



USF HEALTH OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA





## USF Health International Foundation Opens in Panama

In June 2008, the University of South Florida (USF) Health International Foundation officially opened its doors in the Republic of Panama. The initiative, led by Dean Donna Petersen of the USF College of Public Health, builds upon many collaborative agreements already in place in Panama. "It is fitting that we do this here in Panama, the site of some of the most profound discoveries in public health in the last 200 years," said Dean Petersen. The USF Health International Foundation is the only health sciences academic center in the Ciudad del Saber (City of Knowledge) in Panama. A former U.S. military base, "the City of Knowledge represents a visionary example of pounding swords into plowshares - a step forward towards health," said Dr. Ann DeBaldo, Associate Vice President, International Programs, USF Health and Associate Dean,



PICTURED: (seated l-r) Dr. Jorge Arosamena, President, City of Knowledge, Dr. Judy Genshaft, President, USF; (standing l-r) Dr. Maria Crummett (USF); Dr. Donna Petersen (USF); Dr. Rodrigo Tarte (City of Knowledge); Dr. Stephen Klasko, (USF); Dr. Ann DeBaldo (USF); and Dr. Patricia Burns (USF)

International Programs, College of Public Health. With neighbors like the International Red Cross, UNESCO, Organization of American States, Nature Conservancy and the Spanish Embassy, the re-purposed fort serves as a hub to a growing number of international organizations. Formally admitted to the Academic Unit of the City of Knowledge in 2005, the College of Public Health regularly sends MPH students to Panama for their International Field Experiences where the diversity of projects and home-stays with local families make this a popular venue. Plans are in place to use Panama as a base to reach out to and partner with researchers, scientists, educators and health professionals across South and Central America.

## New Confucius Institute

"We're the first in Florida and we're off to a great start!" College Of Public Health Associate Dean for International Programs, Dr. Ann DeBaldo, helped initiate USF's new Confucius Institute, designed to strengthen university and community



understanding of Chinese language and culture. Meeting in China in late 2006, she and Dr. Maria Crummett, Dean, USF International Affairs, discovered the opportunity to apply for support from China for a Confucius Institute. With the involvement of faculty, students and community members, President Judy Genshaft, Provost Ralph Wilcox, and USF Confucius Institute Director Dr. Dajin Peng (pictured above—center), this new Institute has become a reality.

## Pioneering International Medical Exchange: First Clinical Observership Program at USF

Ten medical students from Yeungnam University College of Medicine, South Korea, participated in the College of Medicine Stephen Klasko Observership Program, in January 2008. The students were exposed to American standards of clinical experience and interactive learning opportunities in the areas of Emergency Medicine, Infectious Disease, Neurosurgery, Pulmonary and Critical Care and Radiology. This unique two-week program was initiated to foster a positive exchange of ideas and technology between USF and Yeungnam medical students with a focus on enriching the cultural environment of each medical school. "This type of meaningful, durable interaction clearly addresses USF Health's ultimate goal of global prominence," said Dr. John Sinnott, Associate Dean of International Affairs for the College of Medicine. "Yeungnam University could have selected any medical school in the United States and they chose USF on the basis of its educational commitment, emphasis on research, and commitment to an international reputation."



Yeungnam University College of Medicine Students

## A Message from Ann C. DeBaldo

Associate Vice President, International Programs, USF Health; Associate Dean, International Programs, College of Public Health

The USF Health Office of International Programs has had another exciting year of innovation. We helped build a new Confucius Institute for USF, and broke new ground in creating an International Foundation in Panama, enabling USF Health to work directly overseas! With USF Health's new International Foundation, new opportunities abound for research, education, service and development overseas for faculty and students in the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing and Public Health and the School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences. USF Health Colleges and partner institutions continue to:

- Confront such mutual health challenges as emerging infectious diseases; environmental degradation; changing patterns of chronic disease; and health disparities
- Collaborate across the USF campus to combine cross-and multi-disciplinary health and science approaches
- Work with communities to determine root causes of health problems to improve health around the world.

We welcome your comments, ideas and involvement! Please contact us at [internationalprograms@health.usf.edu](mailto:internationalprograms@health.usf.edu) or 813-974-7235/974-6731

## USF-India Program in Adolescent HIV/AIDS Research Training

With a \$1.36 million, five-year NIH Fogarty International Center grant, Principal Investigator Patricia Emmanuel, Associate Dean for Research and Professor of Pediatrics, leads a multidisciplinary



team to address the neglected global issue of adolescent HIV/AIDS. The team includes Co-PIs Shyam Mohapatra Ph.D and Eknath Naik, MD, Ph.D. The primary collaborating site for this work is Vadodara Medical College in Gujarat, India. For research capacity-building, a Graduate Certificate in Clinical Investigation is offered to Indian physicians who enroll in online courses. The physicians learn clinical research skills while continuing with their medical practices in India. Beginning in 2009, the first class of Indian physicians will come to USF to pursue Master's level training in clinical and translational research at the College of Medicine. The certificate and Master's level trainees will provide the foundation for training fellow clinicians and scientists and in moving the adolescent HIV research agenda forward in India.

## USF Health Campus Events

**Reducing Neonatal Mortality and Morbidity in Latin America and the Caribbean** Presentation by Abraham A. Salinas, MD, MPH, COPH PhD student and consultant—Child and Adolescent Unit, Pan American Health Organization • **Disabling Silence, Enabling Human Rights: Global Perspectives on Persons with Disabilities** Tampa Bay Chapter of UNA-USA and YPIC in partnership with the USF St. Petersburg Law Society • **Breaking the Silence: Torture Survivors Speak Out** Film and commentary by Director, Terry Coonan, Florida State University Center for the Advancement of Human Rights • **War Is Not the Answer: The Consequences of Attacking Iran** Stephen Kinzer, former foreign correspondent for the New York Times • **Engineering and Ethics: An International History of Large Dams in India** Pratyusha Basu, USF Dept. of Geography • **Climate Change and Health, World Health Day Documentary Too Hot Not to Handle**, with commentary by Ms. Jan Roberts, Director of Community Initiatives, Earth Charter USA, and participant in the recent United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali • **USF International Week:** A series of events featuring author Jean-Marc Hachey, author of *The Big Guide to Living and Working Overseas* • **The Science of Consciousness**, speakers Bob Staretz and John Valentino • **Reproductive Health and Microfinance...Why Does it Matter So Much?**, International development consultant Nancy Natilson

## USF Health and Gorgas Regional Training Institute

USF Health has a long-standing relationship with the Gorgas Memorial Institute in Panama City, Panama, and an agreement with the Gorgas Regional Training Institute to provide training in a wide variety of health-related topics to health professionals throughout Central America and the region. Workshops and seminars cover all aspects of pandemic influenza from surveillance and epidemiological studies, to training in clinical and pandemic disaster management with opportunities for USF Health faculty to participate. The US Department of Health and Human Services provided the funding for construction of the state-of-the-art Training Institute and also funds the training courses offered there. The Department of Health and Human Services and the US Food and Drug Administration provided additional funding for future training in food safety and security, and the safety of drugs and medical devices, all timely topics for the region.



## Promoting Sustainable Sanitation for Latin America

The College of Public Health's Dr. Ricardo Izurieta, faculty member, and Dr. Ligia Cruz, Global Health PhD student from Nicaragua, participated in the International Conference on Sustainable Sanitation for Latin America, in Brazil in late 2007. The two presented the abstract, "Evaluation of Solar IV Proto-type of Ecosan Latrine Models in Rural El Salvador". The project, part of the Graduate Multidisciplinary Scholars Program, focuses on improving water and sanitation to meet the UN Millennium Development Goals.

## New Formal Overseas Agreements

**BRAZIL** Instituto do Coração INCOR, da Faculdade de Medicina da USP with International Affairs, College of Medicine **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC** La Escuela de Medicina de La Universidad Nacional Pedro Henríquez Ureña with International Affairs, College of Medicine **INDIA** Y. R. Gaitonde Centre for Aids Research and Education with International Affairs, College of Medicine **St. John's National Academy** with the College of Public Health **MEXICO** Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública with the College of Public Health **EGYPT** Ain Shams University with the College of Medicine **AFRICA** Mukinge Hospital, Kasempa Zambia with the College of Public Health

## International Programs Working Group:

**Dr. Ann DeBaldo**, Associate Vice President, International Programs, USF Health and Associate Dean, International Programs, COPH; **Dr. Sandra V. Cadena**, College of Nursing, Director, Global Health and Assistant Dean, Undergraduate Studies; **Dr. John T. Sinnott**, Co-Director, USF Health Signature Research Program, Allergy, Immunology, and Infectious Disease, Associate Dean, International Affairs; James A. Cullison Professor of Medicine, Director, Division of Infectious Disease, Director, Infectious Disease Fellowship Program; **Dr. Boo H. Kwa**, Professor and Chair, Department of Global Health; **Dr. Lynette Menezes**, Director, International Programs, and Assistant Professor, Division of Infectious Disease & International Medicine; **Dr. William S. Quillen**, Professor and Director, School of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Sciences and Associate Dean, College of Medicine; **Dr. Maria Crummett**, Dean of International Affairs, USF; **Tania Velez**, MSIV, President International Health Service Collaborative

**Staff:** Alina Lezcano, Coordinator, International Programs

**USF Health International Foundation, Panama:** Dr. Arlene Calvo, Director, and Aracely Quintero, Program Manager



Train going to Matheran, a hill station north of Mumbai, India

## About the Office of International Programs

USF Health's Office of International Programs establishes study abroad, service learning, and field placement sites for USF Health students. Our students have conducted field work in a wide range of countries, including Panama, India, Venezuela, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Ecuador, Egypt, Greece, Hungary, Costa Rica, Barbados, Bolivia, the Philippines, Thailand, South Africa and Ethiopia. For international students studying at USF Health, the Office of International Programs facilitates transitions by negotiating obstacles and connecting new students with mentors. In addition, the Office advises on strategies to bring potential global partners together to develop and implement agreements for international education and research projects. Workshops and seminars promote skills needed for success in the global arena, including cultural competency, safety, leadership, and ethics.

USF Health is dedicated to creating a model of health care based on understanding the full spectrum of health. It includes the University of South Florida's colleges of medicine, nursing, and public health; the schools of biomedical sciences as well as physical therapy & rehabilitation sciences; and the USF Physicians Group. With more than \$360 million in research grants and contracts last year, USF is one of the nation's top 63 public research universities and one of 39 community-engaged, four-year public universities designated by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

## CONTACT US:

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COPH International website: <http://publichealth.usf.edu/cophinternational>

USF Health International Foundation—Panama website: <http://health.usf.edu/intprog/panama>

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