

# **REPORT: Paul S. Lietman Travel Grant Program for Housestaff & Fellows**

## **Background and Overview of the Program**

Global elective experiences can be inspirational, powerful, and defining moments in a physician's training – opportunities to transcend borders and learn across disciplines to better understand the causes and drivers of illness. For over a decade the Center for Global Health (CGH) has supported students in their efforts to gain experience working in low-resource settings around world. Until Fall 2010 almost all travel grant slots were designated for students in the various schools within Johns Hopkins University (JHU). In January, 2010 the CGH submitted a request for funding to President Daniels to support new global health travel initiatives, including a proposal for support of Housestaff travel. Subsequently, the Housestaff travel initiative was funded by the Johns Hopkins Health System (JHHS) to support twelve \$3,500 grants annually. This program was renamed the Paul S. Lietman Travel Grant program, honoring Dr. Paul Lietman, a longtime chief of the Division of Clinical Pharmacology at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, and specialist in bacterial and viral infections.

The objective of these grants is to support residents and fellows who identify an overseas site for an elective and are in need of funding. Housestaff benefit from overseas experiences, particularly in clinical care: trainees are exposed to diseases and conditions (including physical, cultural, and political) they have previously not seen, improve their reliance on clinical skills, and participate in cross cultural experiences. Regardless of their final work locations, such skills are critical for a mature, compassionate, knowledgeable physician. In 2014 CGH was able to leverage the early successes of this housestaff travel grant program to secure continuing support for these experiences from the Gilead Foundation.

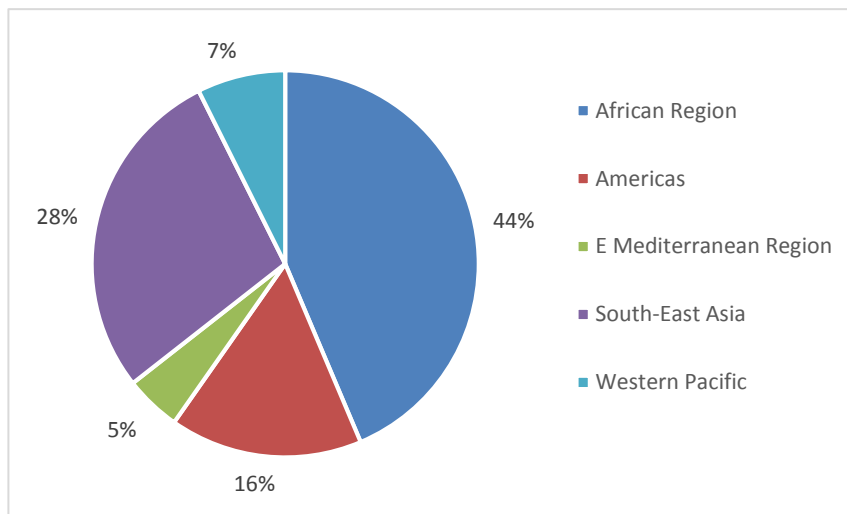
## **Application and Review Process**

Each year, two calls for applications are made (Spring and Fall). Residents who have identified an overseas site are invited to submit their application, one recommendation, and a request for elective rotation form to the CGH. Applications are then reviewed by a committee formed by the CGH, comprised of faculty from the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health with significant experience in global health. Selected residents who have also been approved by their residency director and the Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education are awarded a grant ranging from \$3,500-5,000, depending on length of time in country and other factors. The travel grant is open to housestaff in any graduate medical education program sponsored by the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine or the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

## Evaluation

Since the housestaff travel grant program’s inception, 148 residents and fellows have been funded (of 263 unique applicants<sup>1</sup>). Over half of these awards (107) have been made possible thanks to support from the Gilead Foundation. Last year, we were able to begin a supplemental funding mechanism for fellows who have dedicated significant time in-country. Eligible fellows can re-apply for limited funds (ranging from \$1,500-3,000) to support ongoing work and capacity building. These grants have been awarded to three fellows since Summer 2017.

Almost half of all trainees completed their rotation in Sub-Saharan Africa, and almost a third in South-East Asia (see **Figure 1**). Several residents have also completed rotations in the Region of the Americas, and the Eastern Mediterranean or Western Pacific regions.



**Figure 1 – Where our Awardees Go (2010-2018)**

Country	No. of Trainees
India	26
Uganda	12
Peru/Kenya/South Africa	9
Nigeria	6
Cameroon/Rwanda/Philippines	5

**Table 1: Top five rotation locations (2010-2018)**

The majority of awardees funded by this program are from Medicine residency programs at Johns Hopkins Hospital or Johns Hopkins Bayview (54 of 148, 36%), followed by Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine (19, 13% and 11, 7% respectively). A full list of CGH funding by department or division is presented in **Table 1**. Several of these trainees also participate in the Global Health Pathways Program, a designated track in the Department of Medicine for those with interests in long-term global health careers. Recently, CGH has been in contact with faculty in the Department of Pediatrics, who have expressed interest in establishing their own global health track in response to the immense interest from their trainees.

<sup>1</sup> Some applicants have applied multiple times over different cycles

**Table 1: CGH Funding by Department or Division**

<b>Department/Division</b>	
Administration	1
Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine	7
Cardiology	1
Clinical Pharmacology	1
Dermatology	1
Emergency Medicine	11
Environmental Health and Engineering	1
Female Pelvic Health & Reconstructive Surgery	2
General Preventative Medicine	3
Gynecology and Obstetrics	6
Infectious Diseases	3
Internal Medicine	47
Internal Medicine - Pediatrics	1
Internal Medicine -Bayview	7
Neurology	6
Oncology	1
Ophthalmology	7
Orthopaedic Surgery	2
Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery	6
Pathology	1
Pediatrics	19
Pediatrics; Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine	3
Pediatrics; Emergency Medicine	1
Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine	2
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery	2
Psychiatry	3
Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine	3
Surgery	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>149<sup>2</sup></b>

## Future directions

There is continuing demand for global training experiences from housestaff and fellows: Between the two distinct eras of our program (2010-2013, and post-Gilead 2014-present), the number of applications and awards granted have nearly doubled. The Center for Global Health is committed to facilitating

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<sup>2</sup> One resident received funding in two cycles.



rewarding, quality overseas experiences and rigorous pre-departure preparation through our research portfolio.

We have supported the establishment of the Center for Global Surgery, led by Drs. Robert Higgins of General Surgery, James Ficke of Orthopaedic Surgery, and Bhakti Hansoti of Emergency Medicine. Jhpiego, a Hopkins affiliated NGO which provides high quality health care to women and families in developing countries, has expressed interest in working with the Center for Global Health to provide on-the-ground clinical experiences to Hopkins residents and fellows who work with them. As demand from residents, fellows, and directors continues to grow, we hope to be able to continue offering the Paul S. Lietman fellowship to continued generations of housestaff and fellows who intend to pursue medical careers in global health.

## Appendix 1: CGH Funded Housestaff Vignettes

### Lauren Thomaier:

Lauren Thomaier, MD (pictured right), is a third-year resident in Gynecology and Obstetrics at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. As a Spring 2017 awardee, Dr. Thomaier travelled to Rwanda for three weeks with the International Organization for Women and Development to develop her skills in treating and managing obstetric fistula repair and complications. Reflecting on her experience, Dr. Thomaier noted *“Today, the women of Rwanda carry an indescribable strength, which radiated beneath their reserve as they entered the exam room. The women travelled hours to meet us, a team of gynecologists with specialized training in fistula surgery...Beneath the façade of the clean paved streets of Kigali is a country of vulnerable women; women who labor for days and are hours away from obstetric care...The etiology of fistula differs between well and low-resourced countries. Obstetric fistula makes up the overwhelming majority of the fistula cases in low-resourced countries. As a Resident in Obstetrics and Gynecology training in the United States, I had never even seen a fistula as a result of prolonged labor... A rising number of women are developing complex fistulas related to cesarean delivery as emergency obstetric services and cesarean section are becoming more accessible in low-resourced countries.*



**“The team worked with a group of medical students from Rwanda who helped with daily rounds on the postoperative patients. We taught them wound care and physical examination of the postoperative patient.”**

*While my experience working with the Rwandan women was an immersive opportunity to reflect on future surgical needs in global health, it also allowed for personal growth. Practicing in this setting truly opens your mind as a physician. It tests your patience and resourcefulness. On a personal level, it develops my ability to trust. You place your trust into others in a foreign place and rely on the kindness and hospitality of the people. As an independent person, this is incredibly difficult for me...Letting my guard down also means opening myself up for learning. In that regard, the women inspired me by their ability to place their faith in our hands after what they’ve experienced, what they’ve seen and the incredible losses they have suffered.”*

Dr. Thomaier received an honorable mention for her reflective essay on these experiences at this year’s [9<sup>th</sup> Annual Consortium of Universities for Global Health Conference](#) in New York, NY.

### Devin Keefe

*“Having worked elsewhere in South Africa before, I arrived with a number of preconceptions about working in the region. On my first shift at Khayelitsha, after learning there was no CT in radiology and*

*witnessing the heavy burden of trauma and disease, I realized that my expectations and clinical skills would be challenged. Practicing Emergency Medicine at Khayelitsha was a singular and transformative endeavor..."*



**"Teaching residents how to quantify right heart strain by echocardiographic measurements."**

Devin Keefe, MD (left), a fourth year resident in Emergency Medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital, spent four weeks in Western Cape, South Africa as a Fall 2016 awardee gaining applied knowledge of point-of-care ultrasound (PoCUS) while working in Khayelitsha Hospital. Dr. Keefe experienced firsthand the challenges of delivering care in a resource-limited setting, noting *"Suddenly, my bedside ultrasound exams became definitive imaging in critically ill patients. There would be no confirmatory imaging studies outside of plain film radiographs. My technical skills and study interpretation had real influence on patient outcomes... The value of my training became evident; I am thankful for the high quality of our ultrasound curriculum and the teaching faculty at the Johns Hopkins Emergency Medicine Residency Program. I also discovered a passion for teaching junior residents at Khayelitsha through bedside demonstration and informal lectures.*

*I plan to collaborate with local stakeholders and return as a champion for PoCUS in South Africa. This experience has reaffirmed my career goal of becoming a leader in ultrasound education, especially in low-resource settings. Over the next few years, I hope to promote the development of PoCUS curriculum in the region, institute ultrasound education initiatives, and quantitatively evaluate these initiatives using validated tools to measure provider competency."*

### **Nicky Mehtani**

Nicky Mehtani, MD, MPH is a second-year resident in Internal Medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital, and a trainee in the Urban Health Primary Care residency track. This spring, Dr. Mehtani worked with mentors at the Johns Hopkins Center for Clinical Global Health Education and BJ Medical College to assist with two studies on clinical HIV and tuberculosis. In her narrative, Dr. Mehtani reflected, *"I spent the majority of my time in Pune conducting a retrospective analysis of the barriers HIV patients faced in switching to a 2nd-line ART regimen after failing treatment on the available 1st-line medications. India's National AIDS*

*Control Organization (NACO) strives to provide free ART treatment to all people living with HIV—an impressive and seemingly equality-oriented feat. However, the actual implementation of the policy and delivery of such treatment is a far more complicated issue, and was the subject of my research...Within the government hospital system in India, first- and second-line treatments for HIV and multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB typically were exactly the same for all patients despite major differences in clinical factors and resistance profiles. This was unlike anything I've seen in our U.S. healthcare system, where we focus on the individualization of treatment plans. While, in most respects, the U.S. system appears more advanced, what was most striking to me was the fact that India's low-cost, public-health approach to treatment, though flawed in several ways, was often still successful at treating HIV and MDR-TB, diseases that we continue to have difficulty treating in the U.S. despite the relative abundance of resources. While there is a desperate need for a greater availability of medications to treat both of these diseases in the Indian public sector, I've realized that the ideal system is neither India's top-down approach nor the U.S.'s privatized and excessively-individualized approach to treatment but somewhere in between.*



**“Working with fellow CCGHE scholar, Matthew Murrill, at Aundh Chest Hospital—a government-operated public tuberculosis hospital in Pune.”**

*As a physician, this [experience] has encouraged me to think about accountability to my patients. While my training to date as a medical professional has been primarily in the clinic and hospital, my experiences working both in India and Baltimore City have encouraged me to take a step back and think outside of the box when it comes to healthcare. To fulfill our role as physicians and genuinely improve patient health, we need to take on a more active role in political decision-making and the allocation of resources that effect the social determinants of our patients’ health.”*

## Appendix 2: List of all awardees (2010-2018) and country of travel

<u>Full Name</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Country</u>
Ahmad, Sumayya	Ophthalmology	India
Akinboyo, Ibukunoluwa	Pediatrics	Guyana
Albon, Jennifer	Pediatrics	Botswana
Alghanim, Fahid	Internal Medicine	Jordan
Anand, Gobind	Internal Medicine	India
Anest, Trish	Emergency Medicine	South Africa
Antar, Annukka	Internal Medicine	Mexico
Baluyot, Mariju	Pediatrics	Kenya
Barger-Kamate, Breanna	Pediatrics	Mali
Barnes, Sean	Pediatrics; Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine	Guatemala
Barnes, Sean	Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine	Cambodia
Benson, Erika	Adminstration	India
Berk, Justin	Pediatrics	Philippines
Bernier, Meghan	Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine	Haiti
Bicket, Mark	Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine	Ethiopia
Billioux, Alexander	Internal Medicine	South Africa
Blair, Paul	Infectious Diseases	Uganda
Brewer, LaPrincess	Internal Medicine -Bayview	South Africa
Briggs, Jessica	Internal Medicine	Uganda
Brooks, Lauren	Internal Medicine	Thailand
Burgunder, Lauren	Pediatrics	Philippines
Burkey, Matt	Psychiatry	Nepal
Calva, Daniel	Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery	Brazil
Chang, David	Internal Medicine	Ethiopia
Channa, Roomasa	Ophthalmology	Nepal
Chipendo, Portia	Emergency Medicine	South Africa
Chopra, Eisha	Emergency Medicine	Lebanon
Christenson, Eric	Internal Medicine	India
Christian, Asare	Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine	Ghana
Dearborn, Jennifer	Neurology	Malaysia
Deb, Arkaprava	Psychiatry	India
Desale, Meghan	Gynecology and Obstetrics	India
Dezube, Rebecca	Internal Medicine	Malaysia
Eke, Ahizechukwu	Gynecology and Obstetrics	Nigeria
Eleanya, Cynthia	Internal Medicine	Nigeria
Emmett, Susan	Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery	Nepal
Eta, Bukola	Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine	Nigeria
Everett, Estelle	Internal Medicine	Haiti



Falade, Olufunmilayo	Internal Medicine -Bayview	Kenya
Fussell, Melissa	Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine	Tanzania
Genther, Dane	Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery	Cameroon
Gooi, Zhen	Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery	Cameroon
Gottlieb, Samuel	Pediatrics	Philippines
Graddy, Ryan	Internal Medicine -Bayview	Uganda
Hallock, Jennifer	Female Pelvic Health & Reconstructive Surgery	Rwanda
Han, Esther	Gynecology and Obstetrics	Guatemala
Han, Ian	Ophthalmology	India
Harris, Tamia	Dermatology	Botswana
Helgeson, Ashley	Internal Medicine	Zambia
Heller, David	Internal Medicine	Uganda
Hinson, Jeremiah	Emergency Medicine	Colombia
Hochberg, Chad	Internal Medicine	Peru
Holzman, Sam	Internal Medicine	India
Hrdy, Michael	Pediatrics	Kenya
Ibrahim, Zuahib	Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery	Pakistan
Ippolito, Matthew	Clinical Pharmacology	Zambia
Jaganath, Devan	Pediatrics	India
James, Theodore	Internal Medicine	Uganda
Jennings, Mary Carol	General Preventative Medicine	Tanzania
Jenson, Alex	Emergency Medicine	South Africa
Johnson, Julia	Pediatrics	Nepal
Keefe, Devin	Emergency Medicine	South Africa
Khararjian, Armen	Pathology	Lebanon
Klapheke, Robert	Internal Medicine	Peru
Kleinman, Keith	Pediatrics	Kenya
Ko, Fang	Ophthalmology	China
Koszela, Keri	Pediatrics; Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine	Solomon Islands
Krishnan, Sonya	Internal Medicine	Bolivia
Kwong, Helaine	Internal Medicine	Guatemala
Lee, Sabair	Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine	Nigeria
Leong, Madeline	Internal Medicine	Singapore
Li, Ryan	Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery	Cameroon
Lingappan, Arul	Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine	India
London, Nyall	Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery	Cameroon
Loungani, Rahul	Internal Medicine	India
Lovejoy, David	Gynecology and Obstetrics	Rwanda
Mackenzie, James	Orthopaedic Surgery	Kenya
Malcom, Trent	Emergency Medicine	Kenya
Massiello, Geneva	Psychiatry	Malaysia

Mateen, Farrah	Neurology	Jordan
Mathews, Lena	Cardiology	Kenya
Maung, Zaw	Environmental Health and Engineering	Vietnam
Mehtani, Nicky	Internal Medicine	India
Miele, Catherine Hooper	Internal Medicine	Peru
Miles, Donald	Internal Medicine	Peru
Miller, James	Internal Medicine - Pediatrics	India
Miller, Jennifer	Pediatrics	Haiti
Minder, Michael	Internal Medicine	Brazil
Mobula, Meta Linda	Internal Medicine -Bayview	Haiti
Monti, Jennifer	Internal Medicine -Bayview	Peru
Moonat, Sachin	Emergency Medicine	India
Motz, Kevin	Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery	Cameroon
Myer, Emily	Gynecology and Obstetrics	Rwanda
Nava, Maria	Internal Medicine -Bayview	Mexico
Odonkor, Charles	Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine	Ghana
O'Halloran, Amanda	Pediatrics	Botswana
Onuorah, Ifeoma	Internal Medicine	Nigeria
Orsini, Erica	Internal Medicine	India
Paka, Chandhu	Female Pelvic Health & Reconstructive Surgery	Rwanda
Palchauthauri, Sonali	Internal Medicine	India
Pande, Chetna	Pediatrics	Guyana
Platt, Laura	Internal Medicine	Uganda
Pollard, Suzanne	Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine	Peru
Pryor, Sarah	Pediatrics	Philippines
Rademacher, Nicholas	Emergency Medicine	India
Raees, Madiha	Pediatrics	Solomon Islands
Ramesh, Ani	Internal Medicine	India
Rappold, Thomas	Pediatrics; Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine	Kenya
Ray-Mazumder, Nikhilesh	Internal Medicine	India
Rhee, Daniel	Surgery	Liberia
Rosecrans, Amanda	Internal Medicine	India
Royer, Christine	Internal Medicine	Guatemala
Samuels, Roger	Internal Medicine	Peru
Saylor, Deanna	Neurology	Uganda
Schechter, Marcos	Internal Medicine	South Africa
See, Craig	Ophthalmology	India
Shah, Bansari	Emergency Medicine	Bangladesh
Shannon, Brett	Orthopaedic Surgery	Ethiopia
Sharrief, Anjail	Neurology	Senegal
Shihab, Hasan	General Preventative Medicine	Bangladesh

Siddharthan, Trishul	Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine	Uganda
Simkovich, Suzanne	Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine	Peru
Srinivas, Megan	Internal Medicine	India
Stayer, Kelsey	Pediatrics	Philippines
Tackett, Megan	Internal Medicine	Vietnam
Tao, Jessica	Internal Medicine	China
Tapley, Asa	Internal Medicine	South Africa
Tenforde, Mark	Internal Medicine	India
Thakur, Kiran	Neurology	Malawi
Thaver, Ali Minhal	Internal Medicine	Pakistan
Thomaier, Lauren	Gynecology and Obstetrics	Rwanda
Thorn, Julia	Pediatrics	Kenya
Thorp, Jonathon	Internal Medicine	Malawi
Tompkins, Kathleen	Internal Medicine	Uganda
Tornheim, Jeffrey	Infectious Diseases	India
Tsao, Allison	Internal Medicine	Malaysia
Usoro, Agnes	Emergency Medicine	Nigeria
Vogt, Samantha	Oncology	South Africa
Wabulya, Angela	Neurology	Uganda
Walker, Shannon	Internal Medicine	Uganda
Wang, Aaron	Ophthalmology	India
Wang, Jeffrey	Internal Medicine	Peru
Wansom, Tanya	Internal Medicine -Bayview	Thailand
Workneh, Meklit	Infectious Diseases	Uganda
Yerokun, Oluwatobi	General Preventative Medicine	Mozambique
Yousif, Hisham	Internal Medicine	Palestinian Territories
Yu, Daniel Ta Yo	Pediatrics; Emergency Medicine	Solomon Islands
Yusuf, Zarah	Pediatrics	Solomon Islands
Zebardast, Nazlee	Ophthalmology	India