



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
MEL & ENID ZUCKERMAN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

# Global Health Institute

LOCAL IMPACT | NATIONAL INFLUENCE | GLOBAL REACH

*Newsletter, Volume II - 2025 Year in Review*



## Opening Message from the Dean and Founding Director



As we reflect on 2025, I am proud of the remarkable energy, innovation, and collaboration that defined this year for the Global Health Institute. Across local communities, national partnerships, and global sites, our faculty, students, staff, and collaborators continued to demonstrate what is possible when public health is driven by curiosity, compassion, and a commitment to impact.



This year, we expanded experiential learning opportunities for students, strengthened international partnerships, launched new initiatives at the intersection of public health and artificial intelligence, and deepened our engagement in research, training, and service across diverse global contexts. These accomplishments are a testament to the dedication of our community and to the power of interdisciplinary and cross-border collaboration.



As we look ahead to 2026, we remain firmly committed to advancing global health through innovation, collaboration, and a commitment to improving health for all. We are excited to build on this momentum, to continue growing alongside our partners around the world, and to prepare the next generation of public health leaders to address the complex challenges of our time.

Thank you for being part of this journey and for your continued support of the Global Health Institute.

*Iman Hakim, MD, PhD, MPH*

Dean, Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health  
Founding Director, Global Health Institute



# Global Health Institute Scholars: Advancing Health Across the Globe in 2025

In summer 2025, the Global Health Institute Scholars program supported nine University of Arizona public health students in immersive experiential learning placements across seven international partner institutions. Through research, community engagement, and applied public health practice, GHI Scholars worked alongside global collaborators to address complex health challenges ranging from nutrition and youth empowerment to environmental health, leadership development, and health systems strengthening.

This year also marked an important expansion of the program with the introduction of North-West University in South Africa as a new partner site. North-West University offered multiple, distinct placement opportunities, allowing students to engage in community-based nutrition education, youth development, and systems leadership programming. Several scholars documented and reflected on their experiences through short videos, which can be viewed by clicking on their names below.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue growing the GHI Scholars program in 2026 with new site locations planned in Belize, Costa Rica, India, Rwanda, and Uganda. These new collaborations will further expand opportunities for students to engage in meaningful, globally grounded public health work while strengthening long-term institutional partnerships.

Learn more about the GHI Scholars program at [ghi.arizona.edu/outreach/global-health-institute-scholars](https://ghi.arizona.edu/outreach/global-health-institute-scholars).



[Kendra Martinez](#)  
Sololá, Guatemala



[Danitza Molina](#)  
Mexico City, Mexico



[Anahy Fernandez](#)  
Potchefstroom, South Africa



[Jumah Alkhaibarii](#)  
Cairo, Egypt



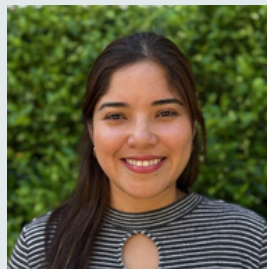
[Joseph Agosttini](#)  
Sydney, Australia



[Juliana Panhorst](#)  
Potchefstroom, South Africa



[Juliana Salazar](#)  
Galapagos Islands, Ecuador



[Cheryl Valdez](#)  
Potchefstroom, South Africa



[Mario Morales](#)  
Potchefstroom, South Africa

## Public Health Meets Artificial Intelligence



In summer 2025, the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health launched its inaugural Public Health & AI Summer School, a four-day immersive training designed to equip students, faculty, and practitioners with practical skills to responsibly apply artificial intelligence in public health practice.

Developed in collaboration with the Global Health Institute and the Data Science Institute, the program introduced participants to core AI concepts and hands-on tools relevant to surveillance, forecasting, risk prediction, and administrative decision-making. Sessions emphasized ethical use, transparency, and human oversight, ensuring participants understood not only how to use AI tools, but when and why to use them.

The program drew strong interest from across disciplines and sectors, exceeding initial enrollment expectations and highlighting a clear demand for accessible, applied AI training within public health. Participants worked in interdisciplinary teams to test real-world applications, including building and evaluating AI-powered public health tools using readily available platforms.

The Summer School aligns with the College's broader [AI for Public Health Initiative](#), which includes new courses, research efforts, and cross-campus collaborations. Together, these efforts reflect a growing commitment to preparing the public health workforce for a rapidly evolving digital landscape and to ensuring that emerging technologies are used to improve population health responsibly and effectively.

Plans are underway to expand future offerings, building on the strong momentum established in 2025.



## Public Health and AI Student Club



A new student-led AI and Public Health Club launched in November, inspired by students who participated in the Public Health and AI Summer School and wanted to continue building community and skills in this space. The club will host guest speakers, workshops, and hands-on activities focused on real-world public health challenges. Read the full story [here](#).

## Global Flu View Spark: Advancing Digital Epidemiology

In 2025, the Global Health Institute launched the second cohort of Global Flu View Spark (GFV Spark), a year-long, student-centered program designed to advance digital epidemiology research while strengthening the real-world impact of the Global Flu View platform.

Over a 12-month period, GFV Spark scholars led independent, faculty-mentored projects focused on participatory surveillance, influenza forecasting, and systems innovation. Their work explored how AI, environmental data, and community-generated health signals can support earlier detection, improve forecasting accuracy, and strengthen public health decision-making at local and national levels. A major milestone for the cohort was presenting their research at the Epidemics X Conference in San Diego, sharing findings alongside leading experts in digital epidemiology and infectious disease modeling.

Building on this momentum, applications are now open for the third GFV Spark cohort. The 2026 cycle includes new project topics that reflect the program's continued growth and evolving impact, including GFV Activate, GFV AZCOVID TXT, and GFV Management. Through these opportunities, GFV Spark continues to serve as a pipeline for training graduate students in digital epidemiology, applied data analysis, and surveillance platform operations, while contributing to public health preparedness and innovation.

Learn more about the GFV Spark program and current opportunities [here](#).

### Global Flu View Spark Program 2025 Cohort



Paulina Colombo  
PhD Student in Epidemiology



Seunghoon (Kelly) Lee,  
PhD Student in Biostatistics



Royani Saha  
PhD Student in Environmental  
Health Sciences

## Ending Pandemics Academy: Building Global Capacity for Early Detection

In 2025, the Global Health Institute advanced a major new global initiative with the launch of the Ending Pandemics Academy, a training platform dedicated to strengthening early disease detection and pandemic prevention worldwide.

Grounded in decades of real-world implementation experience, the Academy focuses on applied surveillance, data interpretation, and outbreak response. Its training model emphasizes experiential learning, allowing participants to engage directly with operational disease surveillance systems used in real public health settings. This approach helps bridge the gap between theory and practice and equips learners with practical skills to detect, assess, and respond to emerging health threats.

The Ending Pandemics Academy reflects a growing commitment to translating proven surveillance tools and global health expertise into accessible, high-impact training for public health professionals. By combining applied learning, global partnerships, and operational data systems, the Academy is preparing current and future leaders to strengthen pandemic preparedness at local, national, and global levels.



SAFETYNET Field Epidemiology Regional Meeting —  
Kuala Lumpur



ADHS One Health Tabletop Exercise -  
Phoenix

### 2025 Engagement Highlights

- Led applied training on participatory surveillance and early disease detection through interactive workshops with field epidemiologists and public health practitioners
- Contributed expertise to One Health preparedness efforts through collaborative exercises with public health agencies
- Delivered lectures and seminars on pandemic prevention and surveillance for students and health professionals in academic and international settings
- Advanced global partnerships and institutional visibility by representing the University of Arizona in strategic convenings focused on pandemic preparedness

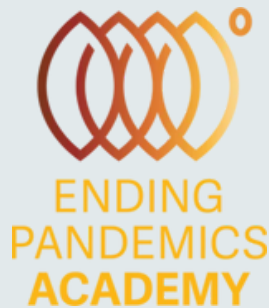
Learn more about the Ending Pandemics Academy and its programs at [endingpandemicsacademy.arizona.edu](https://endingpandemicsacademy.arizona.edu)

## Leadership Driving the Ending Pandemics Academy

The Ending Pandemics Academy is led by global experts in participatory surveillance, One Health, and pandemic preparedness, bringing decades of experience across research, implementation, training, and policy.



Mark Smolinski, MD, MPH  
Executive Director  
Ending Pandemics Academy



Nomita Davi, MSPH  
Programs and Operations Director  
Ending Pandemics Academy

Dr. Smolinski is a global leader in epidemic and pandemic prevention and a pioneer in participatory disease surveillance. His work has helped shape innovative approaches to early outbreak detection and One Health collaboration, informing public health practice across diverse global contexts. Through the Ending Pandemics Academy, he brings deep expertise in translating surveillance innovation into practical training that strengthens preparedness and response.

Ms. Davi is a global health practitioner and trainer with extensive experience designing and implementing participatory surveillance systems. Her work focuses on capacity-building, applied training, and the integration of community-generated data into public health decision-making. At the Academy, she plays a central role in shaping experiential learning programs that prepare practitioners to detect and respond to emerging health threats.

Together, Academy leadership is helping position the University of Arizona as a global hub for pandemic preparedness training, applied surveillance, and One Health collaboration.

## International Students at MEZCOPH

During the 2024 to 2025 academic year, MEZCOPH welcomed approximately 95 international students across all degree levels. In April, the Global Health Institute hosted an open house for international students and alumni of GHI programs to connect, learn about GHI resources, and get to know the team. It was a meaningful opportunity to welcome students from a wide range of countries and backgrounds, including students from Japan, Saudi Arabia, and Ghana, along with others who have participated in GHI programs in previous years.

International students bring global perspectives, lived experience, and a breadth of ideas that strengthen our learning community and enrich public health training. At GHI, we are proud to celebrate their contributions and to serve as a supportive place where students feel welcomed, connected, and able to find guidance as they navigate their academic journey far from home.

### 2025 Visiting Scholar: Maimoona Khalid

We are proud to continue our partnership with the University of Limerick in Ireland through an annual scholar exchange that supports short-term, applied research and professional learning. In April 2025, we welcomed Maimoona Khalid, a Master of Science in Public Health student, for a month-long placement with the Tucson Fire Department (TFD).

During her time in Tucson, Maimoona focused on mental health promotion and wellness among first responders. Her experience included ride-alongs with firefighters and TFD's TC3 navigators, observations in dispatch, and engagement with local wellness initiatives. As part of her placement, she also introduced HUGS@HOME, an award-winning project developed in Ireland that supports family members in recognizing stress and having supportive conversations with their firefighter loved ones. We are excited about the potential for this work to inform and strengthen ongoing first responder wellness efforts at TFD.



Read more about Maimoona's experience [here](#).

### Global Alumni Spotlight: Noriko Tamari, PHD, MPH



In May 2025, Noriko Tamari, PhD, MPH, graduated from the University of Arizona with a PhD in Epidemiology under the mentorship of faculty chair Dr. Kacey Ernst. Her dissertation explored the interactions between water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions and mosquito dynamics in western Kenya, and what these combined factors mean for diarrheal disease and mosquito-borne disease risk. Noriko conducted field research in Kenya from July 2023 through April 2024, contributing valuable insights at the intersection of environmental health and infectious disease.

Originally from Japan, Noriko earned her MPH in International Health from Nagasaki University and brings additional global experience through public health volunteering in Honduras and Thailand. We are proud to celebrate her accomplishments and look forward to seeing the continued impact of her work. Congratulations, Noriko!

## Global Health Alliance (GHA) Student Club

MEZCOPH Awarded TIPH Global Grant to Elevate Public Health Visibility

“Led by students. Built for community impact.”



Mon Lacea, MPH student and TIPH Global Student Ambassador, is leading the implementation of the TIPH Global Grant initiative.



Students engage in discussion during a recent Global Health Alliance event focused on public health leadership and global engagement.

The MEZCOPH was awarded the **Riegelman This Is Public Health (TIPH) Global Grant** in Fall 2025, supporting a two-year effort to elevate the visibility of public health across our campus and in the broader community. This recognition reflects MEZCOPH’s continued commitment to student-led innovation, community engagement, and expanding the reach of public health messaging.

The initiative, titled ***Expanding Public Health Horizons: Engaging Students, Inspiring Global Action***, was originally developed by Lady D. Elli, MPH, and is now being carried forward by Mon Lacea, MPH student and TIPH Global Student Ambassador. Supported by the Global Health Alliance (GHA) and the Global Health Institute, the project will highlight global public health challenges and solutions through a new podcast series, on-campus awareness events, and interactive workshops. The effort will also strengthen partnerships with international institutions to broaden impact and connect students to global public health perspectives.

We look forward to sharing more as this work grows and inspires new ways for students and communities to engage with public health.

# Young Global Leaders Program: Inspiring the Next Generation



YGLP 2025 Students and Staff



Student presenting her art project

In summer 2025, the Global Health Institute hosted the fifth cohort of the Young Global Leaders Program, an immersive experience designed to introduce high school students to public health, the health sciences, and the role of scientific inquiry in addressing real-world challenges. Offered in partnership with the Environment, Exposure Science, and Risk Assessment Center (ESRAC), the program welcomed 18 students from across Arizona and beyond to the University of Arizona campus.

Guided by this year's theme, *Public Health Mysteries: Science vs. Myths*, students engaged in hands-on laboratory investigations, campus exploration, and collaborative research projects. Working alongside faculty, graduate students, and volunteer mentors, participants tested common public health myths using scientific methods, gaining early exposure to laboratory research, data analysis, and evidence-based reasoning.

The program also emphasized communication and creativity as core public health skills. Through the Art as a Voice for Public Health initiative, students explored how storytelling and visual expression can be used to communicate science and promote health, presenting both their research findings and creative work during a culminating student showcase for families and community guests.

The Young Global Leaders Program reflects GHI's commitment to early engagement, inclusive access to health education, and the development of future public health leaders. We are grateful to the partners, volunteers, and supporters who help make this program possible each year. As we prepare for another exciting summer of exploration, applications for the Summer 2026 program will open in February 2026.

## Student Spotlight: Behind the Scenes at GHI



A Tucson native and rising junior, Alexia Vigil has been a valued member of the Global Health Institute for more than a year, supporting both the GHI team and the College of Public Health Alumni Affairs team. She assists with day-to-day administrative tasks and is a dependable helping hand with event planning and on-site support. Alexia has also played a key role in helping coordinate the Young Global Leaders Program over the past two summers.

Alexia shares, "I enjoy working on projects like event planning and communications, where I can see the direct impact of our efforts and learn from professionals who are passionate about global health. My favorite part of the Young Global Leaders program is seeing how time spent in the lab and during lectures can spark an interest for the students in public health. It's rewarding to watch students make connections between what they're learning and real-world health issues, often for the first time. Being part of that learning journey is both motivating and meaningful."

## Arts and Health

### Postdoctoral Research Associate: YunJia Yang



In 2025, the Global Health Institute welcomed YunJia Yang, PhD, a wellness scholar whose work explores how movement-based and arts-based practices can support health promotion and disease prevention across diverse populations. Dr. Yang's work is grounded in healthy aging and dementia prevention, and she brings deep experience in teaching dance, Tai Chi, and yoga in both community and academic settings.

Dr. Yang also contributes to student learning through GHI 495/595, Creative Wellness: The Role of Arts in Public Health, which examines the intersection of arts, well-being, and public health practice. Through her research and teaching, she is helping expand how we think about prevention, resilience, and whole-person health.

Read more about YunJia and her programs [here](#).

## Arts for Health and Wellness Initiative (AHWI)

In collaboration with the Global Health Institute, Dr. Yang launched the Arts for Health and Wellness Initiative, a set of programs designed to support physical and mental well-being for the MEZCOPH community and the broader Tucson community. Through evidence-informed, accessible programming, AHWI creates opportunities for participants to build resilience, reduce stress, and explore the role of creative and movement-based practices in health promotion.



### **GHI 499/599 Creative Wellness - The Role of Arts in Public Health**

This 7-week undergraduate and graduate-level course introduced students to the transformative role of the arts in health promotion. The course empowered students to integrate their academic training with arts-based approaches.



### **CALM Program (Creative Arts for Lowering Mental Stress)**

Designed for College of Public Health (COPH) faculty, staff, and students, the CALM series included three immersive evidence-based workshops: Healing Dance, Zentangle, and Singing Bowl Meditation.



### **WHOLISTIC (Wellness, Health, and Opportunities for Living Successfully with Tai Chi and movements) for adults**

Expanded community outreach through movement-based wellness programs targeting adult populations



### **DREAM (Dance, Resilience, Empowerment for Active Mental Health & Wellbeing) Program in partnership with the International School of Tucson**

AHWI launched the DREAM Program—a dynamic, evidence-informed dance program for elementary school students. The curriculum blends creative dance, body percussion, and Zumba to enhance physical, cognitive, and emotional well-being.

## Education Partner Highlight



### Universidad del Valle de México (UVM)

In May 2025, the Global Health Institute continued to strengthen our partnership with Universidad del Valle de México (UVM) by welcoming our second cohort of Medicine and Public Health dual-degree students and launching our first cohort of QFBT (Chemistry, Pharmacy, and Biotechnology) and Public Health dual-degree students. To support student success, incoming cohorts participate in required virtual orientations that provide an overview of the public health program, key academic expectations, and guidance for navigating the University of Arizona learning environment.

This year's incoming cohorts included 49 new students, tripling the total number of students participating in the UVM dual-degree partnership to date. In addition to onboarding and student support, GHI team members also visited UVM campuses to meet with current and prospective students, strengthen relationships with local leadership, and continue building a strong foundation for long-term collaboration.

#### GHI Visit to UVM Coyoacan



Dr. Valdez poses with UVM Administration and students from the 2024 Dual Degree cohort

During a recent visit to UVM, Dr. Gabriela Valdez, Director of Global Education, met with students and campus leadership to strengthen collaboration and support student success in the dual-degree pathway. The visit provided an opportunity to answer student questions, share program updates, and reinforce a shared commitment to preparing the next generation of public health leaders through cross-border education and training.

#### GHI Visit to UVM Hermosillo



Students in Hermosillo's 2025 cohort show off their Wildcat spirit after meeting with Hope.

In May 2025, our program coordinator, Hope Noriega, visited UVM's Hermosillo campus to meet with campus leadership and students from both the first and second dual-degree cohorts. The visit provided an opportunity to answer student questions about program requirements and continuity, and to strengthen on-the-ground coordination with the Hermosillo team. Hope also toured UVM Hermosillo's health sciences facilities and learned more about the resources supporting student training. Located approximately a four-hour drive from Tucson, UVM Hermosillo continues to be a strong partner site and is home to the largest number of students in the newest cohort.

## Intercultural Program in Indigenous Medical and Public Health



In 2025, we welcomed two UVM students to participate in our annual Intercultural Program in Indigenous Medical and Public Health, hosted in partnership with the Pascua Yaqui Nation and led by the tribe's Medical Director, Dr. Adalberto Renteria. The program offers an immersive learning experience focused on Indigenous health, culturally grounded approaches to care, and the application of evidence-based concepts in underserved communities. During the program, students had the opportunity to shadow healthcare providers, learn directly from community and health system leaders, and reflect on how medical and public health practice can be strengthened through respectful collaboration and cultural humility. Read the full story [here](#).

## Conferences

### CUGH Atlanta



GHI leadership joined MEZCOPH faculty and staff at the annual Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) conference to share scholarship and strengthen connections across the global health community. Roxanna Apaez presented a poster on the Young Global Leaders Program, and Dr. Gabriela Valdez presented on our UVM dual-degree partnership. Former GHES fellow Maiya Block also presented two posters highlighting her research. Read more about the conference [here](#).

### INSP Cuernavaca



Dean Hakim and Dr. Valdez visited Cuernavaca, Mexico for the Congreso de Investigación de Salud Pública (CONGISP), hosted by the Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública (INSP), a public health convening for Mexico, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Dean Hakim joined a panel on international collaboration among schools of public health, and Dr. Valdez presented two posters.

# Global Health Emerging Scholars Fellowship Program

Year 4 of 5 | Current Funding Cycle

In July 2025, the Global Health Institute welcomed the fourth cohort of fellows in the current five-year cycle of the Global Health Emerging Scholars (GHES) Fellowship Program. GHES is a 12-month, mentored global health research fellowship that prepares early-career researchers for impactful careers through hands-on training at partner institutions in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Established in 2012, GHES is led through a four-institution U.S. consortium that includes Yale University, the University of California, Berkeley, Stanford University, and the University of Arizona, working in partnership with a global network of research and training sites. Fellows conduct applied research aligned with local health priorities while receiving close mentorship from both U.S.- and LMIC-based investigators. The program supports U.S. predoctoral and postdoctoral trainees, as well as postdoctoral trainees from collaborating LMIC institutions.

GHES is one of seven consortia funded through the Launching Future Leaders in Global Health (LAUNCH) initiative and is supported by the Fogarty International Center and collaborating Institutes and Centers at the National Institutes of Health.

## Program Mission

GHES trains researchers, educators, and professionals equipped to address complex global health challenges. The program emphasizes multidisciplinary, integrated approaches to research and mentorship, with a longstanding focus on health issues linked to urbanization, poverty, and resource-limited settings. Research areas supported include noncommunicable and infectious diseases, environmental health, maternal and child health, injury and trauma, and mental health.

### 2025–2026 University of Arizona GHES Fellows

Muluken Gizaw, PhD, MPH

LMIC Postdoctoral Fellow

Dr. Gizaw is a cancer epidemiologist and assistant professor of public health with expertise in cancer prevention, HPV-based screening, and digital health. He has authored more than 50 peer-reviewed publications and is conducting his GHES fellowship at Addis Ababa University, advancing research on cervical cancer prevention and care pathways in Ethiopia.

Anju Franklin Kane, MPH, MA

Predocctoral Fellow

Anju Kane is a doctoral student in Population and Public Health Sciences at the USC Keck School of Medicine. Her research focuses on psychosocial and structural barriers to HPV screening and care completion among women. During her GHES fellowship, she is conducting research at the Public Health Research Institute of India, building on prior work in Kenya, Malawi, and Cuba.

Lisa Labita Woodson, PhD, MPH

Postdoctoral Fellow

Dr. Woodson is an epidemiologist and global health researcher with more than 15 years of experience. She is the founder of Beyond Global Health, which integrates arts and public health. Her GHES fellowship in Peru, in collaboration with Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, focuses on maternal health risk factors and youth-engaged research.



Global Health Emerging Scholars (GHES) Fellowship Program, 2025–2026 cohort. GHES leadership and fellows gather with Dr. Peter Kilmarx, Acting Director of the Fogarty International Center, representing the four-institution consortium.

## Global Engagement: Visits and Travel

### Kozybayev University, Kazakhstan



The GHI partnered with Arizona International to welcome a delegation from Kozybayev University for collaborative discussions focused on academic partnerships and potential joint degree programs. Read more about their visit [here](#).

### Fulbright Scholar Angela Requeña

We also welcomed Angela Requena, who was serving as a Fulbright Scholar and Visiting Assistant Professor with the University of Central Florida's College of Medicine and College of Nursing. During her visit, she met with GHI staff to explore potential areas for collaboration and delivered a well-attended talk titled "The Intersection of Humanities and Public Health: Lessons from Peru's Healthcare System." Requena has also played a key role in internationalization efforts at the Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas (UPC) Health Sciences School, helping strengthen opportunities for cross-institutional engagement.



### Strengthening Partnerships in the Gulf Region



In September, Dr. Hakim traveled with representatives from Arizona International to Salalah, Oman, for the 11th Annual GCC Alumni Reunion, hosted by one of the University of Arizona's largest international alumni affinity groups. The visit also included meetings in the United Arab Emirates with Gulf Medical University, the American University in Dubai, and Abu Dhabi University to explore opportunities to expand collaboration in public health education and partnership. Read the full story published by Arizona International [here](#). Read the full story published by Arizona International [here](#).

## GHI Team Supports Africa CDC Training Framework for Public Health Emergency Management



Dr. Gabriela Valdez, Director of Global Education, and two doctoral students, Uzoamaka Okwor and Enock Adu Bonsu, are contributing to an Expert Working Group convened by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) to develop a competency-based framework for Public Health Emergency Management (PHEM) training across the African continent. The initiative aims to strengthen the quality and consistency of emergency management training by defining the core skills, knowledge, and professional competencies needed for effective public health emergency response.



Over the past six months, the working group has reviewed the current PHEM training landscape and identified opportunities to improve standardization and implementation. Dr. Valdez, Uzoamaka, and Enock are serving on a subgroup leading a comprehensive literature review to inform the framework's development. Dr. Valdez was nominated to the working group by the President of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) and invited the doctoral students to participate, recognizing their strong public health expertise and regional experience.

### Global Engagement and Scholarly Highlights

In 2025, GHI faculty and collaborators shared expertise globally through invited talks, publications, conference presentations, and new partnership agreements, strengthening the Institute's local impact and global reach.

- Dr. Gabriela Valdez presented to Universidad de Sonora students on the importance of public health education for medical trainees.
- Dean Iman Hakim presented to UVM students in celebration of “Día del Médico” (Doctor’s Day).
- Dr. Kelly Reynolds was quoted in a Bosnia and Herzegovina news outlet on tap water quality and guidance related to unusual taste or odor concerns.
- Dr. John Ehiri and colleagues presented at the APHA 2025 Annual Meeting and Expo on culturally adapting Medical Nutrition Therapy for adults with type 2 diabetes in Benin.
- Dr. John Ehiri also served on a World Health Organization Guideline Development Group, contributing to recommendations on managing sickle-cell disease during pregnancy, childbirth, and the interpregnancy period.
- Dr. Frank von Hippel shared work supported by GHI student fellowships through programs in Brazil, Mexico, and Ecuador.
- Dr. Onicio Leal Neto signed three research collaboration agreements with partner institutions in Brazil.

## Selected 2025 Publications by GHI Faculty and Collaborators

- Alaofè, H., Okechukwu, A., Amoussa-Hounkpatin, W., Hakim, I. A., Mizéhoun-Adissoda, C., Gninkoun, J., Bedrick, E. J., & Ehiri, J. (2025). Understanding the role of family functioning, dietary adherence, and culture on glycemic control among adults with type 2 diabetes: A mediation and moderation analysis. *PloS one*, 20(4), e0320235. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0320235>
- Alaofè, H., Okechukwu, A., Yeo, S., Yurika, R., Kanma-Okafor, O. J., McClelland, J. D., Amoussa-Hounkpatin, W., & Ehiri, J. (2025). Social Network Interventions for Improving Dietary Adherence Among Adults With Type 2 Diabetes: A Systematic Review. *Nutrition reviews*, nuaf139. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1093/nutrit/nuaf139>
- Axon, D. R., Eckert, B., Leon, T., Morales, S., Ehiri, J., Kilungo, A., Okotie, T., & Turner-Warren, T. (2025). Medication therapy management lifestyle and wellness program for patients in rural Arizona. *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association : JAPhA*, 65(2), 102324. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.japh.2025.102324>
- Block Ngaybe, M. G. B., Muhumuza, R., Antunes, M., Musingye, E., Joseph, K. K., Nakaggwa, B., Mugamba, S., Ssuna, B., Valdez, G., Ehiri, J., Ingram, M., Kiragga, A., Mirembe, G., Mwesigwa, B., Kibuuka, H., & Madhivanan, P. (2025). Finding the Sweet Spot: Preferences for Effectiveness, Duration, and Side Effects in a Discrete Choice Experiment Among Uganda's Key Populations. *Vaccines*, 13(11), 1090. <https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines13111090>.
- Ellingson, K. D., Degnan, W. J., Yunjia Yang, ... & Chen, Z. (2025). Participation of under-represented communities in an online cognitive ageing platform and predictors of willingness to be contacted for future research. *BMJ Public Health*, 3(1). <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjph-2024-001721>
- Kavous Salehzadeh Niksirat, Collins W. Munyendo, Onicio Batista Leal Neto, Muswagha Katya, Cyrille Kouassi, Kevin Ochieng, Angoa Georgina, Bernard Olayo, Jean-Philippe Barras, Ciro Cattuto, Adam J. Aviv, and Carmela Troncoso. 2025. Reimagining Wearable-Based Digital Contact Tracing: Insights from Kenya and Côte d'Ivoire. In Proceedings of the 2025 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '25). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 1047, 1–23. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3706598.3713817>
- Kimaru, L. J., Magrath, P., Hu, C., Nagalingam, S., Connick, E., Ernst, K., & Ehiri, J. (2025). The influence of perceived neighborhood disorder on HIV care-related decisions: A qualitative study. *PloS one*, 20(4), e0322994. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0322994>
- McNeil C, Divi N, Bargerion IV C, Capobianco Dondona A, Ernst K, Gupta A, Fasominu O, Keatts L, Kelly T, Leal Neto O, Lwin M, Makhasi M, Mutagahywa E, Montecino-Latorre D, Olson S, Pandit P, Paolotti D, Parker M, Samad M, Sewalk K, Sheldenkar A, Srikitjakarn L, Suy Lan C, Wilkes M, Yano T, Smolinski M. Data Parameters From Participatory Surveillance Systems in Human, Animal, and Environmental Health From Around the Globe: Descriptive Analysis <https://publichealth.jmir.org/2025/1/e55356> DOI: [10.2196/55356](https://doi.org/10.2196/55356)

## Selected 2025 Publications by GHI Faculty and Collaborators (continued)

- Moore-Monroy, M., Soto, S., Yusoof, K. A., Perez-Coronado, M., Felix, T., Valenzuela Cordova, R., Ortiz Y Pino, K. M. T., Palmer, K. N. B., Celaya, M., & Ehiri, J. E. (2025). Reaching Across the Divide: Integrating Equitable Community-Based Qualitative Methods and Trusted Engagement Strategies Into Arizona's Statewide Maternal and Child Community Assessment. *Journal of primary care & community health*, 16, 21501319251376284. <https://doi.org/10.1177/21501319251376284>
- Okomo, U., Aquaisua, E. N., Asemota, O., Ndukwu, D., Egbung, J. E., Esu, E. B., Oduwole, O. A., & Ehiri, J. E. (2025). Is differential cleaning needed for SARS-CoV-2 beyond standard procedures? A systematic review. *Journal of public health in Africa*, 16(2), 601. <https://doi.org/10.4102/jphia.v16i2.601>
- Okusanya, B. O., Gadanya, M., Nlemadim, A., Adaramoye, V., Akeju, D. O., Ehiri, J., & Meremiku, M. M. (2025). Systematic review of surface disinfection: Spraying versus wiping for COVID-19 prevention. *Journal of public health in Africa*, 16(2), 597. <https://doi.org/10.4102/jphia.v16i2.597>
- Rodríguez Quintana, S., von Hippel, F. A., Orozco, M., Solomons, N., Billheimer, D., Sans-Fuentes, M. A., Amistadi, M. K., Sneed, S., Beamer, P., Zamora, A., Rivera, E., Forsten, R., & Gandhi, P. (2025). Exposure to toxic metal(loid)s via breastmilk and stunting in infants living in the Lake Atitlán watershed, Guatemala. *Environmental Pollution*, 375, 126273. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envpol.2025.126273>
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- Yeo, S., Lee, I., Ehiri, J., Magrath, P., Ernst, K., Kim, Y. R., & Alaofè, H. (2025). Developing and validating a HHealthCare NAvigation Competency (HECNAC) Scale for refugees in the United States. *PLoS one*, 20(1), e0314057. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0314057>
- Zhang, L., Amamoo, R., Soliman, A. A., Addai, J., Ehiri, J. E., & Osei-Bonsu, E. (2025). Palliative Treatment and Traditional Medicine Among Patients with Cancer in Kumasi, Ghana: Needs for Patient Education. *Journal of cancer education : the official journal of the American Association for Cancer Education*, 10.1007/s13187-025-02700-4. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13187-025-02700-4>
- Zhao Chen, Yunjia Yang, Kendra Jason,... Nicole Yuan. (2025) A Community-Based Participatory Approach for Needs Assessment and Intervention: A Mixed Methods Study Program of Older University Employees During COVID-19. *Global Journal of Aging & Geriatric Research*, 3(4). <https://irispublishers.com/gjagr/pdf/GJAGR.MS.ID.000568.pdf>

## Closing Note

As we look back on 2025, we are energized by the momentum, collaboration, and impact that continue to define the Global Health Institute. This year reflected the strength of our community, from students and faculty to partners and supporters who advance global health through shared purpose and meaningful connection.

Through applied research, innovative education, and experiential programs, we are expanding opportunities for learners and strengthening partnerships that translate knowledge into action. Whether supporting emerging scholars, engaging youth and communities, or building new platforms for preparedness and training, our work is rooted in collaboration and a commitment to improving health for all.

As we move into 2026, we are excited to build on this foundation by growing partnerships, investing in the next generation of public health leaders, and continuing to elevate the role of public health locally, nationally, and globally. Thank you for being part of this journey and for your continued support of the Global Health Institute.

### **GHI Core Team**

Dr. Iman Hakim, Founding Director, [ihakim@arizona.edu](mailto:ihakim@arizona.edu)

Dr. Gabriela Valdez, Director of Global Education, [gvaldez@arizona.edu](mailto:gvaldez@arizona.edu)

Roxanna Apaez, Senior Manager, [rapaez@arizona.edu](mailto:rapaez@arizona.edu).

Hope Noriega, Coordinator, [hnoriega@arizona.edu](mailto:hnoriega@arizona.edu)

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