

**Introduction to Global Child Health Elective**  
**September 18-22, 2017**  
**Speaker Biographies**

**Eiman Abdulrahman**

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Dr. Abdulrahman is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine at George Washington School of Medicine and Children's National Medical Center. She completed her Emergency Medicine Fellowship training at Emory University where she helped set up a global health tract for pediatric residents. At Children's National, she teaches Emergency Triage Assessment and Treatment and Ethics in Global Health for the Pediatric Residency Global Health Course. She is originally from Ethiopia and has worked at the government hospital in Addis Ababa. She regularly attends meetings to discuss health issues in Ethiopia.

**Andrea Beaton**

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Dr. Beaton is a pediatric cardiologist with expertise in rheumatic heart disease, and has led diverse teams in multiple successful international collaborations and clinical trials. In her most ambitious project, she personally screened almost 5,000 students with echocardiography and discovered a 1.4% prevalence of latent RHD among asymptomatic Ugandan primary schoolchildren. Her work was recognized by the American Heart Association as one of the 2012 top ten research advances in cardiovascular disease and stroke, featured in *Nature Reviews Cardiology*, and published in *Circulation*. This project also catalyzed her successful application to the KL2 scholar's program, enabling her to dedicate 75% of her time to further RHD research. With this time and funding, she completed a multidisciplinary approach to improve early RHD detection, studying the natural history of latent RHD, the improvement of echocardiographic screening for RHD, and novel antibody profiles to improve early RHD detection. Most recently she was awarded the Early Career Mentored Clinical Research Award from the American Heart Association to pursue an investigation into the impact of RHD on maternal and fetal outcomes in sub-Saharan Africa. Her work has been recognized nationally and internationally, and she has presented at the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions, the Pan-African Cardiology Congress, the World Cardiology Congress, and the World Congress of Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery. She has published multiple articles on RHD and been named to the Rheumatic Fever, Endocarditis, and Kawasaki Disease Committee (RFEKD) of the American Heart Association, where she recently had the privilege of helping to craft the revision of the Jones Criteria - the guiding document for diagnosis of acute rheumatic fever.

**Kristen Breslin**

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Dr. Kristen Breslin is an attending in the Division of Emergency Medicine at Children's National. She is a Global Health Faculty Mentor for pediatric residents. She volunteers in Roatan, Honduras and is able to facilitate resident rotations at this site. She has contributed her clinical and teaching expertise to Project Medi-Share in Haiti through GWU and can serve as a faculty contact for residents interested in this program. Dr. Breslin has a particular interest in addressing issues and systems which affect delivery of care. She aims to improve access and timeliness of care provision in resource limited acute care pediatric settings. Specifically, she has trained medical providers both here and abroad using the WHO Emergency Triage Assessment and Treatment (ETAT) Curriculum. She received her medical degree from Harvard Medical School and completed her

pediatric residency at the Boston Combined Residency Program. She finished Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellowship at Children's National while completing her Master's in Public Health at George Washington University.

**Jennifer Chapman**

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Dr. Chapman is a Pediatric Emergency Medicine Attending and Director of the Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellowship at CNHS. She now also coordinates the gPEM (Global Pediatric Emergency Medicine) Program at Children's National, and has volunteered her clinical and teaching expertise at sites in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, New Delhi, India and most recently in Milot, Haiti. She has also worked on projects for the World Bank, as well as the Mamta Health Institute for Mother and Child in New Delhi. She is specifically interested in developing educational exchanges with academic centers in other countries. She completed the Master Teacher Leadership Development Program at Children's National. She received her medical degree from McGill University, completed her pediatric residency at Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and her Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellowship at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

**Binny Chokshi**

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Dr. Binny Chokshi is currently a general pediatrics attending, within the Goldberg Center for Community Pediatric Health. She also serves as the co-medical director of the Healthy Generations, Teen-Tot clinic. She is a graduate of the Children's National Health System Pediatric Residency program, specifically as part of the Community Health Track. Her international experiences include health related work in the Dominican Republic, Mali, Malawi, and Uganda. Most recently, during her residency training, she worked with the Baylor Pediatric AIDS Corps in Lilongwe, Malawi. She is interested in sustainable global health interventions and global health education.

**Mattia Chason**

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Dr. Mattia Chason is an attending pediatric hospitalist at Children's National Medical Center for the Mid-Atlantic Kaiser Permanente Medical Group. He recently graduated from the Children's National Health System Pediatric Residency program and was awarded a certificate in Global Child Health for his commitment to improving the health and lives of children in developing countries. His interest in global health dates back to college when he began participating in medical mission trips to Central America (Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Nicaragua) with US volunteer physicians. While a medical student at Tufts University in Boston, he continued to pursue opportunities in developing countries and was selected amongst students nationwide to work for 3 months in the pediatric ward at the "Hôpital Albert Schweitzer" in Lambaréné, Gabon. Nobel peace prize winner Dr. Albert Schweitzer founded this hospital back in 1913. As a 2nd year resident interested in exploring the field of infectious diseases, he spent 4 weeks in Lima, Peru at the "Instituto Nacional De Salud del Niño." He worked hand in hand with arguably the most renowned pediatric infectious diseases specialist in the country. Most recently, as a 3rd year resident, he spent 5 weeks in Luang Prabang, Laos at the "Lao Friends Hospital for Children." His main focus was educating Laotian pediatricians while supervising the care of hospitalized children.

**David Diemert**

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Dr. David Diemert is director of clinical trials at the Sabin Vaccine Institute (SVI) and an Associate Professor in the Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Tropical Medicine at The George Washington University School of Medicine. Dr. Diemert provides direct oversight for vaccine trials for neglected tropical diseases that are sponsored by SVI in the United States, Brazil, and Gabon. His work in Brazil has involved preparing a trial site in partnership with the Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (FIOCRUZ), which has included establishing a clinic in a rural area of Brazil, assembling and training a Brazilian clinical trials team, and conducting clinical vaccine trials and studies of helminth epidemiology and immunology. Prior to joining the SVI, Dr. Diemert worked for four years at the Malaria Vaccine Development Branch of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, where he helped establish a clinical trials site in Mali. He earned his medical degree from the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada, and completed residency and fellowship training at McGill University in Montréal. Additionally, he received training in clinical tropical medicine through the University of Alabama at Birmingham's Gorgas Course in Lima, Peru.

**Lindy Fenlason**

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Dr. Lindy Fenlason is a pediatrician whose work has included clinical care, capacity building and mentorship, consultancy, program design and implementation, as well as, policy-level interventions at various sites in Africa, Central America and the Caribbean. She received her M.D. from Indiana University School of Medicine and MPH from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, and completed Pediatric Residency training at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, and a fellowship in Pediatric Nutrition at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Housed within multiple academic medical centers, she has had the opportunity to collaborate with a variety of implementing partners across sectors. Her contributions to date have focused on best practices in clinical care and programming in behavior change, HIV, maternal child health and the malnutrition spectrum: from traditional undernutrition of wasting and stunting to the under/inadequate nutrition of obesity and the rise in non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

**Kathy Ferrer**

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Dr. Ferrer is an attending physician in the Pediatric Hospitalist Division and the Special Immunology Section of the Infectious Disease Department at CNHS. Currently, she is the Education lead for the newly launched Children's National Global Health Initiative. She serves as a clinician for the Children's National Special Immunology clinic caring for children with perinatally- and horizontally-acquired HIV and as a consultant physician for the adolescent Burgess clinic. She is a Global Health Faculty Mentor for CNHS residents and co-director of the Global Child Health Curriculum at CNHS. Previously, she served as the Medical Director of the Baylor College of Medicine Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Clinical Centre of Excellence in Maseru, Lesotho from 2005-2009 where she assisted with scale-up of pediatric HIV care and treatment for the country. She has lectured frequently on pediatric HIV, malnutrition, tuberculosis and global health topics in sub-Saharan Africa, Romania, Kyrgyzstan, China and the United States. She also served as a locum tenens physician for the Indian Health Service in Chinle, Arizona. She completed her internal medicine and pediatrics residency at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas in 2003.

**Rebecca Fields**

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Rebecca Fields, MPH has 30 years of experience supporting immunization system strengthening, new vaccine introduction, and injection safety in Africa and Asia, plus advocacy and behavior change communication for new vaccines, injection safety, and H1N1 control. Since 2011, she has been a senior technical advisor for immunization with John Snow Inc. (JSI) on USAID's Maternal

Child Health Integrated Program, playing a key role in MCHIP's activities to integrate immunization with family planning service delivery. She led JSI's work on a World Health Organization (WHO) project to make strategic use of measles mass campaigns to strengthen routine immunization and was core staff on the Gates-funded ARISE project to identify drivers of improved immunization in Africa. Previously she served as senior technical officer on USAID's IMMUNIZATION basics project, immunization team co-chair for the BASICS I project, and immunization technical coordinator for the REACH II project. She co-authored *Immunization Essentials: A Practical Field Guide*, and USAID's e-learning course on immunization. She holds degrees from Smith College and Yale University in biology and public health, respectively.

**Troy Jacobs**

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Dr. Jacobs is Senior Medical Advisor for Child Health in the Office of Maternal-Child Health (MCH) & Nutrition at USAID's Global Health Bureau. He has 20+ years of experience in quality improvement, health systems strengthening, & capacity building related to MCH in developing countries and the US – particularly at the community & primary health levels. His global work for USAID, CDC, WHO, UNICEF, and implementing agencies includes over a dozen countries mostly concentrated in east and southern Africa. As a practicing pediatrician, he continues improving the health of poor and vulnerable children globally and locally. He is an active member of AAP's International Child Health Section and APA's International Health SIG. He received his medical degree from Johns Hopkins University, pediatric training and Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars fellowship from University of Washington, and MPH from Columbia University.

**Barbara Jantusch**

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Dr. Barbara Jantusch is a Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Children's National Health System and the Department of Pediatrics of The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. She is an Attending Physician on the Infectious Disease Inpatient Consultation Service and in the Infectious Disease Clinic at Children's National Medical Center. She has cared for many returning travelers with tropical diseases.

Dr. Jantusch was the Director of the Fellowship Training Program in Infectious Diseases at Children's National for eleven years and is a member of the Children's Academy of Pediatric Educators (CAPE). She has designed E-learning modules regarding tropical medicine topics. Dr. Jantusch is interested in Global Health and has chaired numerous symposia at national meetings, including *The Returned Pediatric Traveler* and *Emerging and Challenging Infections in Infants*.

**Dr. Cyril Jacquot**

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**Matthew Laurens**

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Matt Laurens, MD, MPH, is a specialist in pediatric infectious diseases at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. From 1992-1994, he served as a disease eradication specialist in Guinea Worm disease in the U.S. Peace Corps in Benin, West Africa. In 1994, he joined UNICEF in Benin to supervise a research project in diarrheal diseases in children under 5. He then returned to the U.S. where he earned his MPH degree in 1996 (The Johns Hopkins University). He completed his MD studies in 2001 (Mercer University), and is board-certified in Pediatrics (2004, Tulane University) and Pediatric Infectious diseases (2008, University of Maryland). He was a vaccinology fellow at

the Center for Vaccine Development (University of Maryland) from 2006-2008, where he served as a co-investigator on two clinical trials of blood-stage malaria vaccines in Mali and a clinical trial of chloroquine combination therapy in Malawi. From 2008-2009, he was a Burroughs Wellcome / American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Postdoctoral Fellow in Tropical Infectious Diseases. During this time, he also served as co-investigator in the first clinical trial to evaluate a whole organism, metabolically active malaria vaccine. He continues to work in domestic and international clinical trials with a focus on malaria vaccine and human challenge studies.

**Kalpana Manthiram**

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Dr. Manthiram is a Clinical Fellow at the National Human Genome Research Institute at the National Institutes of Health. She completed medical school at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, her pediatrics residency at the Boston Combined Residency Program at Boston Children's Hospital and Boston Medical Center, and her pediatric infectious disease fellowship at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. She is currently studying the clinical outcomes and biological mechanisms of periodic fever syndromes at NIH. During residency, she studied vaccine uptake and parental attitudes toward vaccination in an urban population in Chennai, India. She is also a medical advisor for Healthy Children, Brighter Futures, a non-profit organization which implemented an infant home visit program by nurses in rural India.

**Shaanan Meyerstein**

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Shaanan Meyerstein, MD, MPH, FAAP is a Pediatrician and Lieutenant Commander in the United States Public Health Service. He currently serves as a Medical Officer in the Division of Health for Unaccompanied Children within the Office of Refugee Resettlement in the Administration of Children's and Families in HHS. He continues to work as a Clinical Instructor of Pediatrics in the Department of Pediatric Emergency Medicine at CNMC where he worked as an ER associate for two years. Prior to his work in the ER, Shaanan spent a year with the Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Corps in Botswana after completing his Pediatric Residency at Cohen Children's Medical Center of New York. He is a graduate of the Ben-Gurion University Medical School for International Health in Beersheva, Israel. Shaanan has a particular interest in medical diplomacy and working with migrant populations with complex medical needs.

**Scott Norton**

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Scott A. Norton, M.D., M.P.H., M.Sc., is Chief of Dermatology at Children's National Medical Center and a Professor of Dermatology and Pediatrics at the George Washington University. In addition, he is on the academic faculty at Georgetown University and Howard University. Dr Norton was Chief of Dermatology at Walter Reed Army Medical Center for many years and retired as a Colonel from the US Army. He has clinical privileges at the National Institutes of Health and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and serves as a frequent consultant in Dermatology and in Tropical Medicine to the State Department, Peace Corps, and CDC. In addition to Dermatology, Dr Norton's academic interests are in Tropical Medicine, Infectious Diseases, and Global Health. While with the federal government, his overseas medical experiences included duties in Zambia, Egypt, Ghana, Mauritania, Senegal, Haiti, Jamaica, Guyana, Bolivia, Peru, Marshall Islands, Fiji, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Philippines, where he worked on clinical, educational, and public health projects, including many humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. He has additional certification in Tropical Medicine and Traveler's Health from the American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene. Other interests include ethnobotany (traditional uses of plants) and medical anthropology. Dr. Norton has more than 80 indexed publications, including papers in many

journals outside the dermatology literature, such as *New England Journal of Medicine*, *JAMA*, *Lancet*, *British Medical Journal*, *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, *Vaccine*, and *MMWR*. He is a former Assistant Editor of the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology* and remains a reviewer for that and many other journals.

**Dr. Tiffany Perkins**

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**Ryan Phelps**

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Dr. B. Ryan Phelps, a pediatrician and USAID Medical Officer in PMTCT and pediatric HIV, joined USAID's Office of HIV/AIDS in late 2009, and has provided technical assistance to PEPFAR-supported programs throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Prior to joining USAID, Dr. Phelps worked for the Baylor International Pediatrics AIDS Initiative in Swaziland and Botswana for several years. Dr. Phelps is a graduate of Duke University School of Medicine and the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health. He trained in pediatrics at the University of California, San Francisco.

**Nathalie Quion**

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Dr. Quion is currently the Medical Director of Children's Health Center at Adams Morgan and Shaw. She is a faculty member of the Division of General and Community Pediatrics and provides technical support and advocacy to the Community Based Children's Tuberculosis Program in the Philippines and provides technical advice and support to the Philippine Ambulatory Pediatric Association. She is able to arrange for resident rotations at the teaching hospital of the University of Philippines- Philippine General Hospital in Manila. She leads a medical mission every February in Romblon Philippines. Dr. Quion is co-Chair of the DC AAP Immigrant Child Health Committee and leads the Immigrant Health Elective. She completed her medical degree at the University of the Philippines, finished her pediatric residency training at University of Texas and completed her Master's in Public Health at the University of Massachusetts.

**Lineo Thahane**

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Dr. Thahane is an attending physician in the Pediatric Hospitalist Division at CNHS. After completing her pediatrics residency at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, she worked in Lusaka, Zambia, training providers on newborn care and resuscitation. She subsequently moved to Maseru, Lesotho where she served as a Baylor Pediatric AIDS Corps physician for four years and Medical Director of the Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation - Lesotho from for three years before joining the faculty at CNHS in 2012. She has worked extensively to support the Government of Lesotho with the scale-up of services for pediatric HIV care and treatment, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and diagnosis and treatment of childhood tuberculosis, and she has lectured frequently on pediatric HIV, malnutrition and tuberculosis throughout Lesotho, Botswana, and South Africa. She currently serves as a Global Health Faculty Mentor for CNHS residents and co-director of the Introduction to Global Child Health course at Children's.

**Chloe Turner**

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Dr. Turner is a pediatrician at Unity Health Care (Upper Cardozo site). She grew up abroad as a child of international school educators, sparking her interest in global health. After training in the Pediatric Residency Program in Social Pediatrics at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore in the

Bronx, NY, Chloe completed a two-year Pediatric Global Health Fellowship through the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, serving in the Dominican Republic from 2013-2015 (in a community health clinic and a comprehensive HIV center).

**Bina Valsangkar**

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Bina Valsangkar is a pediatrician and advisor at Save the Children, where she works with Ministries of Health and international organizations in Africa and Asia to draft policy, conduct research, and develop programs for reducing deaths and improving health outcomes for newborns.

In her role at Save the Children, Dr. Valsangkar leads a partnership of UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions to improve care for preterm and low birthweight infants. Under her leadership, the group has convened a global community of practice for the care of these infants with the ministries of health of seven countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, developed global recommendations for metrics, and provided technical assistance for improving quality of care for these infants.

Dr. Valsangkar has worked on newborn and child health in 17 countries, presented extensively on newborn health domestically and internationally, and has published peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, including work in *The Lancet* and *Academic Medicine*, and has been featured in the mainstream radio and print media, including *NPR*, *CBS*, *Bloomberg news*, *Kaiser Family Foundation*, *Devex* and local Washington, DC news stations.

Dr. Valsangkar is board-certified in pediatrics and received her medical training at the University of Michigan Medical School and Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC. She cares for newborns, children, and adolescents in general pediatric practice in Maryland. She has a masters of public health from Harvard, where she was a fellow at the Kennedy School Center for Public Leadership. She speaks Spanish and French.

**Edward Wong**

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