Letter from the Director

Why Do We Do What We Do?
Everyone in the world deserves high-quality, affordable, and accessible health care. Where one lives should not determine one’s health or how long one lives.

How Do We Do It?
The UCLA Center for World Health (CWH) brings together the assets of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA (DGSOM), UCLA Health, and its global partners to develop the human capital, health systems, and political will to improve health, both in the United States and around the world.

What Do We Do to Make It Happen?
CWH prepares medical students, physicians, and other health care providers to become leaders to address the world’s health problems of the 21st century. We work to improve health systems in the poorest parts of sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America, as well as in emerging middle-income countries such as Vietnam and China.

Children and Their Mothers Are the Future
The children of today will be the leaders of tomorrow. The first years of life, when good, provide a necessary foundation for the rest of life. Children and their mothers must not only survive, but thrive. Deaths of mothers and their newborn children have decreased substantially around the world, but there is much more to do to make sure that these trends continue.

We work to benefit mothers and children in Los Angeles and around the world. UCLA Mattel Children’s Hospital, under the direction of Sherin U. Devaskar, MD, (Executive Endowed Chair, Department of Pediatrics; Physician-in-Chief, UCLA Mattel Children’s Hospital), received a major gift in 2017 from Mattel Inc. to improve pediatric care in China, India, Indonesia, and South Africa (see pages 2 and 3).

Uday P. Devaskar, MD, Chief of Neonatology in UCLA’s Department of Pediatrics, has worked passionately to advance the care of newborns around the world. He has developed major collaborations in India and is leading UCLA’s efforts to improve neonatology care in China (see page 3).

Surgeons such as Reza Jarrahy, MD, (Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Pediatrics), and Dan DeUgarte, MD, (Pediatric Surgery), work in Latin America and Mozambique, respectively, to improve the quality of pediatric surgical care in low- and middle-income countries.
We Establish Partnerships to Improve Health Systems in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

All of our work is conducted in close partnership with our international collaborators. We believe that such partnerships must be horizontal, rather than top-down or hierarchical, and embody shared decision-making and responsibility. Diversity of perspectives leads to creative solutions and is ultimately the only way to achieve sustainable advances.

UCLA’s work in the poorest nations of the world focuses on HIV with incredible support from the United States government. The efforts of UCLA faculty have brought the benefits of HIV science to some of the poorest parts of Africa. Our work in Malawi, Mozambique, and South Africa could not take place without support from the United States President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), USAID, CDC, and the NIH.

The Fogarty International Center of the U.S. National Institutes of Health has been instrumental in developing the next generation of global health care leaders. Through support from the Fogarty Center, UCLA has partnered on HIV and substance use training programs in Asia (Cambodia, China, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam), as well as countries in the Middle East, such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia (see page 4).

UCLA Faculty Members Pursue Collaborative Research for Worldwide Benefit

The health challenges posed by our century are staggering. UCLA, through its many international and domestic partnerships, is at the forefront of translating scientific breakthroughs and research discoveries into solutions that will have a significant impact on people around the world. As examples, we are working on innovative ways to improve the response to Zika virus and prevent HIV infection (see pages 6 and 7).

UCLA Offers Medical Students and Residents Opportunities to Engage in International Research and Clinical Electives

Frankie Wong, MD ’17, is one example of a medical student who has made a major contribution while doing research in medical school. His work documenting the role of motor vehicle collisions in pediatric facial injuries in South Africa is leading to better prevention of trauma in that country.

For more information on our education program, see page 9.

The World Is More Interconnected Than Ever

The UCLA Center for World Health was founded on the premise that global health begins at our doorstep in Los Angeles, one of the world’s most diverse cities. While there have been recent calls for the United States to focus inward and turn its attention solely to domestic issues, strategizing on ways to improve local issues does not require ignoring challenges in the rest of the world. In fact, this is a false dichotomy—the world’s people and countries are interdependent—and addressing complex issues like health, trade, and the environment is not possible without cooperation. As such, we continue to develop projects and programs that have an impact on both local and international communities.
Improving Global Pediatric Care

UCLA Health announced a $50-million gift from Mattel, Inc. in March 2017 to expand and enhance the work of UCLA Mattel Children’s Hospital. This commitment also supports UCLA’s focus on children’s health globally, with partnerships in China, India, Indonesia, and South Africa. UCLA inaugurated its collaboration with Beijing Children’s Hospital Group/Futang Research Center of Pediatric Development (BCHG), a network of 20 pediatric hospitals throughout China, to improve the health and well-being of children in the world’s largest nation.

The program at UCLA is led by Sherin Devaskar, MD, Physician-in-Chief, Mattel Children’s Hospital, and Chair of Pediatrics; Theodore Moore, MD, Chief of Pediatric Oncology; Uday P. Devaskar, MD, Chief of Neonatology; Joyce Wu, MD, Pediatric Neurology; and Kellye Carroll, MS, CCLS, Director, Chase Child Life Program. Joint initiatives will include educational exchanges of pediatricians, clinical capacity building programs, and innovative collaborative research that can transform BCHG’s approach to these important pediatric subspecialties.

UCLA will also work to develop child life services in BCHG hospitals. Pioneered at UCLA, these services appropriately address the social, emotional, and developmental needs of each child and his or her family in a culturally sensitive manner.

Children’s Health Around the World

UCLA Mattel Children’s Hospital works in Greater Los Angeles and globally to advance the health of all children through research, education, prevention, and care. With 44 child health programs in 22 countries, we strive to make a difference that will last a lifetime, having a positive impact on children, families, and communities throughout the world.
Transforming the Care of Newborns in India

Uday P. Devaskar, MD, Chief of Neonatology at UCLA’s Department of Pediatrics, has dedicated his career to improving the health and well-being of neonates (babies in the first four weeks of life). Since 2001, Dr. Devaskar has been building a close collaboration with Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital (DMH), a charitable, 800-bed multispecialty hospital in Pune, India. Dr. Devaskar’s self-funded program with DMH has resulted in the institution becoming a center of excellence for high-tech newborn patient care, education, and research. DMH’s neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) has expanded from 16 to 45 beds, and the excellence of its care for newborns is now comparable to that of the NICU at UCLA. DMH also has emerged as a center of education and training for physicians and nurses in Pune and in surrounding areas.

In December 2016, Dr. Devaskar was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Neonatology Forum, the largest scientific body of professionals involved in managing newborn care in India. Dr. Devaskar was presented with this prestigious award as a way to recognize his major contributions to improving neonatal health in India.

Ines Boechat, MD
Professor, Departments of Radiology and Pediatrics
Dr. Boechat is the Founding President of the World Federation of Pediatric Imaging (WFPI), a platform for member organizations to address global challenges in pediatric imaging. In 2016, WFPI provided 350 second opinions, mostly in Africa and Asia. Funding comes from all member societies, with a significant contribution from the Society for Pediatric Radiology.

Reza Jarrahy, MD
Associate Clinical Professor, Departments of Surgery and Pediatrics
Dr. Jarrahy provides reconstructive surgery to children with facial birth defects and other deformities, as well as training to local surgeons. He works primarily in Brazil, Guatemala, Mexico, and Peru, with funding from the Annenberg Foundation, UCLA Transdisciplinary Seed Grant, UCLA Latin American Institute, and UCLA Clinical and Translational Science Institute.

Kiran Mitha, MD
Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Pediatrics
As Co-Director of the Global Health Track in the Department of Pediatrics, Dr. Mitha has helped develop innovative curricula for UCLA and visiting international pediatric residents. Over the last year, 16 UCLA pediatric residents completed global health electives in seven countries, while seven residents came to UCLA from Mozambique and Thailand.

Frankie Wong, MD '17
Global Health Pathway Student
Through the UCLA Center for World Health’s Global Short-Term Training Program supported by the Dean’s Office of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Dr. Wong published two first-authored papers in the Journal of Craniofacial Surgery describing the role of motor vehicle collisions in pediatric facial trauma in South Africa. He is now a resident in the Harvard Combined Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery program.
Creating Global Leaders in the Response to HIV and Substance Use

The UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA have trained global health leaders for more than 30 years through support from the NIH Fogarty International Center. Country-specific HIV training programs provide education for professionals from several nations in Asia to complete master’s and doctoral degrees in the epidemiology of HIV or to receive short-term training opportunities as visiting scholars. Through partnerships in collaborating countries, UCLA plays an important role in developing the HIV leadership in East and Southeast Asia.

Under the direction of Roger Detels, MD; Pamina Gorbach, MHS, DrPH; Sung-Jae Lee, PhD; and Li Li, PhD; UCLA has programs in Cambodia, China, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. In September 2016, Dr. Detels received the 2016 Chinese Government Friendship Award, the highest award bestowed to people who are not citizens of China, to honor his efforts over three decades in helping to develop the country’s HIV leadership.

UCLA also leads a Fogarty-supported training initiative in Egypt focused on substance use disorder research. Led by faculty from the UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs—Richard Rawson, PhD; Sherry Larkins, PhD; and Valerie Pearce Antonini, MPH—the initiative partners with Cairo University School of Medicine to train its faculty to determine the nature and extent of substance abuse across Egypt, assess efficacy of specific treatments, evaluate treatment delivery efforts, and design clinical trials.

Capacity Building and Health Systems Strengthening

The UCLA Center for World Health believes that all people should have access to affordable, high-quality health care. To this end, UCLA has 106 programs in 38 countries to prepare both U.S. and international physicians and other health care providers to become leaders to address the world’s health problems of the 21st century.
Partnering to Improve Health Care in China

UCLA Health signed a memorandum of understanding with R&F Properties and Medpoint Health Partners in June 2017 to move forward with a consulting contract to help develop two new, state-of-the-art hospitals in Guangzhou, China. The agreement was signed by Johnese Spisso, President of UCLA Health; Li Sze Lim, Chairman of R&F Properties; and Harris Benny, CEO of Medpoint Health Partners. Representing the U.S. Government were Scott A. Shaw, Counselor for Commercial Affairs from the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, and Charles E. Bennett, Consul General of the U.S. Consulate in Guangzhou.

This partnership will bring clinical excellence, cutting-edge health technologies, and a focus on superb patient care to the region. UCLA Health will provide expertise in developing and managing patient-centered and high-quality health systems, along with the health professional education and quality-assurance programs required to sustain them.

A team of more than 30 experts from UCLA Health and Medpoint Health Partners working throughout the United States, China, and Southeast Asia developed a detailed plan of operations, medical and clinical affairs, nursing, facility management, quality management, education, information technology, and finance. This agreement is UCLA’s first significant venture into international hospital development and is a first step toward realizing the enormous potential to improve health care in the world’s most populous and rapidly evolving region.

Nicholas Bernthal, MD
Assistant Clinical Professor, Orthopaedic Surgery
Dr. Bernthal partnered with Soddo Christian Hospital in Ethiopia to provide orthopaedic surgical services to the population and to train the next generation of surgeons to provide sustainable, high-quality care. This work is possible through the ongoing support of donors, particularly angel supporter Jean-Marc Chapus.

Fabiola Quintero-Rivera, MD, PhD
Associate Professor, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine
Dr. Quintero-Rivera implemented a newborn screening project in Colombia focused on early diagnosis of genetic disorders. The project coordinates an in-country testing and treatment program and trains Colombian health professionals and laboratory specialists on newborn screening procedures.

Michael Rodriguez, MD, MPH
Professor and Vice Chair, UCLA Department of Family Medicine
Founding Director, UCLA Blum Center on Poverty and Health in Latin America
Dr. Rodriguez oversees the Blum Center’s summer scholars program, which annually supports four-to-10 outstanding graduate students for eight-week electives at field sites across Latin America, where they work to improve the health and social conditions faced by low-income and vulnerable populations. Support is provided by the UC Blum Federation and the UCLA Blum Center.

Caroline Gross, MD ’17
Global Health Pathway Student
Throughout medical school at UCLA, Dr. Gross conducted research on neonatal resuscitation training in Ghana’s Western Region, with the NGO Ghana Health and Education Initiative. In 2017, she returned to Ghana for a clinical elective supported by the Dean’s Office. Dr. Gross is completing her residency training at Boston Children’s Hospital.
Understanding and Treating Zika Virus Infections

New research led by Genhong Cheng, PhD, Professor in UCLA’s Department of Microbiology, Immunology, & Molecular Genetics, found that a naturally produced enzyme called 25-hydroxycholesterol (25HC) protects animals against Zika virus infection and can be manufactured to create compounds against a broad range of viruses. Previous research published by Dr. Cheng and his collaborators identified the broad antiviral capacity of 25HC, studying a range of viruses including Ebola and HIV, and the specific mutations that occurred in Zika virus that made it more pathogenic as it traveled around the world. The effects of 25HC had never been tested on Zika virus.

Dr. Cheng’s new study, published in Immunity in March 2017, demonstrated in initial cell culture experiments that 25HC can block Zika and related viruses, including dengue and yellow fever, from entering cells. The research has garnered widespread recognition, including comments from the Director of the NIH National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Anthony S. Fauci. According to Dr. Fauci, “We urgently need to develop new strategies to treat and prevent Zika virus infection and other emerging viral diseases. Identifying immune system components with broad antiviral activity and elucidating how they work is a promising step in that direction.” The research team plans to further study the use of 25HC to combat Zika virus infection and its potential application to humans.
Revolutionizing Global HIV Prevention

Raphael J. Landovitz, MD, MSc, Associate Professor in the UCLA Division of Infectious Diseases, is Protocol Chair for an important new study evaluating a long-acting injectable drug to prevent HIV infection. Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) using daily oral medication has been shown to be safe and effective at preventing HIV in many increased-risk populations around the world. It can be difficult, however, for many people to adhere to a daily medication regimen. According to Anthony S. Fauci, MD, Director of the NIH agency sponsoring the research, “We urgently need more HIV prevention tools that fit easily into people’s lives.”

The trial, known as HPTN 083, compares the efficacy of a new drug called cabotegravir, given by injection every eight weeks, to a standard regimen of daily oral PrEP. Launched in December 2016, the study is enrolling 4,500 men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender women who have sex with men in 44 sites in seven countries—Argentina, Brazil, Peru, South Africa, Thailand, the United States, and Vietnam. A partner study will also evaluate injectable cabotegravir for HIV prevention in women in sub-Saharan Africa. These studies may shed light on a powerful strategy to prevent HIV in countries around the world.

Omai Garner, PhD
Associate Professor, Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine

Dr. Garner, in partnership with Aydogan Ozcan, PhD, and Dino Di Carlo, PhD, of the California NanoSystems Institute, is developing point-of-care devices for diagnosing infectious diseases in remote and low-resourced settings. One recent success is a cellphone-based microplate reader that automates diagnosis of antimicrobial resistance.

Wayne Grody, MD, PhD
Professor, Departments of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, Pediatrics, and Human Genetics

Dr. Grody, Director of the UCLA Clinical Genomics Center, is sequencing the Armenian genome to gain insights into genetic disorders and regional differences among Armenian people. This collaboration with the ArmGenia Research Charitable Trust is supported by a donation from Mrs. Sara Chitjian.

Anne Rimoin, PhD, MPH
Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Fielding School of Public Health; and Infectious Diseases, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Dr. Rimoin is founder of the UCLA–Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Health Research and Training Program. Over the past year, research teams, including UCLA and Congolese medical and graduate students, have led important studies on Ebola virus and surveillance of neglected tropical diseases in DRC, with support from Faucett Catalyst Fund.

Sae Takada, MD, PhD, MHS
UCLA Internal Medicine Resident

Dr. Takada conducted elective rotations at Siriraj Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand, with support from UCLA’s Department of Medicine. By rounding with the infectious diseases consultation team, she was able to gain knowledge about fungal and mycobacterial diseases not typically seen at UCLA.
Partnership with Seattle Science Foundation to Improve Global Health Care Training

CWH is partnering with the Seattle Science Foundation (SSF) to improve options for medical training around the world. Our institutions are working together to create an international communications platform that will bring together clinical and research communities to improve the training of clinicians and provide novel ways to support collaborations that can lead to groundbreaking advancements, particularly in the areas of neurology, neurosurgery, neuroscience, and anatomy.

Starting in Latin America, the Center will provide SSF with a gateway to global communities and amplify our global health work through the joint development of training videos, interactive courses, and live broadcasts. We will work with our partner universities in various countries to provide these courses to their students, as well as offer programs adapted to the needs of global health care providers, for example by delivering a series of pathology-oriented courses to surgeons. Emphasis is put on a thorough understanding of the best course of treatment, depending on the pathology of the disease, thus improving diagnostic skills and clinical management techniques.

Brenda Lucille Miller UCLA–South African Education Fund for Movement Disorders

CWH announced the creation of the Brenda Lucille Miller UCLA–South African Education Fund for Movement Disorders to honor the memory of Brenda Lucille Miller, a South African who lived with multiple sclerosis. Movement disorders, such as multiple sclerosis, tend to be underdiagnosed and undertreated in South Africa and take a tremendous toll on individuals and families. The aim of the Fund is to expand South Africa’s capacity to prevent, diagnose, treat, and manage neurological diseases and movement disorders such as Alzheimer’s disease, multiple sclerosis, and Parkinson’s disease. The Fund will bring early-career physicians to engage in two-month postdoctoral training at UCLA’s Movement Disorders Clinic, directed by Dr. Jeff Bronstein, Professor of Neurology. Participants will receive specialized neuroscience training in surgical, hospital, and outpatient settings, with the ultimate goal of improving the outcomes of people with movement disorders in South Africa and throughout the African continent.
Global Health Education Program

Advancing Health and Education in Ghana

Since 2011, CWH has partnered with the Ghana Health and Education Initiative (GHEI), a nonprofit directed by pediatrician Diana Rickard, MD. GHEI’s mission is to empower communities and improve children’s health and education. In working with GHEI, 16 UCLA medical students and four UCLA residents have participated in community development and clinical work in Ghana. As a first-year medical student, Sarah Gustafson, MD, currently a pediatrics resident at UCLA, was inspired by Dr. Rickard’s community-focused, sustainable approach to global health. Dr. Gustafson has traveled to Ghana six times over the last six years to continue work with GHEI’s local staff, with her most recent trips supported by the UCLA Pediatric Residency’s Global Health Track. Projects have included studying barriers to giving birth in health facilities, assessing knowledge of traditional birth attendants, and providing training in modified neonatal resuscitation. In addition, seasoned mothers were trained to serve as mentors to new mothers in order to improve child health and development. Dr. Gustafson is now the co-director for medical student education at GHEI, providing pre-departure preparation and mentorship to UCLA medical students who participate in projects in Ghana.

Education Program Highlights

It is a particularly exciting time to study global health at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, where there are a large variety of opportunities for medical students to customize their global health training and experiences. Some medical students have a strong background in global health prior to coming to UCLA, and many of them serve as leaders in the Global Health Interest Group, which also serves as the leadership team for the annual Los Angeles Global Health Conference. Leadership roles are also available in the students’ second year, through coordination of the course A Multidisciplinary Approach to Global Health. Other students participate in global health activities in an à la carte manner by taking coursework, participating in global health research projects, participating in foreign clinical electives, or by taking advantage of all these opportunities. In spring 2017, more than 30 percent of the graduating class participated in a credit-bearing elective abroad. For many students, these were their first exposures to global health and it allowed them to envision how they might incorporate global health activities during residency and beyond. These experiences are transformative and help to inform medical students’ clinical careers whether they ultimately practice in the U.S. or abroad.

Educating the Next Generation of Global Health Leaders at UCLA

Spring/Summer 2017

One-third (57) of UCLA senior medical students traveled to eight countries for supervised clinical rotations.

9 UCLA medical students between their first and second years of study traveled abroad for mentored, global health research projects.

Cumulative Since 2011

93 UCLA medical students have traveled abroad for global health research electives in 20 countries in the summer following their first year.

• 10 publications in peer-reviewed journals have resulted directly from these research projects.

146 fourth-year UCLA medical students have received academic credit for supervised global clinical experiences with partner institutions in 10 countries.

More than 240 UCLA medical students have participated in our daylong pre-travel orientation that focuses on health and safety, ethics, and cultural humility.

UCLA medical student global electives have been supported by the Dean’s Office of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and an anonymous donor.
Vision
A world in which all people achieve their right to high-quality, compassionate, and affordable health care

Mission
Transforming health worldwide
We accomplish this by strengthening human capital, conducting collaborative research, and delivering leading-edge care

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