
Director, Women's Health Research Center



June Fabian, MBBCh, MPharm
Research Director,
Wits University Donald Gordon Medical Centre
Johannesburg, South Africa



Carlos Grijalva, MD, MPH, FIDSA
Professor, Health Policy
and Biomedical Informatics



John Scheel, MD, PhD, MPH
Vice Chair of Global Health in Radiology
Professor, Radiology



Bantayehu Sileshi, MD
Associate Professor, Anesthesiology



Raghu Upender, MD, MBA
Medical Director, Vanderbilt Sleep
Disorders Center
Professor, Neurology



T.S. Harvey, PhD
Associate Professor, Medical and Linguistic
Anthropology, Vanderbilt University



Jeffrey Hine, MEd, PhD
Associate Professor, Pediatrics
Director of Primary Care Outreach and Training, TRIAD
Vanderbilt Kennedy Center



Yuri van der Heijden, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor, Medicine
(Infectious Diseases)



Zachary Warren, PhD
Executive Director, Vanderbilt Kennedy Center TRIAD
Professor, Pediatrics, Psychiatry and
Behavioral Sciences & Special Education

If not otherwise noted,
faculty appointments are
with Vanderbilt University
School of Medicine.



**Strategic engagements in 22 countries
with over 9.4 million in new funding for FY23**

28 New Grants

Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs)

- [Evaluation of Barriers to Completion of Breast Cancer Treatment at a Tertiary Teaching and Referral Center in Kenya](#)
Investigator(s): Rondi Kauffmann
Funder: National Cancer Institute
- [Salt Taste Sensitivity, Genetics and Salt Sensitivity of Blood Pressure in HIV](#)
Investigator(s): Annet Kirabo, Sepiso Masenga
Funder: John E. Fogarty International Center
- [Cardiometabolic Consequences And Pathway Of Weight Gain Associated With Dolutegravir-Based Antiretroviral Therapy In Haiti: A Collaborative Study Between GHESKIO And CCASAnet](#)
Investigator(s): John Koethe, Samuel Pierre
Funder: John E. Fogarty International Center

- [RAD-AID International Grant Award](#)
Investigator(s): John Scheel
Funder: RAD-AID International

Maternal and Child Health

- [Pediatric Anesthesia Training in Africa \(PATA\)](#)
Investigator(s): Mark Newton
Funders: Smile Train, Inc., The ELMA Foundation

Neurology / Neurosurgery

- [Integrated Molecular and Clinical Characterization of Disseminated Pediatric Low Grade Glioma: A Pediatric Low-Grade Glioma Task Force Initiative](#)
Investigator(s): Michael Dewan
Funder: Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation

Hematology / Sickle Cell Disease

- [Global Pediatric Medicine Department, Sickle Cell Disease program in Kano, Nigeria](#)
Investigator(s): Michael DeBaun
Funder: St. Jude's Research Hospital

Humanities

- [The Work of Their Own Hands: Struggles for Environmental Justice, Global Public Health, and Sustainability in Guatemala](#)
Investigator(s): T.S. Harvey
Funder: The Ford Foundation

Infectious Diseases

- [Estamos Juntos \(We are Together\): Improving HIV Care Delivery by Capacitating Health Care Providers](#)
Investigator(s): Carolyn Audet
Funder: National Institute of Mental Health
- [Longitudinal Study of HIV and Aging in Brazil](#)
Investigator(s): Jessica Castilho, Beatriz Grinsztejn
Funder: National Institute on Aging
- [Lab Service Agreement - Dengue Antibody Material](#)
Investigator(s): James Crowe
Funder: Naval Medical Research Center
- [Rapidly Emerging Antiviral Drug Discovery Initiative \(READDI\)](#)
Investigator(s): Mark Denison (UNC sub award)
Funder: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
- [Epidemiology of Respiratory Syncytial Virus in Young, Hospitalized Children in Jordan: A Prospective Viral Surveillance Study](#)
Investigator(s): Natasha Halasa
Funder: Merck & Co. Inc
- [Impact of Pandemic Mitigation Efforts on Colonization and Transmission of Respiratory Pathogens and Antibiotic Resistance Genes](#)
Investigator(s): Leigh Howard, Carlos Grijalva
Funder: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
- [Statistical Methods and Designs for Correlated Outcome and Covariate Errors in Studies of HIV/AIDS](#)
Investigator(s): Bryan Shepherd, Pamela Shaw
Funder: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
- [Associative BRICS Research in COVID-19 and Tuberculosis \(ABRICOT\)](#)
Investigator(s): Timothy Sterling
Funder: CRDF Global (Civilian Research and Development Foundation)
- [Brazil Bridge Funding - Preparation for Phase 2](#)
Investigator(s): Timothy Sterling
Funder: CRDF Global (Civilian Research and Development Foundation)
- [Innovative Modeling for Predicting TB Treatment Outcomes in global cohorts](#)
Investigator(s): Timothy Sterling
Funder: CRDF Global (Civilian Research and Development Foundation)
- [Regional Prospective Observational Research in Brazil](#)
Investigator(s): Tim Sterling, Bruno Andrade
Funder: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
- [Tuberculosis Trials Consortium](#)
Investigator(s): Timothy Sterling, Kelly Dooley
Funder: Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- [Lesion Counting from Monkeypox Patients' Photographs by Artificial Intelligence](#)
Investigator(s): Eric Tkaczyk
Funder: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases



mHealth Biomedical Informatics

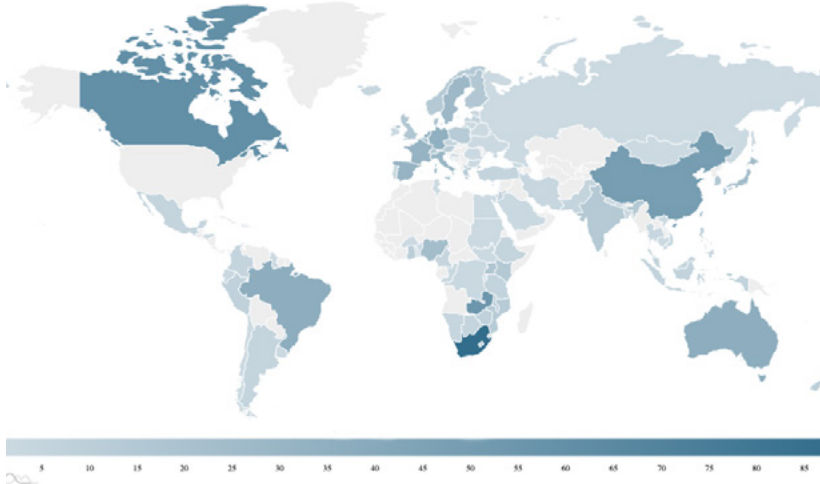
- [Smartphone-integrated, non-invasive, depth-resolved optical spectroscopy for the detection of neonatal jaundice](#)
Investigator(s): Audrey Bowden, Martin Were (VU sub award)
Funder: National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering
- [Maternal mHealth blood hemoglobin analysis with informed deep learning](#)
Investigator(s): Martin Were (Purdue sub award)
Funder: National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering

Education and Training

- [Building local capacity in rural Guatemala and Kenya to engage communities, identify barriers, and increase awareness of public health issues](#)
Investigator(s): Marie Martin, Tevin Mathew and Anjola Ajayi (Student Ambassadors)
Funder: Global Network for Academic Public Health
- [Health Economics Modeling Workshop](#)
Investigator(s): John Graves, Marie Martin, Ashley Leech
Funder: Vital Strategies
- [Vanderbilt-Nigeria Biostatistics Training Program \(VN-BioStat\)](#)
Investigator(s): Bryan Shepherd, Muktar Aliyu, Nafiu Hussaini
Funder: John E. Fogarty International Center
- [Vanderbilt-Zambia Cancer Research Training Program \(VZCARE\)](#)
Investigator(s): Shu, Xiao-Ou, Douglas Heimburger, Wilbrod Mutale
Funder: National Cancer Institute
- [Peru Vanderbilt – Prevention through Vaccination Training \(PREVENT\) Program](#)
Investigator(s): Carlos Grijalva, Claudio Lanata, Theresa Ochoa
Funder: John E. Fogarty International Center

Publications

Author Organizations and Institutions by Country



Data were compiled using Flight Tracker for Scholars, a VICTR-supported initiative.

VIGH-affiliated faculty published **630 papers**, of which **284** included **1,058 co-authors** from organizations and institutions in **101 countries**, with South Africa having the highest number of author-affiliated (89) organizations and institutions.

The [Altmetric](#) Attention Score for research output indicates the amount of real-time attention it has received from online sources to measure engagement. Altmetrics complement traditional indicators like time to publication and citation analysis. The score is derived from an automated algorithm and represents a weighted count of the attention gathered for research output.

Dixon-Suen SC, Lewis SJ, Martin RM, et al. [Physical activity, sedentary time and breast cancer risk: a Mendelian randomisation study](#). Br J Sports Med. 2022;56(20):1157-1170. doi:10.1136/bjsports-2021-105132
Altmetric Score: 687
VIGH-affiliated author(s): Xiao-Ou Shu, Wei Zheng

Rahmioglu N, Mortlock S, Ghiasi M, et al. [The genetic basis of endometriosis and comorbidity with other pain and inflammatory conditions](#). Nat Genet. 2023;55(3):423-436. doi:10.1038/s41588-023-01323-z
Altmetric Score: 605
VIGH-affiliated author(s): Digna R Velez-Edwards

Lang R, Humes E, Hogan B, et al. [Evaluating the Cardiovascular Risk in an Aging Population of People With HIV: The Impact of Hepatitis C Virus Coinfection](#). J Am Heart Assoc. 2022;11(19):e026473. doi:10.1161/JAHA.122.026473
Altmetric Score: 485
VIGH-affiliated author(s): Timothy Sterling

Mazur NI, Terstappen J, Baral R, et al. [Respiratory syncytial virus prevention within reach: the vaccine and monoclonal antibody landscape](#). Lancet Infect Dis. 2023;23(1):e2-e21. doi:10.1016/S1473-3099(22)00291-2
Altmetric Score: 401
VIGH-affiliated author(s): James E Crowe Jr

Low A, Gummerson E, Schwitters A, et al. [Food insecurity and the risk of HIV acquisition: findings from population-based surveys in six sub-Saharan African countries \(2016-2017\)](#). BMJ Open. 2022;12(7):e058704. Published 2022 Jul 12. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2021-058704
Altmetric Score: 304
VIGH-affiliated author(s): Lloyd Mulenga

Maturi RK, Glassman AR, Josic K, et al. [Four-Year Visual Outcomes in the Protocol W Randomized Trial of Intravitreal Afibercept for Prevention of Vision-Threatening Complications of Diabetic Retinopathy](#). [published correction appears in JAMA. 2023 Mar 28;329(12):1034]. JAMA. 2023;329(5):376-385. doi:10.1001/jama.2022.25029
Altmetric Score: 296
VIGH-affiliated author(s): Paul Sternberg

Evering TH, Chew KW, Giganti MJ, et al. [Safety and Efficacy of Combination SARS-CoV-2 Neutralizing Monoclonal Antibodies Amubarvimab Plus Romlusevimab in Nonhospitalized Patients With COVID-19](#). Ann Intern Med. 2023;176(5):658-666. doi:10.7326/M22-3428
Altmetric Score: 286
VIGH-affiliated author(s): William Brumskine

Fernandez-Rozadilla C, Timofeeva M, Chen Z, et al. [Deciphering colorectal cancer genetics through multi-omic analysis of 100,204 cases and 154,587 controls of European and east Asian ancestries](#). [published correction appears in Nat Genet. 2023 Feb 13;]. Nat Genet. 2023;55(1):89-99. doi:10.1038/s41588-022-01222-9
Altmetric Score: 248
VIGH-affiliated author(s): Xiao-Ou Shu, Wei Zheng

Stevens LJ, Pruijssers AJ, Lee HW, et al. [Mutations in the SARS-CoV-2 RNA-dependent RNA polymerase confer resistance to remdesivir by distinct mechanisms](#). Sci Transl Med. 2022;14(656):eabo0718. doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.abo0718
Altmetric Score: 256
VIGH-affiliated author(s): Mark Denison



Friends in Global Health (FGH)

Working in partnership with local government and civil sector organizations, [FGH](#) implements health and development programs through effective partnerships and sustainable strategies and conducts innovative research and program evaluation shaping health care delivery in low- and middle-income countries. Our impact on community health and well-being is guided by engagement with local teams and strategic partners.

FGH serves as VUMC's primary vehicle for program implementation in Mozambique. FGH and VUMC function as one team, with most of its technical expertise based in Zambézia Province, Mozambique. FGH has been registered with the Government of Mozambique for the implementation of HIV prevention, care and treatment and other health development programs for nearly 18 years. The FGH team works closely with Mozambique Ministry of Health officials at the national, provincial, district and health facility levels to implement sustainable models of community and facility-based services that cover, among other areas, the full spectrum of the HIV response.

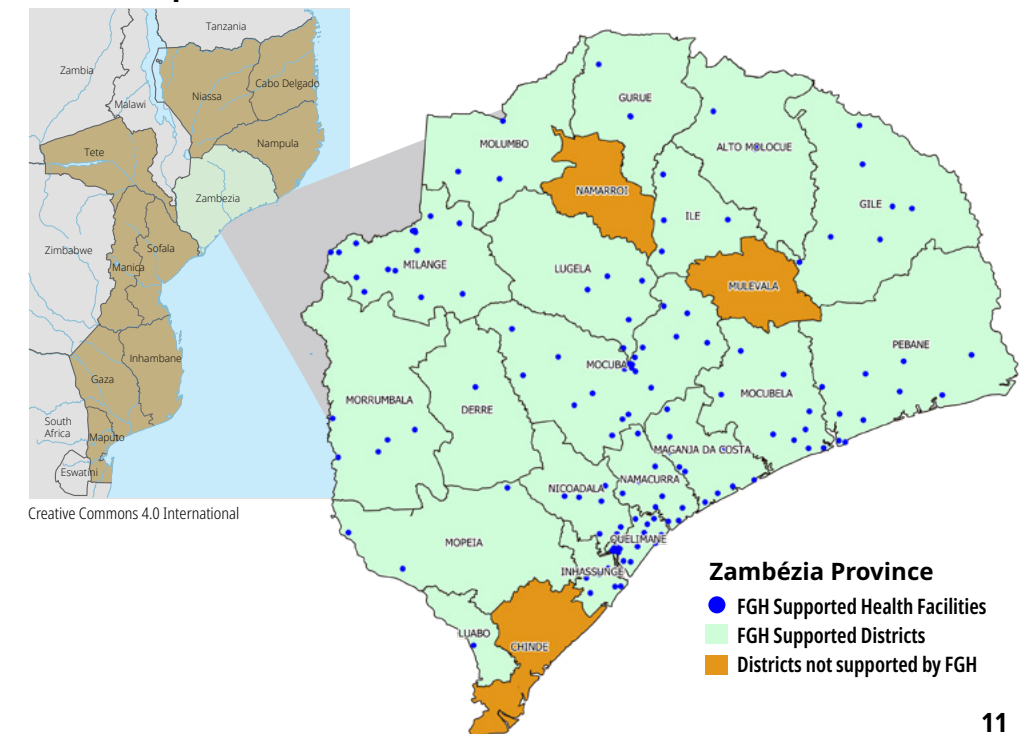


Avante ("moving forward" in Portuguese)

With support from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the [Avante](#) program works in partnership with provincial health authorities through a team based in the capital Quelimane in Zambézia Province with district-based multidisciplinary teams and health facility based managers. Provincial and district-based teams are comprised of specialists in Health Communications, HIV Counseling and Testing, HIV C&T, Psychosocial Support, Maternal and Child Health, Tuberculosis, Laboratory, Pharmacy, and Strategic Information.

- 147 health facilities support the delivery of HIV care and treatment to more than 372,000 people living with HIV in Zambézia Province, Mozambique
- 139 of the 147 facilities provide high-quality cervical cancer screening
- More than 372,000 persons currently receiving potentially life-saving antiretroviral therapy (ART)
- More than 465,000 individuals undergoing HIV counseling and testing (HTC) per quarter this past fiscal year
- Viral load suppression rate of 91% among ART-treated patients (children and adults)

Mozambique



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Zambézia Province
 ● FGH Supported Health Facilities
 ■ FGH Supported Districts
 ■ Districts not supported by FGH

Vanderbilt Master of Public Health — Global Health Track 9

Graduate Certificate in Global Health 14

Vanderbilt Collaborative for Global Health Equity 11

**2022-23
Vanderbilt
Trainees
28**

- Research Immersion
- Integrated Science Course
- Advanced Elective



**2022-23
Student
Engagement**

42

**VIGH Student Advisory
Council Members**

75

**Global Health Case
Competition Participants**

17

**Student Interns
(Fall and Spring)**

80

**Vanderbilt Medical School
Global Health
Organization Members**

Scholar Profiles



Violet Kayamba, PhD, MMed

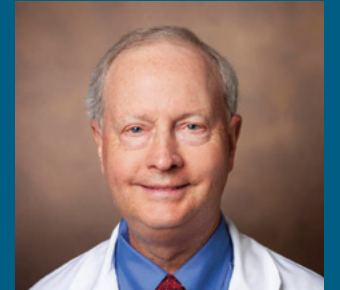
Violet Kayamba, MMed, PhD, is a gastroenterologist, senior lecturer, and Assistant Dean for Research at the University of Zambia (UNZA) School of Medicine. She is also a researcher at the Tropical Gastroenterology and Nutrition Group, heading the cancer research section. Her primary research interests are upper gastrointestinal cancers.

She completed her PhD in 2019 with support from the Fogarty-funded University of Zambia-Vanderbilt Partnership for HIV-Nutrition Research Training (UVP) program. She attended the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program at Vanderbilt University as part of her studies and is a Vanderbilt Institute for Research Development and Ethics (VIRDE) Scholar and Fogarty Global Health Fellow.

After receiving her PhD, Dr. Kayamba joined the UVP team, coordinating the training program in Zambia. She is also the training director of the NCI-supported Vanderbilt-Zambia Cancer Research Training program (VZCARE). The program seeks to develop a cadre of researchers and educators equipped with knowledge and expertise to lead cancer research. Under the VZCARE program, Dr. Kayamba spent one month at VIGH in April 2023, enhancing her mentorship and grant-writing skills under Dr. Xiao-Ou Shu, professor of Medicine at VUMC.

In collaboration with Richard Peek Jr., MD, professor of Medicine at VUMC, Dr. Kayamba received a supplement to an ongoing grant focused on Helicobacter pylori pathogenesis and cancer. This award will increase her capacity to work independently as a world-class gastric cancer researcher.

Dr. Kayamba has presented her work at major international gastroenterology conferences and is active in numerous international organizations.



Richard Peek, MD



Sepiso Masenga, MSc, PhD

Sepiso Masenga, MSc, PhD is a senior lecturer and leads the HAND Research Group at Mulungushi University School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Zambia, focusing on HIV, hypertension, nutrition, diabetes, and dyslipidemia.

In 2020, Dr. Masenga received his PhD in immunopathology from the University of Zambia (UNZA), with support from the Fogarty-funded UVP program.

After graduating, he completed the Fogarty Global Health Fellowship program and completed the VIRDE Scholar program at Vanderbilt. During the month, he worked with Annet Kirabo, DVM, MSc, PhD, associate professor of Medicine, and other VUMC faculty and staff in preparing a successful NIH grant proposal. The new two-year exploratory research grant will study the link between salt taste sensitivity and salt intake, blood pressure, hypertension, and genetic variations in individuals of African descent. Part of the preliminary data for this study originated from Masenga's doctoral dissertation research and his research project as a Fogarty Fellow.



Annet Kirabo, DVM, MSc, PhD



Samuel Pierre, MD, MS

Samuel Pierre, MD, MS, is a clinical research site coordinator at GHESKIO and a university lecturer in epidemiology at the State University School of Medicine in Haiti, where he received his MD. He graduated from Cornell University with a Master's in Clinical Epidemiology and Health Service Research in 2016.

Dr. Pierre is currently the Co-Vice Chair of A5362, a Phase 2 ACTG international and multi-site clinical trial to evaluate the efficacy of 13 weeks of experimental clofazimine-containing TB regimen.

In 2023, Dr. Pierre and Dr. John Koethe, associate professor of Medicine at VUMC received a two-year exploratory research grant to study the cardiometabolic consequences and pathway of weight gain associated with a Dolutegravir-based ART regimen in persons living with HIV in Haiti. Dr. Koethe and other VUMC faculty and staff mentored Dr. Pierre in preparing the grant proposal as a VIRDE Scholar.

Dr. Pierre is also participating in the Fogarty-IeDEA Mentorship Program (FIMP). He will work with mentors Jessica Castilho, MD, MPH, assistant professor of Medicine and Health Policy, and Peter Rebeiro, PhD, assistant professor of Medicine at VUMC.



John Koethe, MD

Awards and Recognition

Carolyn Audet, PhD, MSci, associate professor of Health Policy at VUMC and associate director for research at VIGH, [received the Practice Excellence Award](#) from the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health for advancing and integrating scholarly public health practice across research, teaching, and service.

Ryan Belcher, MD, MPH, associate professor, Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery at VUMC, was appointed Medical Student Clerkship Director and selected for the Geoffrey Fleming Academy for Excellence in Education Mentorship Program. In addition, Dr. Belcher was elected to VUMC's Early Career Physician Council and awarded "Top Doctor" in pediatric otolaryngology by *Nashville Lifestyles* magazine.

Gavin Churchyard, MBBCh, MMed, PhD, professor, and Aurum Group CEO, [received an A-rating from the National Research Foundation](#), in recognition of his status as a leading international scholar and for the high quality and impact of his research. In the medical and health sciences field in South Africa, Prof. Churchyard joins an exclusive group of 24 scientists who have earned the NRF "A" rating.

Erin Graves, MPH, lead program manager, was selected to serve on VUMC's Staff Advisory Council (MCSAC) and one of five representatives from the academic enterprise. The MCSAC is a forum of staff representatives across VUMC. Working in collaboration with senior leadership, MCSAC members address topics of concern, exchange information, and enhance employee satisfaction with the goal of contributing to VUMC's success.

Rondi Kauffmann, MD, MPH, associate professor of Surgery at VUMC [was appointed inaugural vice chair of Global Surgery](#). **Michael Dewan, MD, MSCI**, assistant professor of Neurological Surgery, and **Nhue Do, MD**, assistant professor of Cardiac Surgery in the Division of Pediatric Cardiac Surgery at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, join Kauffmann to serve as associate vice chairs for Global Surgery.

Lauren Klein, MD, instructor of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition at VUMC, [was selected for the Katherine Dodd Faculty Scholars Program](#) (Vanderbilt Pediatrics). She is one of three scholars for 2023-2025. The American Society of Hematology Clinical Research Training Institute also selected Dr. Klein to participate in its one-year education and mentoring program in 2024.

Marie H. Martin, PhD, MEd., associate professor of Health Policy and associate director of Education and Training at the VIGH, [was elected to the VUMC/VU Academy for Excellence in Education](#) board and an inaugural graduating scholar of the Geoffrey Fleming Academy for Excellence in Education Mentorship Program at VUMC.

Wilbroad Mutale, MBChB, PhD, professor of Public Health, University of Zambia and adjunct associate professor of

Health Policy at VUMC, [received the Dr. Thomas Hall-Dr. Nelson Sewankambo Mid-Career Leadership Award](#) from the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH).

Elizabeth Rose, EdD, MPH, MEd, Co-Director, MPH Program, Global Health track, and assistant professor of Pediatrics at VUMC, was reappointed to the Education Advisory Committee for the Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health (ASPPH).

Bryan Shepherd, PhD, professor of Biostatistics and Biomedical Informatics and the Vice Chair of Faculty Affairs, Department of Biostatistics at VUMC, received a [MERIT \(Method to Extend Research in Time\)](#) award from the National Institutes of Health.

Xiao-Ou Shu, MD, PhD, Ingram Professor of Cancer Research and professor in the Division of Epidemiology in the Department of Medicine at VUMC, [received the F. Peter Guengerich, Ph.D., Award - Mentoring Postdoctoral Fellows or Residents in the Research Setting from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine](#) and the Outstanding Contributions in Research Award from the VUMC Department of Medicine. She is a co-leader of the Cancer Epidemiology Program and associate director for Global Health at Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center.

The Vanderbilt Tuberculosis Center (VTC), led by **Timothy Sterling, MD**, professor of Medicine at VUMC, [was awarded the Joe B. Ware Partner Service Award at the 2022 National Tuberculosis \(TB\) Controllers Association](#), which recognizes an organization that has made a significant effort or contribution to the mission of TB control and prevention through partnership activities with public health TB programs.

John Scheel, MD, PhD, MPH, was [appointed vice chair of Global and Planetary Health](#), a newly created position in the Department of Radiology and Radiological Sciences at VUMC.

2023 Star Staff Awardees:

Champion of Change Award: Holly Cassell, MPH (drives new, innovative, and impactful action)

Driving Success Award: Donna Miller (long-standing commitment to VIGH)

DEI Award Leslie Pierce, MPH and Lizet Tirres, MS, MBA (commitment to DEI initiatives)

Best Mentor/Team Leader Award: Erin Graves, MPH (motivates others to give their best)

Standout Performer: Carol Johnson (keeps the culture vibrant and alive)



VIGH
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Formalized VIGH's DEI Committee comprised of five members and two co-chairs with a diverse representation of staff and faculty

Finalized the VIGH DEI Committee Charter, which included naming and engaging with ex officio members

WORKSHOPS

The committee hosted **four** workshops with guest speakers and follow-up discussion groups.

Pre- and post-workshop surveys showed that workshops consistently contributed to participants' positive perception of VIGH's DEI environment.

Respondents rated improvement in the VIGH DEI environment from 3.63 in the first workshop survey to 4.1 in the last workshop survey.

(5 point scale where 5=great)

- 1 **Power & Privilege**
80% of respondents found the training "very or extremely useful."
- 2 **Communication**
53% of respondents said the training was "very useful."
- 3 **Emotional Intelligence**
81% of respondents found the training "very or extremely useful."
- 4 **Brave Spaces**
55% of respondents reported they were "really learning a lot."

- Reported DEI Committee progress and workshop summary survey results at monthly VIGH team meetings

- Constructed small conversations to engage all of VIGH in DEI discussions and integrate DEI into VIGH's framework

- Conducted a culture survey among VIGH members

- Compiled a monthly list of VUMC-wide DEI events and share with VIGH members

DEI Committee: Hannah Brooks, MSc, Erin Graves, MPH, Angela Paolucci, MPH, MA (Co-Chair), Leslie Pierce, MPH, Elizabeth Rose, EdD, MPH, MEd, Teris Taylor, MPH, MHS, Lizet Tirres (Co-Chair), MS, MBA, William Wester, MD, MPH



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