The world is undergoing significant changes. Even as today’s challenges capture our attention and we focus on identifying and solving the complex problems that face us, it is good to also applaud the advances that represent the hard work of many people and organizations.

The report “Global Health 2035: A World Converging Within a Generation,” published in *The Lancet* in 2013, showed that the percentage of the world’s population living in low-income countries had dropped from 58 percent in 1990 to 12 percent by 2011. Even greater economic development is expected by 2035; that means better health for everyone.

Improvements in quantity and quality of life also have been documented during this period. Worldwide, the average life expectancy at birth over the period 2010–2015 was 68.4 years for males and 72.8 years for females. Even the countries of sub-Saharan Africa that have been hit hard by HIV are showing increases in life expectancy.

Despite these advances, health disparities are still rampant, both within and between countries. The UCLA Center for World Health is committed to its mission of “transforming health worldwide” to help make real the vision of “a world in which all people achieve their right to high-quality, compassionate, and affordable health care.”

The faculty and staff of the UCLA Center for World Health are redoubling their efforts to address the burden of infectious diseases around the world, and this 2017–2018 report highlights the center’s extensive and continuing work in this area. Infectious diseases such as HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria will continue to be with us for many years. The most vulnerable countries and peoples of the world bear the greatest burden of these diseases. The UCLA Center for World Health commits itself to continuing its efforts to reduce the profound disparities that exist.

Increased longevity also means that more people worldwide are suffering from the health problems that come with longer life and changes in lifestyle: cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and dementia and other neurological diseases. This Center for World Health Annual Report highlights UCLA’s work in non-communicable diseases, such as cancer and mental illness.

Global health operates in a post-colonial space where high-income nations assist lower-income nations of the world for humanitarian reasons. Often, however, the goals of international aid are determined by the donors without consideration of the priorities or wishes of the recipients.

Those countries with significant resources must continue to assist the lowest-income nations, as well as the lowest-income populations within the high-income nations. But the economic and health advancements that are taking place around the world have the added advantage of changing the nature of our relationships with international partners. We no longer dominate and direct; rather, we collaborate and engage. We exchange and learn from each other, and we can develop and enjoy the benefits of these win-win relationships.

As the UCLA Center for World Health enters its seventh year, it has been my privilege to serve as its Founding Director. I am pleased that the leadership of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and UCLA Health have been so supportive of our work and mission, and that the Center has prospered. New leadership will take the Center in new and even more exciting directions and will continue to bring UCLA to the world, and the world to UCLA.

Thomas J. Coates, PhD
In Spring 2018, the UCLA Center for World Health, with support from the Dean’s Office of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, sent 28 UCLA medical students on international clinical electives. The students traveled to nine sites in seven countries for clinical rotations, with two students completing more than one international rotation. During these electives, the students experienced diverse medical systems and encountered many different languages, cultures, and pathologies. Students reported learning about tropical diseases that are rarely seen in the United States, being exposed to heightened physical diagnoses in low-resource settings, learning about traditional medicine indigenous to their respective host countries, and working with inspiring physicians and resilient patients in cross-cultural settings.

Many of these students came back transformed by their experiences. Some reported in their reflective writing assignments that it was the “best rotation in medical school.” Eighty-six percent of the students stated that this experience “positively influenced [their] future career plans to work with underserved populations internationally,” while 100 percent said that it has “positively influenced [their] future career plans to work with underserved populations domestically.”

Transformational learning is possible in global health rotations, due in part to the excellent teaching that takes place at our partner institutions. In some cases, students are fortunate to have UCLA faculty on the ground with them during their rotations. This is the case in Mozambique, where the medical students are consistently impressed by Dr. Chris Buck’s cultural humility and his ability to lead by example.

Dr. Allison Coleman (Class of 2018 graduate) stated, “I want to emulate [Dr. Buck’s] curiosity and respect for my future patients’ language and culture.” In other cases, students learn from local providers who patiently teach, mentor, and translate while also modeling excellent patient care. “The physicians we’ve had the pleasure to work with clearly love what they do, are incredibly dedicated to the patients, and are extremely bright, all of which I hope to emulate in my career,” said one student of the local attending physicians. In sum, the exceptional teaching and learning that take place during global health experiences are the reason why this program exists and continues to grow and flourish.

Since 2011, 22 students from the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA have completed the Global Health Pathway. Nine of these students also took a fifth year of medical school in order to pursue a graduate degree or to participate in a research fellowship.

Since 2010, 267 first- and second-year students have participated in the Global Health Selective course. Additionally, 173 senior medical students have engaged in clinical rotations in low- and middle-income countries at one of 11 partner clinical sites.

The Center for World Health is committed to helping students connect with research projects in global settings, and 108 rising second-year medical students have completed summer research projects, resulting in at least 13 publications in peer-reviewed journals.

Faculty and trainees from UCLA and Hospital Central de Maputo (HCM) work together to mentor the next generation of health leaders at the HCM hospital in Maputo, Mozambique. From left: Colin Parker, MD (UCLA pediatrics resident); Paola Perez (UCLA MS4); Allie Coleman (UCLA MS4); Carola Sarama, MD (HCM pediatrics resident); Otilia Mazivila, MD (HCM pediatrics resident); Beatriz Elias, MD (HCM pediatrician); Chris Buck, MD (UCLA pediatrician); and David Bakal (UCLA MS4).

Global Health Pathway Student Profile

**Agatha Offorjebe, MD ’19**

*UCGH GloCal Fellow 2017–2018*

Agatha Offorjebe, one of the Global Health Pathway students, has taken advantage of all of the global health opportunities available at DGSOM, including the Global Health Selective course, conducting summer research in Botswana, and serving as co-director of the Global Health Interest Group. Although not required for Pathway students, Agatha also spent a year in Lilongwe, Malawi, at Partners in Hope, where she led the first study exploring acceptability of secondary distribution of HIV self-test kits among HIV-positive clients. Her findings have been accepted for presentation at multiple international conferences. Her work with Partners in Hope was supported by the Fogarty International Center, USAID, NIMH, and the UCLA CFAR/AIDS Institute.
Pandemic and Emerging Infectious Diseases

Infectious diseases continue to pose a major health threat in all areas of the world. The greatest burden is experienced in low- and middle-income countries with pandemics such as HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria. New and emerging infectious diseases such as Ebola also have global implications and pose new challenges.

Partnerships to Address HIV and STIs in Peru

UCLA faculty — including Angela Bayer, PhD; Jesse Clark, MD, MSc; Thomas Coates, PhD; Jeffrey Klausner, MD, MPH; Kelika Konda, PhD; and Sean Young, PhD — have, since 1999, engaged in collaborative research and training with their colleagues in Peru, focusing on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Research partnerships with Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Impacta, Via Libre, and Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos have led to development and implementation of new HIV- and STI-prevention technologies for men who have sex with men and transgender women in Peru. These collaborations, supported by the NIH, the U.S. Department of Defense, and several pharmaceutical and diagnostic test manufacturers, have resulted in development of a state-of-the-art infectious diseases research laboratory, support for the careers of local researchers, and have provided training for UCLA medical students. This research has contributed to FDA approval of new diagnostic assays for HIV and syphilis that are used and recommended by the Pan American Health Organization and the World Health Organization, and it has resulted in more than 100 publications in peer-reviewed medical journals.

The South American Program in HIV Prevention Research (SAPHIR) is a year-long, NIH-funded training program for emerging U.S. physician-investigators to develop skills in HIV-prevention research. Since Dr. Jesse Clark and colleagues from Peru, Brazil, and the U.S. created the program in 2011, SAPHIR graduates have gone on to train at top programs in Medicine, Pediatrics, Family Medicine, Psychiatry, and Infectious Diseases; to launch successful careers as HIV primary care physicians or at global health NGOs; and to join the faculties of prestigious academic medical centers, such as UCLA and Northwestern. SAPHIR has been successfully renewed this year.

Tracking Emerging Infectious Diseases in Central Africa

Since 2015, the UCLA–Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Health Research and Training Program — led by Anne Rimoin, PhD, MPH, Associate Professor, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA — has been working on an Ebola study with the DRC National Laboratory and Kinshasa School of Public Health. The study aims to assess immune profiles of Ebola virus survivors, their contacts, and health care workers who have been in areas where previous Ebola virus outbreaks have occurred. The study has yielded important results, including documentation of long-term immunity to Ebola virus up to 40 years after infection,
and evidence of widespread exposure of health care workers to Ebola virus. During the May–June 2018 Ebola virus outbreak in DRC, the UCLA–DRC team was funded to conduct a study to assess efficacy and durability of immune response to the experimental recombinant vesicular stomatitis virus-Zaire Ebola virus vaccine.

For the last three years, UCLA–DRC has been working with the DRC Ministry of Health to map health zones and villages, and to conduct microcensus data collection in some of the most remote reaches of the DRC. This has resulted in the most accurate maps and demographic estimates to date for many parts of the country, which will be used to improve surveillance activities for such diseases as African sleeping sickness, polio, and Ebola virus disease. In addition, Dr. Rimoin and colleagues have been identifying critical immunity gaps in regions in eastern DRC, which have been experiencing unprecedented outbreaks of vaccine-derived polio virus (VDPV). Their serosurveys are helping the national immunization program to pinpoint priority areas to stop circulation of VDPVs.

Dr. Rimoin’s work is supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Faucett Catalyst Fund.

Debika Bhattacharya, MD, MSc
Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases
Dr. Bhattacharya evaluates hepatitis B (HBV) perinatal transmission in HIV/HBV coinfection, and whether HIV clinical outcomes differ between HBV-infected and -uninfected women, through a substudy of the international PROMISE trial of the NIH-funded IMPAACT network. She and her colleagues recently reported on a rare but serious liver toxicity with a widely used antiretroviral regimen.

Timothy Brewer, MD, MPH
Vice Provost, Interdisciplinary & Cross-Campus Affairs
Professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases
Dr. Brewer has worked in Peru for 20 years through a multinational tuberculosis (TB) research collaboration, funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, to improve TB prevention and treatment in a district of Lima with one of the highest TB rates in the Western hemisphere. Data are being analyzed to understand how multiple-drug-resistant TB spreads.

Judith S. Currier, MD, MSc
Professor, Department of Medicine
Chief, Division of Infectious Diseases
Dr. Currier was elected Chair of the NIH-funded AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) in December 2017. The ACTG has 60 sites in 12 countries — the largest HIV clinical trials network in the world. UCLA has been an ACTG site since 1987. The ACTG Leadership Operations and Laboratory Center will move to UCLA in December 2018.

Ren Sun, PhD
Associate Dean for Postdoctoral Affairs and Internationalization
Professor, Department of Molecular and Medical Pharmacology
Dr. Sun is an innovative molecular virologist whose research group has developed several systems-biology approaches to defining virus-host interactions, largely through support from the NIH. Recently, he identified the anti-IFN sites of the influenza genome and generated a hyper-IFN-sensitive (HIS) influenza virus. His group is developing a universal flu vaccine based on the HIS virus.
Improving Cancer Detection and Care in Nicaragua

Ricardo Reznichek, MD, MHA, FACS, developed a pilot program in Nicaragua that can serve as a model to improve cancer care in low- and middle-income countries. Working through Nicaragua’s two public medical schools — UNAN-Managua and UNAN-León — Dr. Reznichek established close collaborations with pathologists and oncologists in affiliated hospitals caring for cancer patients. Together, they built systems to capture better cancer data, which they accomplished by converting pathology reporting from narrative to a precise, synoptic system through translating existing protocols from English to Spanish. UCLA’s Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine provided training for a Nicaraguan pathologist to use immunohistochemistry markers in her hospital laboratory, and UCLA surgical oncologist Kathryn Chen, MD, taught the technique of sentinel node biopsy to surgeons in the women’s hospital. In addition, breast care training sessions for health care providers were carried out in three Nicaraguan hospitals by ultrasonographers representing the U.S. National Consortium of Breast Centers. This work has largely been self-funded by Dr. Reznichek, with additional support from Paul Schulz, a member of the Center for World Health’s Advisory Board.

The current focus is on developing multidisciplinary tumor boards and cancer committees in these cancer referral centers, so that the improved pathologic data can be used to guide diagnosis and evidence-based treatment decisions. Work also has begun to establish a national cancer registry, which will permit the development of programs for prevention, detection, and earlier diagnosis. Dr. Reznichek is now exploring expansion of this model with other interested cancer programs in Latin America, the Caribbean, and beyond.

Global Cancer

Most of the world’s nations now have life expectancies of 70 years or greater. As people live longer and adopt more industrialized lifestyles, countries that once grappled with infectious diseases now must also address complex non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and cancer. The recent World Health Assembly in Geneva focused on the challenges of preventing and treating non-communicable diseases throughout the world, as will a future session of the UN General Assembly.
Discovering New Ways to Prevent and Treat HIV-Related Cancers

Ronald Mitsuyasu, MD, is the Principal Investigator of the AIDS Malignancy Consortium (AMC), a clinical trials group based at UCLA and funded by the National Cancer Institute. The AMC develops and evaluates treatment and prevention interventions for HIV-related cancers. The burden of HIV-related malignancies such as Kaposi’s sarcoma, non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, and cervical cancer is a global problem. The AMC has established the current standard of care for HIV-related Kaposi’s sarcoma and non-Hogdkin’s lymphoma in the U.S., and is exploring novel agents and approaches to treating various malignancies and pre-malignant lesions in the U.S. and internationally. In resource-limited regions, the AMC is exploring standard vs. innovative interventions for some of the more common malignancies in these countries. In the African sites, the group has completed a pilot feasibility study of adjuvant chemotherapy in patients with locally advanced cervical cancer who are receiving radiation therapy, and is opening a trial of an HPV vaccine to assess effectiveness in preventing development of invasive cervical cancer.

In addition to 25 sites in the United States and a site in Australia, the AMC network includes seven sites in sub-Saharan Africa —

Dr. Ronald Mitsuyasu with patient Tom Gillman. Photo: Boza Ivanovic

the Uganda Cancer Institute in Kampala; Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya; University of Zimbabwe in Harare; UNC Research Center in Lilongwe, Malawi; Bugando Medical Centre in Mwanza, Tanzania; and University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg and Stellenbosch University in Cape Town, both in South Africa. The AMC is also planning to add up to four additional sites in Latin America later this year.

Theodore B. Moore, MD
Professor, Department of Pediatrics
With funding from Mattel, Inc., Dr. Moore hosted two pediatric oncologists from Beijing Children’s Hospital Group — Drs. Min Xu and Weijin Gao — for structured three-month observerships at UCLA to learn state-of-the-art care for children with cancer. Dr. Moore and his Chinese colleagues now are conducting research to answer important therapeutic questions about rare pediatric diseases.

Zuo-Feng Zhang, MD, PhD
Associate Dean for Research and Professor, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health Professor, Department of Medicine
Dr. Zhang collaborates with investigators in China on a large study of the four top cancers in the country — liver, stomach, lung, and esophagus. This year, Dr. Zhang and his collaborators published several papers on risk and protective factors for liver and esophageal cancers.

Varina Clark, MD ’20
Global Short-Term Training Program (GSTTP) Student
Through the UCLA Center for World Health’s Global Short-Term Training Program, funded by the Dean’s office, Varina Clark conducted research on colorectal and hepatocellular cancer screening at the Mexican Institute of Social Security in Cuernavaca. Her work has been recognized at several conferences and helps to lay the foundation for a colorectal cancer screening program in Mexico.

Nirali Patel, MD ’20
Global Short-Term Training Program (GSTTP) Student
A recipient of a UCLA Center for World Health Global Short-Term Training Program award funded by the Dean’s office, Nirali Patel studied the impact of cancer policies on clinical outcomes in a UK NHS Trust hospital. She presented her work at numerous conferences; future directions include a comparison of UK and U.S. health care delivery practices.
The Global Challenge of Depression

Depression is one of two UCLA Grand Challenges that are the biggest, most collaborative, and potentially most transformative efforts UCLA has undertaken to date. The discoveries that are produced are expected to deliver global benefits. Depressive disorders are among the greatest challenges to global health in the 21st century. By 2030, it will be the single largest contributor to the global burden of disease.

Jonathan Flint, MD, of UCLA’s Brain Research Institute, is partnering with Shanghai Jiaotong University in China to analyze the genetic basis of major depressive disorder. With funding from the Wellcome Trust, this study will enroll 48,000 people, with the goal of identifying at least 30 genome-wide significant factors that contribute to the risk of depression.

Global Mental Health

Non-communicable diseases are now major global health challenges. World leaders also are recognizing that mental health, including substance use disorders, are significant priorities for global development. This is reflected in the inclusion of mental health and substance abuse in the Sustainable Development Agenda adopted at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015.

The Global Challenge of Depression

Depression is one of two UCLA Grand Challenges that are the biggest, most collaborative, and potentially most transformative efforts UCLA has undertaken to date. The discoveries that are produced are expected to deliver global benefits. Depressive disorders are among the greatest challenges to global health in the 21st century. By 2030, it will be the single largest contributor to the global burden of disease.

Jonathan Flint, MD, of UCLA’s Brain Research Institute, is partnering with Shanghai Jiaotong University in China to analyze the genetic basis of major depressive disorder. With funding from the Wellcome Trust, this study will enroll 48,000 people, with the goal of identifying at least 30 genome-wide significant factors that contribute to the risk of depression.

To date, six hospitals have been recruited and the team has developed a tablet-based interview system and a pipeline for blood collection and DNA extraction.

Nelson Freimer, MD, is Director of the Center for Neurobehavioral Genetics and Associate Director for Research Programs of the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior. His laboratory aims to use large-scale genomics methods to identify the genetic basis of complex traits, particularly neurobehavioral disorders such as depression. In partnership with Universidad de Antioquia in Colombia, and through funding from the NIH, he and his colleagues are analyzing common genetic variation in 8,000 patients with severe mental illness to better understand the genetic relationship to diseases such as major depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia.
Responding to the Global Burden of Substance Use Disorders

Substance use, abuse, and addiction are worldwide problems, with estimates that between 3.5 to 5.7 percent of the world’s population ages 15 to 64 use non-prescribed psychoactive substances. The World Health Organization recognizes that this can create significant health and social problems for the people who use them, as well as for families and communities.

Steven Shoptaw, PhD, is a licensed clinical psychologist, Professor in the UCLA Departments of Family Medicine and Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, and Director of the UCLA Center for HIV Identification, Prevention, and Treatment Services (CHIPTS). Dr. Shoptaw, through UCLA’s Center for Behavioral and Addiction Medicine (CBAM), has partnered with the University of Cape Town to address substance use and abuse in South Africa. Through funding from the NIH, the team was able to enroll 30 individuals who are dependent on methamphetamine and who also are engaged in a contingency management program that uses positive reinforcement to change behavior. By studying functional MRI brain imaging of this cohort, the goal is to understand and describe the neurobiological mechanisms of action underpinning contingency management. Data analysis now is underway, and results are being prepared for publication.

CBAM’s work in Cape Town also is expanding, with new projects in development that focus on smoking and HIV, a problem of significant relevance given that 74 percent of people living with HIV in South Africa are known to smoke cigarettes.

Jonathan Heldt, MD
Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry
Dr. Heldt participated in a one-month residency elective at Tintswalo Hospital in Acornhoek, South Africa, during which he saw patients in the psychiatric unit and assisted in teaching mental health topics to nursing and clinical associate students. He received support from the Tshemba Foundation, a nonprofit focused on medical volunteering in under-resourced communities.

Sherry Larkins, PhD
Research Sociologist and Director, International Programs, Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior, Integrated Substance Abuse Programs
Dr. Larkins directs or co-directs three SAMHSA-PEPFAR-funded International HIV and addiction technology transfer centers focused on workforce development and capacity-building in Vietnam, Thailand, and Ukraine. She also oversees the research and clinical education of international visiting psychiatrists attending UCLA to receive specialty training in addiction medicine.

Merritt D. Schreiber, PhD
Professor, Department of Pediatrics
Dr. Schreiber’s work focuses on developing population-level models of a “stepped continuum of mental health care” (e.g., mental health “first aid”) in mass-casualty disasters and other traumatic incidents. He also works on enhancing resilience and response of emergency disaster medical workers, pre-hospital first responders, and others, using an evidence-based model.

Simone Renault, MD ’21
Global Short-Term Training Program (GSTTP) Student
Through the UCLA Center for World Health’s Global Short-Term Training Program, funded by the Dean’s office, Simone Renault worked with the NGO Sangath to develop a stepped care psychosocial intervention for common mental health disorders among adolescents in schools in India. She also served as Speaker Chair for the 2018 Los Angeles Global Health Conference.
Building Capacity for High-Quality Neurologic Care in South Africa

The Brenda Lucille Miller UCLA–South African Education Fund for Movement Disorders, now in its second year, is led by Jeff Bronstein, MD, PhD, Professor of Neurology and Director of UCLA’s Movement Disorders Clinic. Two South African physicians per year spend two months at this clinic as observers to enhance their skills in the evaluation and management of movement disorders such as Parkinson’s disease and multiple sclerosis, and to learn state-of-the-art techniques they can put into practice in both the private and public health sectors when they return to South Africa.

Since returning to South Africa, Dr. Naazim Siddi Ganie, MBChB, MMed (Neuro), FC Neurol (SA), one of two observers who came to UCLA in fall of 2017, is now the movement disorders neurologist at four hospitals in South Africa, and he is recognized as an emerging preeminent movement disorders neurologist in the country. Dr. Ganie also is working to create a movement disorders center in South Africa’s KwaZulu-Natal province. Applicants for Year 2 were being evaluated in spring 2018 for placements in the fall. This program has been funded through donations from Eric and Sheila Samson, and from Samuel Miller to honor the memory of his mother, Brenda Lucille Miller, a South African who lived with multiple sclerosis.

UCLA’s Global Surgery Initiative

UCLA’s Global Surgery Initiative, led by Daniel DeUgarte, MD, is now in its fifth year. More than a dozen UCLA physicians from across the surgical specialties work together to advance the Initiative’s mission of improving the surgical health of people and communities throughout the world.

UCLA was pleased to welcome Rochelle Dicker, MD, to its surgical faculty and to the Global Surgery Initiative in 2017. Dr. Dicker has longstanding partnerships at Uganda’s Soroti Regional Referral Hospital, where she and her Ugandan colleagues conduct critical research on the burden of injury and surgical needs in the region. Their areas of ongoing collaborative research include barriers and facilitators of trauma care, development of trauma and surgery registries, current prehospital practices, and qualitative analysis of attendants caring for their loved ones. This work was presented to the Ugandan Ministry of Health to highlight surgery as both essential and extremely underfunded. This project has been conducted in partnership with more than a dozen medical students, residents, and master’s students in the U.S., in collaboration with Ugandan colleagues. Dr. Dicker is mentoring UCLA medical student Nikhil Bellamkonda on a research project on the cost-effectiveness of trauma and emergency general surgery in Uganda. Her work has been funded by the Departments of Surgery at both UCSF and UCLA, Doris Duke, and NIH Fogarty grants. Dr. Dicker has related efforts with partners at UCSF in Cameroon.

For more information on the UCLA Global Surgery Initiative, participating faculty, and programs, go to: worldhealth.med.ucla.edu/index.php/serve/global-surgery-initiative
Strengthening Human Capital through Education

Jorge Lazareff, MD, Professor Emeritus of Neurosurgery and Director of the Center for World Health’s Latin America Initiative, notes that to practice medicine effectively in resource-limited settings, one needs to consider the resources available. Evidence-based medicine, the preferred method for analytical thinking, has many virtues, but evidence derived from studies conducted in higher-income nations is not always transferable or applicable in low- and middle-income countries.

In 2014, starting in Nicaragua — one of the lowest-income countries of Latin America — Dr. Lazareff launched the online program “Introduction to Critical Thinking in Medicine” for medical students. Taught in Spanish, the program emphasizes the logical process of making diagnostic and treatment decisions, as well as how these principles are applied to treatment dilemmas proposed by the participants. Lectures are delivered live from UCLA to the classroom at the partner university, and this live format allows for a direct interaction between students and teachers. As a result of this program, students have published research papers in PubMed-indexed journals.

Based on the success of this program, Dr. Lazareff and the UCLA Center for World Health have developed a Latin America Online Education Initiative. In 2018, the program reached six universities in five countries — Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Peru. Thus far, 365 learners have participated in the program which, to date, Dr. Lazareff has self-funded.

Focus on Global Eyesight

UCLA’s Department of Ophthalmology and UCLA Stein Eye Institute faculty members participate broadly in eye health programs around the world. Bradley R. Straatsma, MD, JD, Professor of Ophthalmology Emeritus and Founding Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology, is Vice President and Trustee of the Africa Eye Foundation (AEF). In 2016, AEF established the Magrabi ICO Cameroon Eye Institute in Yaoundé, Cameroon, to serve Central Africa, a region with world-high prevalence of vision impairment and blindness. It provides comprehensive and subspecialty eye care to all in need, regardless of ability to pay. In its first year, the Institute provided care to more than 20,000 patients. The Institute also serves as a training center for ophthalmologists, residents, subspecialty fellows, and allied personnel. UCLA partners with the Institute in numerous ways, including a collaboration between Steven D. Schwartz, MD, Ahmanson Professor of Ophthalmology and Chief of the Retina Division, with the diabetic retinopathy treatment program at the Institute.

UCLA has initiated an Ophthalmology Resident Elective Rotation at Aravind Eye Care System in Madurai, India, directed by Bartly J. Mondino, MD, and Dr. Bradley R. Straatsma. Other global eye education, training, and capacity-building programs in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East are led by Anthony J. Aldave, MD; Anthony C. Arnold, MD; Anne L. Coleman, MD, PhD; Jean-Pierre Hubschman, MD; and Kevin M. Miller, MD.
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.

Center Leadership and Staff

Thomas J. Coates, PhD
Director

Greg Szekeres
Deputy Director

Lee Miller, MD
Director, Global Health Education Programs

Jorge Lazareff, MD, FAANS
Director, Latin America Initiative

Daniel DeUgarte, MD, MS, FACS, FAAP
Co-Director, Global Health Education Programs
Director, Global Surgery Initiative

Folasade May, MD, PhD
Co-Director, Global Health Education Programs

Traci Wells, PhD
Director, Education

Michael Burke, MHA
Executive Director,
UCLA Health International Services

Fedra Djourabchi, MsHC
Director, External Relations and Communications

John Hamilton
Special Assistant to the
Executive Vice Chancellor/Provost

Laurie Bruns, MPH, MSc
Senior Africa Regional Director

Laura Van Voorhis
Program and Communications Manager

Amber Dargenio
Administrative Assistant

Mercedes Vasquez
Program Assistant

External Advisory Board

Steven Dai
Les Goodwin
Damián Mazzotta
Craig Russell
Paul Schulz
Rafael Suarez
Robert Sun
Minda Wilson

UCLA Center for World Health
10833 Le Conte Avenue, 12-105 CHS, Los Angeles, CA 90095 USA    +1-310-825-2440    worldhealth.med.ucla.edu