



COLLEGE OF MEDICINE TUCSON

Global & Border Health

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# Global Cats

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GLOBAL HEALTH UPDATES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE- TUCSON AND OFFICE OF GLOBAL AND  
BORDER HEALTH

Spring 2026 | Issue No. 8

Brought to you by Thomas Brower, McKenna Dellinger, Ariana  
Hernandez, and Lily Travis

# Global Updates

Updates from the World Health Organization (WHO)

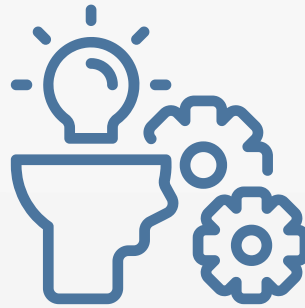
## Chile becomes the first country in the Americas to be verified by WHO for the elimination of Leprosy



Chile's integrated model ensures early detection and comprehensive care: primary care centers serve as the entry point for suspected cases, with timely referrals to specialized dermatology services for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up. Clinicians receive training aligned with WHO's "Towards Zero Leprosy" strategy. The system prioritizes early intervention, disability prevention, and holistic care, including physiotherapy and rehabilitation services. This ensures anyone affected by leprosy receives continuous support for both acute and long-term health needs to promote full recovery and social inclusion.

## Towards responsible AI for mental health and well-being: experts chart a way forward

On 29 January 2026, over 30 international experts in artificial intelligence, mental health, ethics, and public policy gathered for an online workshop organized by the Delft Digital Ethics Centre (DDEC) at the Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) – the first WHO Collaborating Centre on AI for health governance, including ethics.



## WHO recommends new diagnostic tools to help end TB

New guidelines for TB saliva swab tests allow for point-of-care, portable, simple-to-use methods that bring TB diagnosis closer to where people routinely seek care. These tests are available at less than half the cost of many existing molecular diagnostics, can operate on battery power, and they deliver results in less than one hour, allowing patients to start treatment sooner.

# MED CATS AROUND THE WORLD



## Primeros Pasos, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala

Jenna Glovsky  
& Victoria Rubio

Global Health Distinction Track medical students Jenna Glovsky and Victoria Rubio recently completed their fourth-year Global Health International Preceptorship at Primeros Pasos in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. During their rotation, they worked alongside the clinic's multidisciplinary team serving rural communities in the Palajunoj Valley, gaining firsthand experience in community-based care that integrates medical, dental, nutritional, and health education services.

Founded in 2002, Primeros Pasos is a women-led nonprofit dedicated to expanding access to reliable, affordable healthcare and improving quality of life for families in the region, serving more than 4,500 patients annually. Through this experience, Jenna and Victoria deepened their understanding of sustainable, equity-focused healthcare and the importance of community partnership in addressing health disparities—lessons that will inform their future careers as physicians committed to serving marginalized and rural populations.



## Intern Abroad HQ, San Ramon, Costa Rica

Isabellyana Dominguez



Global Health Distinction Track medical student Isabellyana Dominguez recently completed her Global Health International Preceptorship in San Ramón, Costa Rica through Intern Abroad HQ. During her rotation, she focused on learning about the Costa Rican healthcare system and its management, practicing her medical Spanish, and building clinical confidence.

Through this experience, she observed differences in medications used in Costa Rica compared to those in the United States, gained insight into the distinctions between public and private clinical care, and strengthened her ability to communicate with patients in Spanish.

## Songambele Hospital, Nkololo-Bariadi, Simiyu Region, Tanzania

Vivianne Benbrook, Sierra Hendershot and Colton Merdich



Songambele Hospital is a 135-bed, not-for-profit faith-based institution established by the Catholic Diocese of Shinyanga.

Originally founded as a dispensary in 1994, it was upgraded to a health center in 2014 and became a district hospital in 2021. The hospital now serves more than 1,000 patients per month and provides inpatient and outpatient services, comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care, and nutrition services, supported by modern medical equipment funded in part by Roads to Life Tanzania.

Global Health Distinction Track medical students Vivianne Benbrook, Sierra Hendershot and Colton Merdich recently completed their international preceptorship in Tanzania at Songambele Hospital in Bariadi District. The experience provided valuable insight into healthcare delivery in a resource-limited setting and broadened students' understanding of how patients perceive and manage illness before seeking hospital care. Through this rotation, students strengthened their ability to care for children in low-resource environments, gained a deeper understanding of common pediatric health challenges in Tanzania, and enhanced their communication and collaboration with individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds.



# Kapsowar Mission Hospital, Kenya

Madolyn Conant, Molly Courtright & Raywa Sathe

Global Health Distinction Track students Madolyn Conant, Molly Courtright and Raywa Sathe recently completed a month-long international preceptorship at Kapsowar Mission Hospital in Kenya.

Students worked closely with a multidisciplinary team of attending physicians, clinical officers, and fellow learners, contributing to daily patient care through pre-rounding, team rounds, procedures, order entry, and clinical documentation. Throughout the rotation, students gained exposure to more advanced and severe disease presentations than typically encountered in the United States, deepening their clinical acumen and confidence. Resource limitations—particularly in laboratory testing, power, and water—challenged students to think critically and adapt, emphasizing careful clinical assessment and creative problem-solving.



Equally impactful were the relationships formed during the experience. Students developed strong personal and professional connections with hospital staff and community members, spending time both in and outside the clinical setting with nurses, physicians, teachers, and peers. These interactions, along with daily life at the Kapsowar Hospital and visits to nearby markets, made the experience both culturally enriching and personally meaningful.



# Events from this Semester

## Doctors Without Borders Medical Student Club Book Raffle



The Doctors Without Borders Medical Student Club recently hosted a fundraising book raffle featuring global health books recommended by the College of Medicine's Doctors Without Borders chapter and the Office of Global and Border Health. Pictured below is the raffle winner, Dr. Monica Hinstroza Jordan! Proceeds from the event are to support ongoing humanitarian efforts.



**FLORENCE  
IMMIGRANT  
& REFUGEE  
RIGHTS PROJECT**



## March 6: Advocacy and Policy Club Fundraiser for Keeping Tucson Together and The Florence Project

Raised \$200 for these organizations to support pro-bono legal aid to affected individuals and families experiencing detention by ICE.

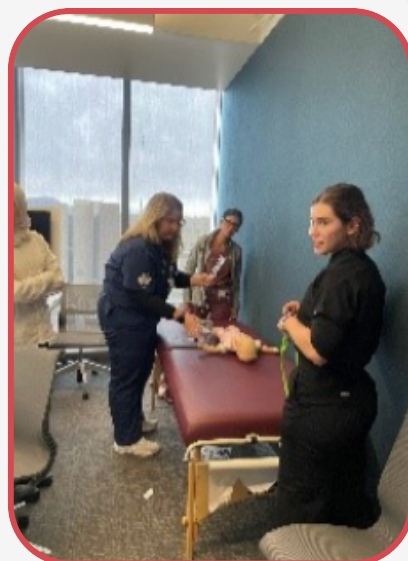
## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 23: Global and Border Health Research Day

# 2025 Global Health Interprofessional Event



On November 21, 2025, the University of Arizona College of Medicine–Tucson Office of Global and Border Health held its annual in-person Global Health Interprofessional Event. A total of 69 students from the Colleges of Nursing, Public Health, Pharmacy, and Medicine came together for a case-based simulation designed to promote teamwork and collaborative decision-making. A total of 15 faculty members from various colleges and departments also joined the students as small group facilitators. The activity helped participants define their roles in caring for patients in low-resource settings and in responding to public health concerns. It also prompted students to consider the social, psychological, and ethical challenges that can occur when treating an acutely ill patient without access to essential tools or resources. This event was a great success, and we look forward to offering future global health opportunities that continue to enrich student experiences!



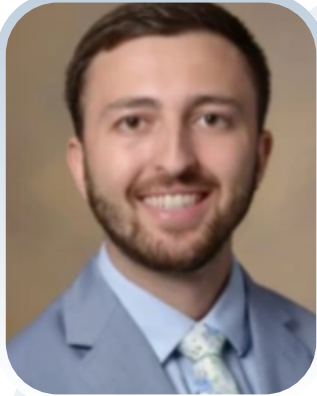
# 2026 Ron and Karen Pust Faculty Global Health Awardee



Monica Hinestroza Jordan, MD 2026 Ron & Karen Pust Faculty Global  
Health Award Recipient

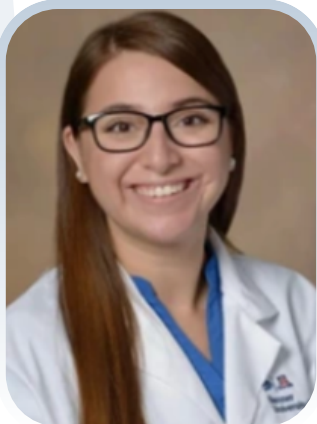
Dr. Mónica Yulieth Hinestroza Jordan, MD holds a Doctor of Medicine degree from the Universidad Tecnológica de Pereira and practiced medicine for three years in Colombia before coming to the United States to continue her professional development. Dr. Hinestroza Jordan completed her Infectious Diseases Fellowship at UMass Chan Medical School. Currently is Assistant professor of medicine in the division of medicine and Associate program director of the Infectious Diseases fellowship program at Banner Health/ University of Arizona. Dr. Hinestroza Jordan is a dedicated global health educator, clinician, and advocate whose work strengthens health systems both within the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson and in communities abroad. She brings extensive international experience to her role, providing expert infectious disease consultation to hospitals in Bolivia and delivering numerous invited lectures on complex infections throughout the region. Her long-term engagement in low- and middle-income countries reflects a deep commitment to sustainable partnerships and capacity-building. Within the College of Medicine's Global Health Program, Dr. Hinestroza Jordan plays an essential role as an Interprofessional Education Facilitator, sharing her expertise in infectious diseases in resource-limited settings and mentoring students on global health research. She is currently guiding trainees on a project examining rural-urban differences in HIV care and outcomes in Tanzania, helping them develop meaningful insights into health disparities and cross-cultural practice. Through her leadership, mentorship, and dedication to equitable global partnerships, Dr. Hinestroza Jordan embodies the mission of advancing global health through collaboration, education, and service.

## 2026 GME Resident Global Health Travel Scholarship Awardees



### **Nicholas Lolli - 2026 GME Resident Global Health Travel Scholarship**

Nicholas Lolli is a fourth-year resident in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Arizona College of Medicine–Tucson. He earned his bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Maryland and completed medical school at the University of Virginia. With a strong commitment to global health, Nicholas will use this scholarship to travel to the Dominican Republic in March 2026, to participate in an annual surgical and clinical outreach program conducted in partnership with local community organizations. While on this trip, he will also collaborate with local physicians to identify patients requiring surgical care and support ongoing follow-up after the team's departure, reinforcing a sustainable, community-centered model of care.

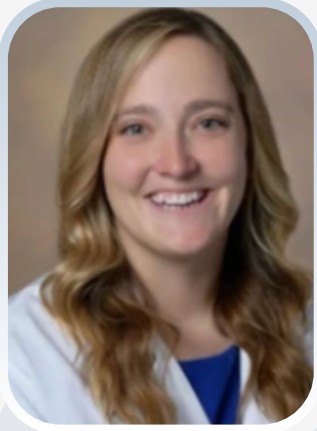


### **June Chabayta - 2026 GME Resident Global Health Travel Scholarship**

June Chabayta is a third-year resident with the Department of Family and Community Medicine's Family Medicine Residency Program at the University of Arizona College of Medicine–Tucson. She earned her bachelor's degree at the University of Arizona and completed medical school at the American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine. With a strong commitment to global health, June will use this scholarship to travel to Riobamba, Ecuador, in January/February 2026 for a six-week immersive global health rotation. During this time, she will participate in rural community-based outreach and hospital-based clinical care, while also engaging in formal Spanish tutoring.

June will collaborate with local providers to deliver patient care in a resource-limited setting, enhancing her diagnostic skills and deepening her understanding of global health systems. She aspires to build long-term partnerships with clinics in South and Central America, integrating full-spectrum family medicine with sustained global health engagement.

## 2026 GME Resident Global Health Travel Scholarship Awardees



### **Ivy Stejskal - 2026 GME Resident Global Health Travel Scholarship**

Ivy Stejskal is a resident in the General Surgery Residency Program at the University of Arizona College of Medicine–Tucson. She earned her bachelor's degree from Baylor University and completed medical school at Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences. With a strong commitment to global health, Ivy will use this scholarship to travel to Kenya in May 2026 on a medical mission trip with Straw to Bread. She will work in a rural village that recently built a medical clinic, collaborating with local providers to care for 800–1,000 patients during the two-week trip. In addition to clinical work, Ivy will support holistic community initiatives, including agriculture, water access, education, orphan care, and small business development, reinforcing a sustainable, community-centered model of care.

## 2026 Leverant Scholarship Awardees



Fatima Alassadi



Jared Fischer



Jillian Leaver

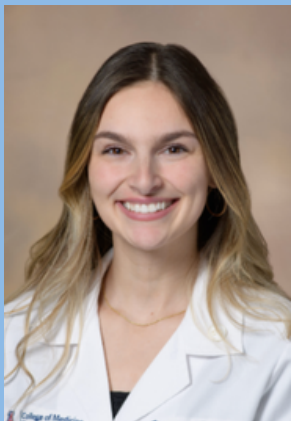


Jillian Max



Emmery Kelly

## 2026 Mulcahey Scholarship Award Recipients



Vivianne Benbrook



Isabellyana  
Dominguez



Jenna Glovsky



Sierra Hendershot

## 2026 Nehal Shah Memorial Global Health Award Recipient



Molly Courtright, 2026 Nehal Shah Memorial Global Health Award Recipient

Molly Courtright's passion for service began early in her undergraduate career, working with the unhoused community in Tucson, Arizona. She joined the Mobile Medicats, where she would pass out essential supplies to unhoused individuals directly where they were living. In her senior year, the group became a CUP clinic through the University of Arizona College of Medicine–Tucson, expanding into a mobile health unit offering free medical care. As Clinic Coordinator, she oversaw operations and fostered collaboration between students and physicians.

Molly's first global health experience came with Flying Samaritans in Agua Prieta, Mexico, providing care in a resource-limited border community. In medical school, she joined the Global Health Distinction Track and traveled to rural Kenya, where she worked alongside Kenyan and American physicians and experienced firsthand the challenges that arise in global healthcare. Concurrently, she conducted a needs assessment study to strengthen the long-term partnership between UACOM–T and Kapsowar Mission Hospital. She presented this work at the UA Global Health Presentation Day and UACOM–T Research Day in 2024. Molly plans to return to Kenya in 2025, where she hopes to implement these findings. In the future, Molly hopes to continue addressing healthcare inequities both locally and globally throughout her career as a physician.

## NEW Collaboration!



The Office of Global and Border Health is excited to announce a new collaboration between the University of Gothenburg's Sahlgrenska Academy. A leading public research university in Sweden, the University of Gothenburg is home to the Sahlgrenska Academy, an internationally recognized faculty of medicine and health sciences known for its education and research in areas such as ageing, cancer, neuroscience, odontology, and person-centered care. This agreement establishes a framework for educational cooperation and reciprocal exchange, offering participants valuable exposure to diverse healthcare systems, learning environments, and global health contexts. Together, the partnership fosters academic engagement, professional development, and sustained international collaboration in medical education.



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# Global & Border Health

## **How You Can Help!**

**To donate to global health,  
go to <https://give.uafoundation.org/com-tuc-family-community> .**

**In the Your Gift section, for "I would like to support,"  
choose International Health Teaching Program from the pull-down menu.**