Welcome to the third edition of the Global Health Research and Training Initiative (UM-GHRT) newsletter. This program was funded through the Fogarty International Center of the National Institutes of Health, grant TW007496, to develop an institutional framework for global health at Michigan. I invite your input on this exciting initiative (ghrt@umich.edu).

—Siobán Harlow, Director

Just in! Another UM Fogarty grant renewed, “A Regional Southern African Program in Environmental and Occupational Health”. Congratulations to PI Thomas Robins, MD, MPH, Professor Environmental Health, More details in the fall newsletter. See UM-GHRT fall 2006 newsletter for information on the two other UM Fogarty grant renewals.

UM-GHRT Awards
27 Graduate Travel Awards

Congratulations to the 27 recipients of the UM-GHRT Graduate Travel Awards for Winter 2007! Graduate and professional students from across the university received funds for multidisciplinary training in global health. They will participate in internationally-based global health internships, clinical rotations, masters research travel, or preliminary dissertation research travel for a minimum of two months.

2007 IRWG Gender & Global Health Faculty Seed Grant award recipient Elisha Renne—

IPSA course takes students to Peru & China

Right: Students meet with senior citizens in Villa El Salvador, Peru.

INSIDE:
Funding & Award News 1-3
Geneva GH Fellowships 4
IEDP China & Peru 5
FUNDING & AWARDS

the sisters fund

SMALL GRANT AWARDS

University of Michigan’s Institute for Research on Women & Gender

IRWG invites applications requesting support of scholarly activities directed to global health issues, specifically focused on gendered health disparities. In its first call for project proposals, the Sisters Fund seeks to enhance “activist” scholarship or other creative activities that benefit local and global communities experiencing gender-based, health disparities. While providing funds for new and emerging work is a priority for this program, requests for support of on-going programs of research are also considered. Applications from all academic disciplines, including the arts, humanities and sciences, are welcome and encouraged.

2007 GHRT grad travel award recipients

1 ECUADOR
Katherine Connors
Josepha Donlin
Linda Galib
Viridiana Romero
Valerie Varela

2 PERU
Andrew Sechler
Teja Suhas Patil
Allison Stewart

3 SWITZERLAND
Adam Castaño
Allison Leung
Bina Valsangkar

4 GHANA
Iman Kalifa Martin

5 NIGERIA
Edward Okeke
Jack Tocco
Kelly Kirby* (pg. 3)

6 KENYA
Lisa Calhoun
Michael Guterbock
Sara Schmidt
Eric Sifuna

7 TANZANIA
Cathy Sotelo

8 RWANDA
Sarah powers

9 SOUTH AFRICA
Carol Camlin
Lloyd Grieger
Kathryn Van Bemmelen

10 THAILAND
Megan Ryan

11 VIETNAM
Heather Moehle

12 CHINA
Hoang Oanh Thi Nguyen

See http://ghrt.psc.isr.umich.edu for more information on individual research projects & internships
Elisha Renne, recipient of IRWG’s Gender & Global Health Faculty Seed Grant

Congratulations to Elisha Renne, Associate Professor, Anthropology, who received the Winter 2007 IRWG Gender and Global Health Faculty Seed Grant for her project entitled “Improving Maternal/Child Health & Malaria Prevention in Zaria, Nigeria”. Dr. Renne is collaborating with Mairo Bugaje, Department of Pediatrics at Ahmadu Bellow University Teaching Hospital and the ABUTH Institute of Child Health—Ban Zazzau and Stuart Batterman, UM Professor of Environmental Health Sciences at the School of Public Health.

This project will examine women’s knowledge of malaria including its prevention and treatment, and promote and evaluate effective use of insecticide-treated bednets (ITN’s). Renne mentors Kelly Kirby, a UM Anthropology graduate student, who was awarded a GHRT predissertation travel award (see pg 2).

Margaret Kruk, new Assistant Professor at the School of Public Health, Health Management and Policy Department was recipient of last year’s OVPR/UM-GHRT Faculty Seed Grant for her project on the cost-effectiveness of non-physician surgeons in Mozambique. Her research group presented their results at the African Union meeting of health ministers in Maputo in September of 2006. Ministry officials were supportive of approaches using mid-level providers as one part of the solution to physician shortages. The Mozambique Ministry of Health is now sharing its curriculum with other countries. The paper summarizing the results is in press at the British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Kruk was recently honored when invited to the June 2007 Bellagio Conference on Strategies for Increasing Access to Surgical Services in Resource-Constrained Settings in Sub-Saharan Africa. This gathering of academics and policy makers will brainstorm approaches to expanding surgical coverage. Kruk will attend and share research results from her project.
The Program on Global Policy and Governance at Duke University’s Terry Sanford Institute on Public Policy accepted three UM medical students into their summer 2007 program. They will participate in a Geneva Policy Internship and select one of four intensive, weeklong courses; 1. Health Policy in a Globalizing World; 2. Human Rights and Humanitarian Assistance; 3. Global Economic Governance and Trade; 4. Environment and Sustainable Development. Each student received a UM-GHRT graduate travel fellowship to support this opportunity.

Tanyaporn Wanson is UM’s first Geneva Global Health Fellow. She is a 4th year UM medical student who completed the Geneva program in the summer of 2006 with partial funding from UM-GHRT. Tanya is currently in Thailand working on an HIV/AIDS clinical research project funded through Fogarty International Clinical Research Scholars, Overseas Fellowships in Global Health and Clinical
This interdisciplinary course, an initiative of the International Policy Students Association (IPSA) at the Ford School of Public Policy, studies the evolution of a given country’s economic, political, and social institutions and policies. The course examines pressing policy issues facing the country today and how the leaders are dealing with those problems given the internal and external constraints. Students engage in an extensive study of a selected country and then travel to the country over spring break. During the trip, students conduct extensive interviews and discussions with policymakers, members of civil society (non-profit managers, human rights groups, etc), foreign development agencies, and university students. The specific country focus is determined each year by students who applied and were selected by IPSA and the faculty advisor to participate in the study tour. UM-GHRT has assisted in travel funding for the 2006 China and 2007 Peru projects. The Ford School has committed to include a public health module as part of the course and study tour.