



**Ben-Gurion University of the Negev Faculty of Health Sciences
Medical School for International Health
in collaboration with Columbia University Medical Center**

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TEN YEAR STUDY OF GLOBAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES YIELDS IMPRESSIVE RESULTS

Research on alumni at the Medical School for International Health presented at the Global Health Education Consortium's annual meetings

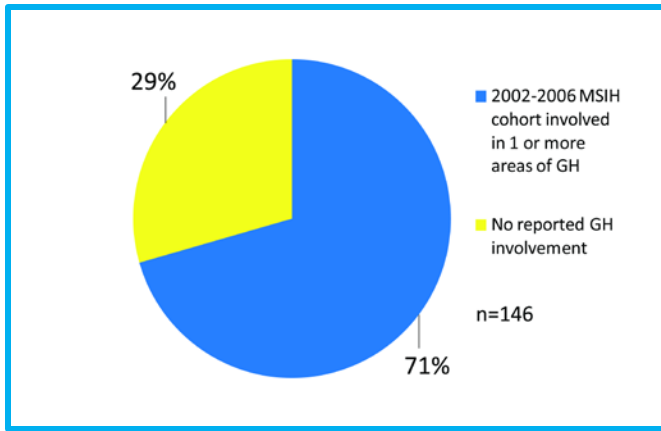
February 8, 2012 – New York, New York – A ten-year longitudinal study of the global health activities of alumni from the Medical School for International Health has yielded impressive results on the scope of activities relating to global health. Pamela Cooper, MA, the MSIH's Administrative Director, has been tracking the global health activities of alumni through interviews and surveys since the first graduating class in 2002. She presented an overview of the alumni tracking results in the poster [Can partnerships in global health medical education advance capacity building in medical education and global health?](#) at the November 2011 Global



Medical School for International Health Administrative Director Pamela Cooper, MA, (right) and Richard Deckelbaum, MD (left), Director review alumni involvement in global health at the November 2011 CUGH-GHEC conference in Montreal, Canada.

Health Education Consortium's (GHEC) annual meetings, which were held jointly with the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) and the Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH).

The three-day conference, *Advancing Health Equity in the 21st Century*, convened 1400 educators, global health practitioners, policy-makers, and non-governmental organization representatives to focus on the global burden of disease, innovations to advance global health equity, and successful partnerships in education and research that advance global health. Panel and poster presentations addressed novel academic programs, international partnerships, and student-led initiatives to address the social, economic and environmental determinants of health and human rights, ethics, and policy.

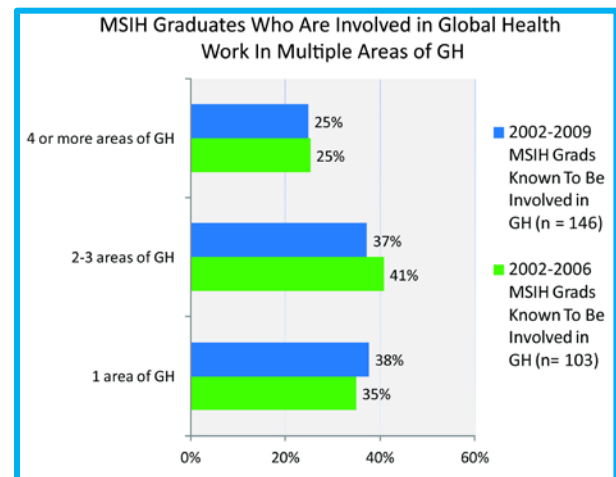


The data derived from interviews and on-going alumni surveys indicates that 71% of graduates from the MSIH's first five classes have been involved in one or more areas of global health within two to eight years after graduation. The MSIH alumni tracking project also shows that 62% of graduates from the first eight cohorts (2002-2009 graduates) are involved in one or more

areas of global health and that 25% of graduates are involved in four or more areas of global health-related clinical activity or research.

The MSIH has identified eighteen indices of engagement in the field of global health that are used to track graduates' involvement in global health. The criteria are enumerated in the [online version](#) of the data presented at a November meeting of MSIH alumni and include completion of the following kinds of post-graduate work to advance global health:

- On-going graduate education in public health or global health,
- International work in North America or in developing countries to conduct global health-related



research, medical relief and humanitarian emergencies, health education, and global health medical education;

- Developing and teaching global health training or education programs;
- Post-graduate work on programs or projects for underserved or immigrant populations in North America or abroad;

Ryan Carroll, MD ('02), MPH, a pediatric critical care intensivist at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, is a prime example of the kind of doctor that the MSIH has prepared for a career in global health. Dr. Carroll spends one-third of his time working with the Blantyre Malaria Project in Uganda, studying the effects of nitric oxide on pediatric cerebral malaria, traveling back and forth to Africa several times a year. Click [here to view a PowerPoint presentation](#) of Dr. Carroll's work shown at the 2011 Alumni Symposium last November.

Another graduate, Erica Spatz, MD ('03), MPH, is a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar at Yale University's School of Medicine, and has been working to expand the safety net for the uninsured residents in the New Haven, Connecticut area. *Working with Medically Underserved Communities in New Haven, Connecticut: Dealing with Health Disparities in Economically Advanced Urban Settings* is a fascinating study that focuses on the difficulties underserved populations face in not only receiving care but continuing care. A patient navigation model called Project Access, a system of donated care from hospitals and specialists, helps eliminate some of the administrative and bureaucratic problems that prevent underserved individuals from receiving care.

The Medical School for International Health, founded in 1996 as a collaboration between Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) and Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC), was created to address the growing need for physicians who understand the impact of economic, cultural, environmental and political factors on the health of individuals and populations. A four-year, North American-style medical school, the MSIH incorporates [global health coursework](#) into all four years of the medical school curriculum through modules, workshops, and global health clinical clerkships in sites throughout the world.

“Having known these incredible individuals as medical students,” Ms. Cooper notes, “it is intriguing to see how their interests in global health have been shaped and strengthened throughout medical school and residency training. It affirms the premise of the MSIH admissions model and underscores how an [international partnership of two universities](#) can advance global health medical education. It is gratifying to continue to see the many different facets of global health in which our alumni are involved.”

Now in its fourteenth year, the MSIH enrolls more than 160 students from around the world and has 326 graduates in residency, fellowship, private practice, and research in the U.S., Canada, and abroad. After completing [residency training](#), alumni are expected to make significant contributions to global health through clinical work, policy development and medical education. Based on the research presented, the school concludes that in multiple respects, its alumni are meeting, if not surpassing, the medical school's benchmark for advancing its mission and global health priorities.

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Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis and are currently being accepting for the 2012 entering class. For more information about admissions and, contact the MSIH Admissions Office at (212) 305-9587, visit our website at <http://cumc.columbia.edu/dept/bgcu-md>, or email us at bgcu-md@columbia.edu.