OSU Alums Gift Establishes Global Health Fund

Rob and Anne Klamar, The Ohio State University College of Medicine, class of 1990, didn’t set out to become global health activists. But their lives have led them in that direction and they have responded as physicians, philanthropists, business owners and Ohio State alumni.

With a $100,000 gift for the Health Sciences Center for Global Health (HSCGH), they have established the Anne E. Klamar and Rob Klamar Global Health Fund. The fund will provide travel stipends for dentistry and medicine residents, fellows, and students to work in developing countries, with an emphasis on Kishon Clinic in Kenya. It is their hope that this leadership gift will encourage other alumni to contribute in an impactful way.

The Klamar’s have never lost their Buckeye connection and creating this fund is just one of the many ways they continue giving back to Ohio State University. According to Daniel Sedmak, MD, director of the HSCGH, “Rob and Anne are leaders who live their lives in alignment with their beliefs. They have achieved much personally but find some of their greatest satisfaction in helping others achieve more, learn more, and be more.”

Kishon Clinic

Global health is a hot topic on college campuses these days. Students are intrigued by the idea of traveling to developing countries for the chance to make a contribution to and learn from others. At OSU, over 300 fourth-year medical students have traveled to more than 40 countries since 2006. Beginning next year, fellows, residents, and students will be able to add Kishon (the Swahili word for ‘blessing’) Clinic to their list of international opportunities thanks to the Anne E. Klamar and Rob Klamar Global Health Fund.

Anne and Rob are family practice physicians by training and care deeply about providing health care to people who otherwise might not have access. As the C.E.O. of a successful international company (Midmark Corporation) Anne also recognizes the importance of sustainability. After learning about the charity, Free the Children, the Klamar’s felt they had found an organization that was a philosophic and strategic fit. That synergy culminated in their commitment to both donate and spearhead fundraising for the Kishon Clinic, a healthcare initiative in the Masai region of Kenya. The Clinic will provide healthcare for people who live hours away from any medicines, providers, or facilities. The Clinic will soon be offering basic medical services and providing service opportunities for OSU participants.

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Greif-OSU-GHDP Global Health Partnership

Globally, over 280,000 women a year die from childbirth-associated disorders and the great majority of these preventable deaths are in low-income countries. Also tragic—and preventable—are the deaths of over 7,000,000 children a year. Many of these deaths, which also predominately occur in low-income countries, are among neonates. Through a very generous gift from Grief Inc., OSU now has an incredible opportunity to save the lives of many impoverished mothers and newborns.

Key outcomes of our program are measurable impact, sustainability through education, and the ability to replicate the program in other countries.

The OSU Office of Global Health (OGH), and the Global Health Delivery Partnership (GHDP), a collaboration of Partners in Health, Harvard Medical School’s Department of Global Health and Social Medicine and The Brigham and Women’s Hospital, recently received a $5 million gift from Grief Packaging Charitable Trust. The trust represents the philanthropic arm of Delaware, Ohio-based Grief, Inc., a world leader in industrial packaging products with operations in more than 50 countries. The funds will be divided with OSU receiving $2.5M and GHDP receiving $2.5M over five years. The two organizations will work together where appropriate to leverage the impact of the gift. We are excited at the prospect of developing health services and educational programs that will save mothers, save newborns, support maternal and child health, and build local capacity through education of health care providers. Key outcomes of our program are measurable impact, sustainability through education, and the ability to replicate the program in other countries.

We chose Haiti as the starting point of the initiative with the eventual goal to implement the project in Ethiopia, Kenya, and other regions of the world. Haiti is not only the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, it is also the country with the highest maternal mortality. According to the United Nations Population Fund, “In Haiti, only 25 percent of all deliveries occur in health institutions, and the maternal death rate is 630 mortalities per 100,000 live births, the highest in the Americas.” Partners in Health (PIH) has been working in Haiti for decades and brings its wealth of knowledge and relationships to our mutual undertaking. Our partnership will facilitate action towards our specific goals that would not otherwise be possible within our time frame. Though our focus areas are somewhat different from PIH, our desired outcomes are the same—improve the quality of life for people facing significant barriers to health care.

OSU will utilize its expertise to focus on prenatal care, safe childbirth, and neonatal care, particularly neonatal resuscitation. We will do this by providing clinical care via OSU professionals, who will also train local health care workers. In the future, other OSU colleges will address some of the key determinants of health such as access to clean water and nutrient rich food that individuals can grow in “kitchen” gardens.

As our work progresses, I look forward to providing updates on the accomplishments and the challenges. As much as all of us like to talk about our successes, equally important will be sharing what we have learned from implementing these projects. We move forward with much anticipation of improving not only the survival odds but the quality of the day-to-day lives of vulnerable women and children.

Read more online about this project
Brustein Receives Charles Klasek Award
William Brustein, PhD, vice provost for Global Strategies and International Affairs, received the 2013 Charles Klasek Award from the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEC). The award recognizes “long and outstanding service to the field of international education, including leadership, advocacy, publications and honors.” Brustein came to OSU in 2009 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he was the associate provost for International Affairs and director of International Programs and Studies.

The theme of the conference held in New Orleans was Re-imagining Higher Education in a Global Context. That seems a fitting motif given Brustein’s extensive background in international education and his current role as the leader of OSU’s international engagement and global outreach strategies.

Daniel Sedmak, MD, who directs the OSU Office of Global Health and the Health Sciences Center for Global Health was one of Brustein’s nominators and noted that, “He has been vice provost for global strategies and international affairs at The Ohio State University for four years, and not a day goes by that my work does not benefit from his successful internationalization efforts. We are unbelievably fortunate to have someone of his caliber at Ohio State.”

Global Health Day 2013 is May 3

The annual Global Health Day organized by Ride for World Health (R4WH) is Friday May 3. Events will be held in 112 Meiling and are open to the public. R4WH is also hosting a Solidarity Ride in Columbus on May 4.

R4WH is a group of medical students, health care professionals, and community representatives who participate in a 3,700-mile bicycle ride from San Diego, California, to Washington, DC to promote education and awareness of global and domestic health concerns.

The 2013 beneficiaries of R4WH fundraising are Empower and Advance, an organization that trains communities to treat minor emergent health needs, and Village Health Works, a community organization in Burundi addressing needs of food security, healthcare, education, and work training.

Schedule of Events
10:30 Introduction from OSUMC CEO Steven Gabbe, MD
10:45 Pure Water Access (OSU student founded organization)
11:00 Ayesha Khan, MD, MPH, founder of Empower and Advance
12:00 Lunch and music from the the OSU COM orchestra
1:00 Deogratias Niyizonkiza, founder of Village Health Works
2:00 Pack H2O (including a demonstration of their water packs)
2:30 Riders will share their experiences and closing remarks.

There will be a raffle for restaurant gift cards as well as opportunities to donate to R4WH, Empower and Advance and Village Health Works. Global Gallery will have a table with Fair Trade products.

Dean King receives Global One Health Award
Lonnie J. King, DVM, dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, has been awarded the Global One Health Award by the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) at their World Congress in Auckland, New Zealand. This award is presented annually to an individual or organization that has promoted the global One Health concept, which studies the links between animal health, human health and environmental health.

“We are in an era of unprecedented change,” said Dr. King. “Population growth, food safety and security, human and animal health concerns, and a host of other global forces are changing the needs of society with respect to veterinary medicine. The Ohio State University is poised to serve societal needs as the only major university with seven health science colleges on a single campus.”

Read more

Excerpted from the CVM website
Developing a worldview of health

What are the key leadership challenges in low- and middle-income countries? How can academic institutions collaborate with LMICs to tackle these challenges? In an ever decreasing funding atmosphere, what are the priorities of the NIH, specifically the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the National Heart, Lung, Blood Institute, the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the National Cancer Institute, all of which have identified global health as a primary initiative?

Attendees of the annual meeting of the Consortium of Universities for Global Health held March 14-16 in Washington, DC had the opportunity to hear first-hand from the directors of those institutes as well as many other speakers. The theme of the conference, the first one since the Consortium of Universities for Global Health and the Global Health Education Consortium merged in 2011, was Global Health: Innovation/Implementation/Impact.

The three-day conference brought together over 1500 individuals from the global health community to exchange ideas and hear from experts representing a variety of sectors. Speakers included Francis Collins, National Institutes of Health, Thomas Frieden, Centers for Disease Control, Eric Goosby, Head, Office of Global Health Diplomacy, US Department of State, Agnes Binagwaho, Minister of Health, Rwanda, Jonathan Woodson, Assistant Secretary of Defense and faculty from universities around the world.

In addition to workshops, there were oral abstracts and poster presentations from across disciplines focusing on a number of global health areas. Importantly, the conference brings scores of global health practitioners, advocates and activists to one location offering an excellent opportunity to form new partnerships around shared areas of interest.

COM Alum Named Global Health Non-Profit Executive Director

Jessica Evert, MD, COM Class of 2005, was recently named Executive Director of Child Family Health International (CFHI), a non-profit supporting community health projects in developing countries through student global health immersion programs. Evert has served as Medical Director of CFHI since 2009. In her new role, she will guide projects for health professions students and academic institutions.

Evert is a physician and Clinical Faculty in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, where she completed the Global Health Clinical Scholars Program.

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