

# The Global Health and Population Weekly Digest

*Your weekly summary of department news updates, research activities, events and available opportunities*

## *In This Issue*

**Hospital Delivery and Neonatal Mortality in 37 Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia: An Ecological Study**

GHP authors Anna D. Gage, Margaret E. Kruk

**Targeting Screening and Treatment for Latent Tuberculosis Infection towards Asylum Seekers from High-Incidence Countries: A Model-based Cost-effectiveness Analysis**

GHP author Nicolas A. Menzies

**Health System Re-design to Shift to Hospital Delivery for Maternal and Newborn Survival: Feasibility Assessment in Kakamega County, Kenya**

GHP authors Kojo Nimako, Anna Gage, Caroline Benski, Margaret E. Kruk

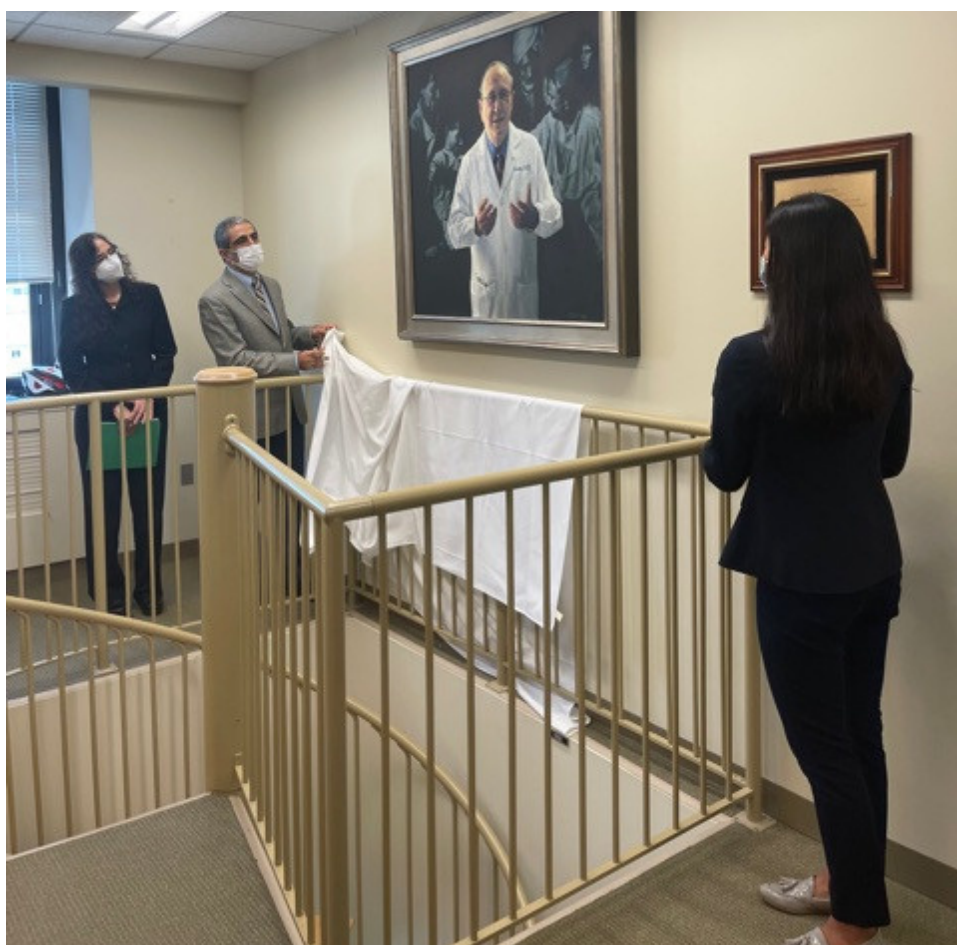
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On World Heart Day 2021, the department celebrated Dr. Lown's portrait unveiling at Harvard Chan School. The complete ceremony can be viewed [here](#), featuring remarks from Vikas Saini, President, Lown Institute; **Marcia Castro**, chair of the Department of Global Health and Population and Andelot Professor of Demography; **Jane Kim**, Dean for Academic Affairs and K.T. Li Professor of Health Economics; and **Goodarz Danaei**, Faculty Director and Bernard Lown Associate Professor of Cardiovascular Health. Please feel free to stop by the 11th floor corridor to view the portrait and [learn more about Dr. Lown's life and legacy](#).

# Department News and Announcements

The [Harvard China Health Partnership \(HCHP\)](#) continued its multi-year collaboration with China's National Healthcare Security Administration (NHSA)—the government body that manages social health insurance programs covering 96% of the population—by hosting a five-day “Flagship Training on Effective and Sustainable Health Care Financing.” Over 40 senior national and provincial-level NHSA policymakers gathered on-site in Qingdao, Shandong, with almost 150 other NHSA officials tuning in online from across the country, including a special viewing at NHSA's headquarters for its Beijing-based leadership. These annual executive trainings, designed by **Dr. Winnie Yip**, aim to expose China's policymakers to lessons distilled from international healthcare reform efforts and promote new approaches to domestic challenges. This year's course convened experts from Asia, North America, and Europe, including GHP's own **Dr. William Hsiao**. [Read more...](#)

## **Chess is More than a Game for Researcher Focused on Brain Health**

Interview with Professor **David Canning** in the Harvard Gazette

The following recent news articles mention **the work of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative's Peace and Human Rights Data team's research and open-source survey and data analysis toolkit Kobo Toolbox**:

[Surveys conducted in the Central African Republic by HHI's peace and human rights data program.](#)

[Endorsement of Kobo Toolbox in collecting primary data by a UNDP Accelerator Lab in Nepal in a Women in GovTech Special Report 2021](#)

[The effects of COVID-19 on Non-Communicable Diseases: A Case Study of Six Countries" used the KoBo Toolkit in their survey collection in Bangladesh](#)

## **Moving Towards Universal Health Coverage with Quality**

On November 3, 2021, **Michael R. Reich**, Taro Takemi Professor of International Health Policy, Emeritus, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health presented at the XX International Symposium of Tropical Neglected Diseases, organized by Fundación Mundo Sano, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The talk explores the principle of “expanding access while improving quality” using examples from India, Mexico, and Japan. The main message is that a health systems perspective is important for dealing with complex health problems (such as Neglected Tropical Diseases) that have multiple causes. These kinds of health problems typically require multiple interventions in order to improve health status, protect against financial risks, and assure citizen satisfaction.

## **Pregnancy risks increase with age but there's no reason to believe risks 'jump' after turning 35, study suggests**

Published in USA Today, the article discusses a recent paper published by Dr. Jessica Cohen titled, [Association of Prenatal Care Services, Maternal Morbidity, and Perinatal Mortality With the Advanced Maternal Age Cutoff of 35 Years](#)

Takemi Fellow, **Dr Farah M Shroff**, was recently on the radio discussing lowered fertility rates, specifically in Victoria BC Canada. [The full interview is available online here.](#)

**Anne-Marie Turcotte-Tremblay**, Postdoctoral researcher recently published 3 chapters in [Vers une couverture sanitaire universelle en 2030?](#) Written in french, Anne-Marie's 3 chapters can be found at the following links:

- Chapter 8: [Les débuts de la mise en œuvre du financement basé sur les résultats au Burkina Faso](#)
- Chapter 11: [Le financement basé sur la performance et la motivation des agents-e-s de santé pour les plus performants au Burkina Faso](#)
- Chapter 15: [Le financement basé sur les résultats a engendré des conséquences non intentionnelles dans des centres de santé au Burkina Faso](#)

# Department News and Announcements

A new dashboard release by UNICEF and the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative titled [Global COVID-19 Community Rapid Assessment Dashboard](#) is now live.

## **Mental Health: An Urgent Priority for Africa**

Mental health's physical and socioeconomic repercussions are taking a toll on the African continent, according to Africa Health 2021 speaker **Professor Shekhar Saxena** in an interview with Omnia Health.

In a recently released article in *The Diplomat*, visiting scientist **Craig Etcheson** of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative was interviewed on [the legacies of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Court of Cambodia \(ECCC\) Khmer Rouge Tribunal](#).

In an interview with PBS Rhode Island, Jim Ludes and G. Wayne Miller sit down with **Dr. Shekhar Saxena**, Professor of the Practice of Global Mental Health at the Department of Global Health and Population at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health. Dr. Saxena discusses the importance of prioritizing mental health on a global scale as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve in this episode of Story in the Public Square. [The full interview is available here](#).

A new book titled [Critical Issues in Human Rights and Development](#), Edited by **Stephen P. Marks**, François-Xavier Bagnoud Professor of Health and Human Rights and Director, Program on Human Rights in Development, Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health is now available online for purchase. This collection addresses human rights and development for researchers, policymakers and activists at a time of major challenges. 'Critical issues' in the title signifies both the urgency of the issues and the need for critical rethinking. After exploring the overarching issues of development and economic theory, gender, climate change and disability, the book focuses on issues of technology and trade, education and information, water and sanitation, and work, health, housing and food.

**Sonny S. Patel**, Visiting Scientist at HHI recently published [Research fatigue in COVID-19 pandemic and post-disaster research: causes, consequences and recommendations in Disaster Prevention and Management](#) and [won Outstanding Paper of the year; 2021 Literati Award Winner](#).

The paper was funded by the Harvard NIH Fogarty team under a Fogarty grant led by **Dr. Wafaie Fawzi**.

**Dr. Maddelana Ferranna**, Research Associate in the Department, **presented at an event hosted by the Africa CDC which focused on the economic and programmatic implications for the COVID-19 vaccine roll out in Africa**.

Dr. Ferranna shared findings from work being done on COVID-19 vaccine allocation as part of a project under HSPH's Value of Vaccination Research Network (VoVRN) led by **Professor David Bloom**. She discussed the modelling done to assess the macroeconomic and health implications of a fast vs gradual vaccine rollout, as well as the impacts of prioritizing different groups such as older adults or essential workers.

The event included a panel discussion featuring technical experts and advisers from several African countries who shared on-the-ground experiences and challenges they have faced thus far during the vaccine rollout. A key message to come out of the event was that health economics must be part of the decision-making process for those involved in COVID-19 vaccine allocation.

The full event can be viewed online [here](#).



# Recent Department Publications

## [Hospital Response to a Case-based Payment Scheme Under Regional Global Budget: The Case of Guangzhou in China](#)

Both developed and developing countries have been searching for effective provider payment methods to control health expenditure inflation. In January 2018, Guangzhou city in Southern China initiated an innovative case-based payment method for inpatient care under the framework of the regional global budget, called the Diagnosis-Intervention Packet (DIP). The DIP payment scheme includes a price adjustment mechanism through which the actual reimbursement for each case is determined ex post. By employing the difference-in-difference method and data from Beijing and Guangzhou, we evaluate the effects of the DIP payment on medical expenditures and provider behaviors. Results suggest that healthcare providers have responded strategically to the DIP payment method. *GHP Author Winnie Yip*

## [Burden of Road Traffic Injuries in Tanzania: One-Year Prospective Study of Consecutive Patients in 13 Multilevel Health Facilities](#)

Road traffic injuries (RTIs) pose a severe public health crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and specifically in Tanzania, where the mortality due to RTIs is nearly double the global rate. There is limited RTI data in Tanzania to inform evidence-based interventions to reduce the incidence and improve care outcomes. A trauma registry was implemented at 13 health facilities of diverse administrative levels in Tanzania. We find that RTCs are the main cause of trauma in this setting, affecting mostly working-age males. These RTCs result in severe injuries requiring hospital admission or referral for almost half of the victims. Motorcyclists are the most affected group, in alignment with prior studies. These findings demonstrate the burden of RTCs as a public health concern in Tanzania and the need for targeted interventions with a focus on motorcyclists. *GHP Author Kevin Croke*

## [Excess Deaths in Mexico City and New York City During the COVID-19 Pandemic, March to August 2020](#)

*GHP Author Martin Lajous Loeza*

## [Alleviating the Burden of Diabetes with Health Equity Funds: Economic Evaluation of the Health and Financial Risk Protection Benefits in Cambodia](#)

*GHP Authors Isabelle Feldhaus, Stéphane Verguet*

## [Financing Sustainable Health Systems for the Next Decade](#)

*GHP Author Nicolas A. Menzies*

## [Epidemiological and Immunological Features of Obesity and SARS-CoV-2](#)

*GHP Authors Eric Nilles, Michael de*

*St Aubin*

## [The Toll of Cascading Crises on Lebanon's Health Workforce](#)

The Lebanese health system is at the brink of collapse. On Aug 14, 2021, the American University of Beirut publicly called upon the international community to urgently arrange for fuel to avert a forced shutdown of all its services. The fuel shortages follow growing strain on the health-care system, resulting from economic deceleration, widespread erosion in public trust, protracted refugee crises, and a steady attrition of the workforce. Health-care workers who had been attracted to the stability and quality of life in Lebanon at the turn of the century have once again started leaving in alarming numbers. *GHP Author Satchit Balsari*

## [Evaluating the Reliability of Mobility Metrics from Aggregated Mobile Phone Data as Proxies for SARS-CoV-2 Transmission in the USA: A Population-based Study](#)

*GHP Author Nicolas A. Menzies*

## [Lifetime burden of Disease Due to Incident Tuberculosis: A Global Reappraisal including Post-Tuberculosis Sequelae](#)

*GHP Authors Nicolas A. Menzies, Joshua A. Salomon*

## [Association of the Frequency of In-Home Care Services Utilization and the Probability of In-Home Death](#)

*GHP Authors Kazuhiro Abe, Ichiro Kawachi*

## [Social Technology: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Improving Care for Older Adults](#)

*GHP Authors David E. Bloom, Winnie Yip*

# Publications Continued

## [Screen Time and Early Childhood Development in Ceará, Brazil: A Population-based Study](#)

Researchers from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the Federal University of Ceará evaluated the relationship of time of screen exposure with development outcomes among children less than six years of age in Ceará, Northeastern Brazil, in an article published in BMC Public Health. Sixty-nine percent were identified as exposed to excessive screen time. Each additional hour of screen time was associated with lower child developmental scores. These results suggest that excess screen time exposure was highly prevalent and independently associated with poorer development outcomes among children under 5 years of age in Ceará, Brazil.

*GHP Authors Hermano A.L. Rocha, Christopher R. Sudfeld*

## [Financial Risk of Road Traffic Trauma Care in Public and Private Hospitals in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: A Cross-sectional Observational Study](#)

*GHP Authors Hailu Tamiru Dhufera, Abdulrahman Jbaily, Stéphane Verguet, Mieraf Tadesse Tolla, Solomon Tessema Memirie*

## [Impact of Global Budget Combined with Pay-for-Performance on the Quality of Care in County Hospitals: A Difference-in-Differences Study Design with a Propensity-Score-Matched Control Group Using Data from Guizhou Province, China](#)

In 2016, a number of counties in rural Guizhou, China, implemented global budget (GB) for county hospitals with quality control measures. The aim of this study was to measure the impact of GB combined with pay-for-performance on the quality of care of inpatients in county-level hospitals in China. Inpatient cases of four diseases from 16 county-level hospitals in Guizhou province that implemented GB in 2016 were selected as the intervention group, and similar inpatient cases from 10 county-level hospitals that still implemented fee-for-services were used as the control group. Propensity matching score (PSM) was used for data matching to control for age factors, and difference-in-differences (DID) models were constructed using the matched samples to perform regression analysis on quality of care for the four diseases. The study concludes that inclusion of pay-for-performance in the global budget payment system will help reduce the quality risks associated with the reform of the payment system and improve care quality. *GHP Author Winnie Yip*

## [Association of Prenatal Care Services, Maternal Morbidity, and Perinatal Mortality With the Advanced Maternal Age Cutoff of 35 Years](#)

*GHP Author Jessica Cohen*

## [COVID-19 Anti-virals Must Not Affect HIV Drug Supply](#)

*GHP Author Melissa Barber*

## [Exploring Persistent Racial and Ethnic Representation Disparity in U.S. Geography Doctoral Programs: The Disciplinary Underrepresentation Gap](#)

*GHP Author Dee Jordan*

## [COVID-19 Vaccination Acceptance among Health Science Students in Morocco: A Cross-Sectional Study](#)

*GHP Author Amy Luo*

## [Effect of the Suspension of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine on Vaccine Hesitancy in the United States](#)

*GHP Author Sebastian Bauhoff*

## [Universal Health Coverage must Become A Best Buy for Women](#)

*GHP Author Ana Langer*

## [Impact of Solar Light and Electricity on the Quality and Timeliness of Maternity Care: A Stepped-Wedge Cluster-Randomized Trial in Uganda](#)

*GHP Authors Slarwa Rokicki, Jessica Cohen*

## [Global Estimates of Pediatric Tuberculosis Incidence in 2013–19: A Mathematical Modelling Analysis](#)

*GHP Authors Sita Yerramsetti, Rifat Atun, Nicolas Menzies*

# Upcoming Events



## The Planetary Health Colloquium

### Planetary Change is Driving New Patterns of Non-Communicable Disease

**Francesca Dominici, PhD**  
Co-Director of the Harvard Data Science Initiative, Harvard University and the Clarence James Gamble Professor of Biostatistics, Population and Data Science Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

**Pauline Scheelbeek, PhD**  
Assistant Professor in Nutritional and Environmental Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

**Philip Landrigan, MD, MSc**  
Professor and Director, Global Public Health Program and Global Pollution Observatory Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society, Boston College

**Wednesday, 5 January 2022, 1:00 - 2:00 ET**  
Registration: <https://harvard.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUrCuipzKpH9KVG2J0MnGtAa1xctZ4IPPD>

**Sponsors:**  
Departments of Environmental Health, Global Health and Population, Immunology and Infectious Diseases, and Nutrition.

**Co-Sponsors:**

Questions? Contact: [shaunheller@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:shaunheller@hsph.harvard.edu)

## Planetary Change is Driving New Patterns of Non-Communicable Disease

January 5, 2022 1-2PM EST, Zoom

[Register here](#)

The Planetary Health Colloquium began in October 2021 and will run through May 2022. The fourth event in this series, **Planetary Change is Driving New Patterns of Non-Communicable Disease**, will be held virtually on Wednesday January 5th from 1:00 - 2:00 PM ET. Additional information can be found on the [website](#).

## Open Call for Applications

**The Women, Gender and Health** is now seeking applicants for the Student Staff Coordinator position for 2022-2023 Academic Year. Eligible applicants include Masters and Doctoral students who will be a student in May 2023. This position is a great way to set priorities, lead events, and connect with faculty and researchers in women and gender health topics. For more information on what this position entails and the application process, please contact [wgh@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:wgh@hsph.harvard.edu).

**The Harvard Humanitarian Initiative** is hiring and are looking for mission-driven people who want to make a difference in the humanitarian field globally. [Click here to view all open positions](#).

**The Takemi Program in International Health** at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health is currently recruiting for the 2022–2023 Fellowship year. The application portal is available [here](#). Applications are due by December 31, 2021 at midnight EST.

**The Division of Nutritional Science at Cornell University** has announced four open faculty positions. [Click here for more information](#).

The Seeding Relations Conference Committee is thrilled to announce **the virtual 2022 Mahindra Humanities Center Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference at Harvard University, Seeding Relations: Beyond Settler Colonial and Racialized Ecologies**. This two-day online conference will be held on Zoom on Friday, March 25 and Saturday, March 26, 2022. [Click here for submission deadlines and application rules](#).

# Opportunities in Global Health and Population

## Academic Positions

- Research Scientist in Health & Elderly Care Policy and Systems in China
- Post-doctoral fellowship with Kevin Croke and Margaret Kruk

## Staff Positions

- Staff Assistant III (Administrative Assistant)
- Coordinator I (Program Coordinator)

## Internal Student Positions/Internships

- Research Assistant: Improving Maternal Health Measurement Capacity and Use

