



We are
making
a difference

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Research

Panama

Panama has some of the highest regional plant diversity in the world for natural product drug discovery. Dennis Kyle, PhD, is the Associate Program Leader for the International Cooperative Biodiversity Group in Panama. The Group is funded by the National Institutes of Health and the National Science



Foundation. Dr. Kyle's laboratory at USF Health is actively engaged in natural product drug discovery, collaborating with the USF Department of Chemistry, USF Center for Biological Defense and the Magellan BioScience Group, Inc. The USF Health International Foundation, City of Knowledge campus, Republic of Panama, offers logistics and scientific support to USF Health staff, faculty and students for developing regional programs and research collaborations. Collaborative agreements are with the City of Knowledge; the Instituto Comemorativo Gorgas de Estudios de la Salud (Gorgas Memorial Research Institute), Panama; the University of Panama, School of Nursing; and Panama's National Secretariat of Science and Technology. The Foundation office is located across from the Miraflores Locks, Panama Canal.

Africa

Richard Nisbett, PhD, is a field epidemiologist working at the interface of environment, behavior and biology in the tropics. A community ecologist, he has studied human-plant-animal interactions and the relationship between biodiversity and health—in particular, traditional hunting and healing in West Africa, as related to the potential for emerging pathogens. He has conducted disease-ecology projects in several countries, including studies of rodent-borne hanta viruses, arena-viruses and arthropod-borne viruses. In addition to disease ecology studies in Liberia, Dr. Nisbett focuses on the socio-cultural environment, working with Liberian colleagues on reproductive health, rural community health, workforce capacity-building, and HIV/AIDS risk reduction among urban commercial sex workers and adolescents.

India

John Sinnott, MD, chairs the University of South Florida Center for Health, HIV/AIDS Research and Training, through which more than 200 Indian physicians and policy-makers have been trained in HIV education for capacity-building to enhance medical care and AIDS prevention. He also directs collaborative efforts with USF and numerous Indian healthcare organizations, including working to improve blood safety with the Indu Health Research Foundation in Gujarat, India and community-based HIV prevention and research with the Regional AIDS Control Society in Vasai, India. Dr. Sinnott is overseeing the development of international partnerships with USF and medical colleges and healthcare organizations in the Dominican Republic, Panama, China, and South Korea.

Education

Malaysia

Through a formal agreement with the University of Malaysia (UNIMAS), USF Health promotes continued academic and research exchanges of faculty and students across USF-UNIMAS campuses.

Opportunities for academic and research exchanges include such issues as SARS, Avian Flu, Malaria, Dengue, parasitic infections, and HIV/AIDS. The relationship with UNIMAS began with two USF Fulbright scholars in Malaysia, with subsequent funding through a U.S.

Department of State educational partnership for mutual training and research exchange in area studies, public health and special education.



China

The first in Florida, USF's new Confucius Institute is designed to strengthen university and community understanding of Chinese language and culture. Meeting in China in late 2006, Ann DeBaldo, PhD, and Maria Crummett, PhD, applied for support from China for a Confucius Institute. With the involvement of faculty, students and community members, and USF Institute Director, Dr. Dajin Peng, this new Institute has become a reality.

Latin America and the Caribbean

The Florida Prevention Research Center (FPRC) at USF, under the direction of Co-Directors Carol Bryant, PhD and Robert McDermott, PhD, has worked with the Pan American Health Organization CARMEN School for the past two years to train teams from Latin America. Four countries (Brazil, Columbia, Mexico, and Chile) sent teams to the U.S. to be trained in social marketing by FPRC faculty. In all, eight public health professionals completed two field school courses, attended the Social Marketing in Public Health Conference, and worked with FPRC faculty to adapt course curricula for delivery in their home countries. FPRC faculty recently helped the Mexican and Chilean teams teach introductory courses reaching over 100 public health professionals. In January 2009, the FPRC will train ten additional public health professionals from five Caribbean nations and help them develop course offerings in their respective countries.

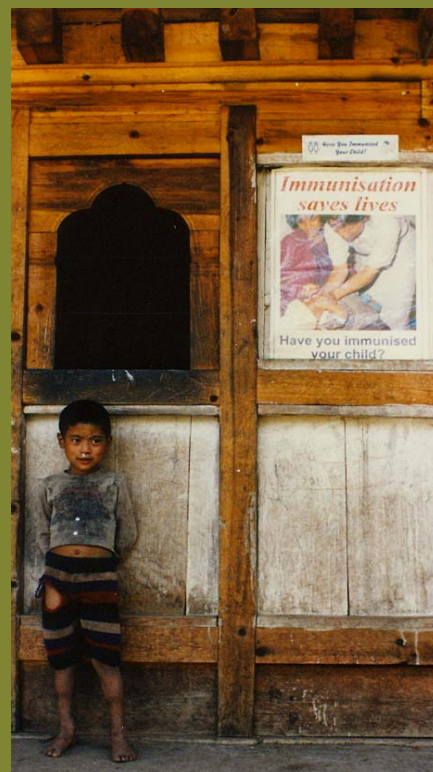
Panama

USF Health's College of Nursing exchange program with the University of Panama is a community-focused program, exposing USF nursing students to non-traditional and traditional ways of healthcare. The program includes a variety of settings from pediatrics, maternity, and mental health hospitals, to the mountain villages of Panama's native Indian tribes. In the exchange program, University of Panama nursing students and faculty visit the Tampa campus.



The USF College of Public Health is actively building its global neighborhood and seeking opportunities to learn new ways of preserving and promoting health from our colleagues around the world. In Kuching, on the island of Borneo in East Malaysia, public health students are learning important lessons about malaria vector control, cultural identity and nutrition supplementation programs, and mental health treatment modalities, while they share their knowledge of public health and learn to adapt to a unique set of societal circumstances. While we change ourselves, we help change the world.

Donna J. Petersen, MHS, ScD
Dean, USF College of Public Health



Russia

USF Health's Division of Maternal and Fetal Medicine broadcast its inaugural in-utero fetal surgery, June 2008, from Tampa General Hospital to Russia. The live telecast of the surgery to treat Twin-to-Twin Transfusion Syndrome was beamed from the state-of-the-art operating room suite at Tampa General to more than 600 OB/GYNs attending the 20th Jubilee International Congress "Advanced technologies for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Gynecologic Diseases" in Moscow, Russia.



South Korea

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. Yeungnam chose USF on the basis of its educational commitment, emphasis on research, and commitment to an international reputation.



Development, Service and Global Outreach

Master's International Peace Corps

Master's International students begin studies on campus, and then serve abroad with the Peace Corps for 27 months before returning to campus to complete graduation requirements for a Master of Public Health degree. As an incentive, the College provides tuition and fee waivers for nine credit hours for the required Field Experience and the Special Project. Master's International students gain significant international practical experience and knowledge working in resource-poor settings, thereby enhancing their marketability for employment upon graduation.



India

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.

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 College of Public Health Students in Ecuador

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.

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