Touchdown! Not on the football field but in the field of global health. The Fogarty International Center of the National Institutes of Health announced that Ohio State University was the recipient of one of only 12 Framework Programs for Global Health awards nationwide.

The three-year $400,000 award will support the creation of new, multidisciplinary educational programs that will foster global health research and teaching as well as an administrative infrastructure to support activities. This prestigious designation as a Fogarty Center for Global Health also strengthens OSU’s increasingly visible role in the global health arena.

The principal investigator, Daniel Sedmak, MD and co-investigators, Mary Ellen Wewers, PhD, MPH, and Richard Love, MD, note that this is a truly interdisciplinary curriculum development and infrastructure coordinating program that will enable our team of faculty representing all the health sciences colleges at The Ohio State University to combine, and thus strengthen, their collective expertise’s and ongoing international activities.

“As we worked to prepare this grant application, all of us recognized and acknowledged that building strong global educational partnerships and ensuring a quality educational experience for our students is a key part of our outstanding curriculum, as well as our mission to use our talents and resources to advance global health,” said Sedmak.

The Board of Trustees approved the creation of the Health Sciences Center for Global Health (HSCGH) in May 2007. With the Fogarty grant facilitating the administrative infrastructure, the center, co-directed by Drs. Sedmak and Wewers, will provide an official platform to coordinate and develop global health initiatives among the health sciences colleges. Each Health Sciences College is represented by a faculty liaison.

**OSU Health Sciences Faculty Liaisons**
- Elizabeth Barker, PhD, College of Nursing
- Robert Brueggemeier, PhD, College of Pharmacy
- Armando Hoet, DVM, PhD, DACVPM, College of Veterinary Medicine
- Anne Kloos, PT, PhD, NCS, School of Allied Medical Professions
- Richard Love, MD, College of Medicine
- Abdel Mohammad, DDS, MS, MPH, College of Dentistry
- Daniel Sedmak, MD, College of Medicine
- Mary Ellen Wewers, PhD, MPH, College of Public Health
- Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, College of Optometry

**2008 Fogarty Recipients**
- Ohio State University
- Brown University
- Duke University
- Fudan University (Shanghai, China)
- Harvard University
- National Institute of Public Health (Cuernavaca, Mexico)
- Northwestern University
- Oregon Health and Science University
- Tulane University
- University of California San Francisco
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Texas Medical Branch (Galveston)
The main street of El Progreso, the dusty capital of Honduras’ state of Yoro, is a tribute to the remarkable permeation of Latin America with US fast-food. Pizza Hut, Popeye, and Burger King are but a few of the conspicuously gringo restaurantes that thrust neon signs against the verdant background of jungle and mountain.

Jan Esker, Rein Lambrecht, Stephen Morrical and Sara Brummel, arrived with me in this decidedly un-touristy location with the mission of documenting the needs of its poorest inhabitants. Our quest took us to public and private hospitals, health centers, far flung orphanages and squatters’ villages around Progreso. Using formal surveys and conversational interviews we spent weeks piecing together the subtle shades of Latin American poverty.

Now almost at the end of the experience, I was bounding along in the back of a pickup truck on an unfinished road, within easy sight of a larger than life glowing bucket of KFC. The odd contrast between Colonel Sanders and corrugated metal homes was striking and surreal. Our final survey site, Monte de Olivios, was an encampment built almost directly behind this tribute to fine southern cuisine. The village was composed of just three rows of shanties built on an embankment between two swamps. As the people came curiously out of their homes, I got the feeling that perhaps we had gotten ourselves in too deep. However, to my pleasant surprise we were soon surrounded by talkative Hondurans and learning their sad short history.

As the story goes the town was originally located several kilometers away but following a foreign aid proposal to install a project in the area, the Honduran government evicted the residents and bulldozed their homes. Certainly the well-intentioned folks at the foreign aid organization were appalled when they got wind of the situation, but by that time it was too late, the damage was already done and the citizens of Monte de Olivios were forced to look for shelter elsewhere. The story of Monte de Olivios is a parable of sorts in that it speaks to the dangers of assuming that we as the providers of international aid know what the people we plan to serve really need.

For many of the people of Honduras life is a complex calculus of survival in which all the variables are precariously balanced and small disruptions can lead to catastrophic collapse. Doing no harm means first learning up close and personal about dimensions of this balancing act. After all, a detailed history is as indispensable to serving the health of a community as it is to addressing the needs of an individual patient.

This summer we had the opportunity to listen to the unique and fascinating stories of the people we hope to serve. As we look forward to returning with a medical brigade this December I believe that the foundation of knowledge and trust we built over the weeks of our investigation will help us to deliver on the promise of a true partnership with Monte de Olivios and the other communities we came to know.
Global Goings-On
Global health news from around campus

Public Health Lecture Series
The College of Public Health kicked off a lecture series on October 2, 2008 with Jesse Kweik, PhD, presenting HIV Mother-to-Child Transmission in Malawi: The Malaria and HIV in Pregnancy Cohort.

The research seminar series is offered on the first Thursday of the month (except in December).

OSU in the News
Cregg Ashcraft, MD, director of Clinica Latina and associate director, Office of Global Health Education, was quoted in the September 9 edition of The Columbus Dispatch on the subject of health care for illegal immigrants.

Mountains Beyond Mountains Author
Pulitzer Prize winning author, Tracy Kidder, was on campus October 14 meeting with OSU students for small group discussions and giving a presentation to the community-at-large. Sponsored by the First Year Experience "Buckeye Book Community," Kidder discussed his book Mountains Beyond Mountains. The book chronicles the work of Dr. Paul Farmer, founder of the medical charity Partners in Health, as he works unceasingly to provide medical care to the people of Haiti.

OSU COM Alum Elected to GHEC Board
Andrew Suchocki, MD, Class of 2005, has been elected to the Global Health Education Consortium (GHEC) Board of directors. Dr. Suchocki is a PGY3 at the University of Cincinnati/Christ Hospital.

The long-awaited WHO report on social inequalities and health outcomes is now available. The report, Closing the gap in a generation: Health equity through action on the social determinants of health, is available at: www.who.int/social_determinants/final_report/en/index.html

Pre-Clinical Students Go Global

The number of pre-clinical students opting for an international health experience continues to climb. The pie chart (below) shows where they are spending their time.

New IHIG Officers
The International Health Interest Group has elected its new officers for the 2008-2009 academic year.

Co-Presidents
Sara Maguire and Reena Patel

Fundraising
Iahn Gonsenhausen and Nisha Joseph

Publicity
Caitlin Wetzel

Treasurer
Guatam Mankaney

Secretary
Amanda Royse

AMSA Liaison
Katherine Foley

Thank you to the 2007-2008 officers for their outstanding contributions!

Developing a worldview of health