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Neglected Global Diseases Initiative



a place of mind  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## Newsletter February, 2014

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# NGDI Member News

## NGDI's Christopher Orvig wins Jacob Biely Research Prize

Professor Chris Orvig, from the Department of Chemistry has been recognized as UBC's top researcher for 2014. This award is given annually to an active faculty researcher with a distinguished record of published research. The nominations must come from 2 or 3 tenure track faculty members.

Dr. Orvig has authored 10 publications in 2013; one of these is related to work in drug-resistant malaria. An excerpt from the abstract is below.

"Five compounds displaying an unprecedented binding mode of chloroquine to ferrocene through the bridging of the cyclopentadienyl rings were studied alongside their monosubstituted ferrocene analogues and organic fragments. The antiplasmodial activity was evaluated against strains of the malaria parasite (*Plasmodium falciparum*). While the chloroquine-bridged ferrocenyl derivatives were less active than their five monosubstituted ferrocenyl analogues, they retained activity in the drug-resistant strains.

The particular conformation, compact size, and lipophilicity/hydrophilicity balance observed in the bridged compounds provide them with the structural



Faculty of Science,  
Department of Chemistry

characteristics needed to escape the mechanisms responsible for resistance."

*Structural Characteristics of Chloroquine-Bridged Ferrocenophane Analogues of Ferroquine May Obviate Malaria Drug-Resistance*

<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/citedby/10.1021/jm301422h>

## Three NGDI Researchers receive CIHR Operating Grants

**Professor B. Brett Finlay has received \$796,900 over 5 years to continue his work on *A systematic analysis of Salmonella pathogenesis*.**

"Salmonella species continue to cause much morbidity and mortality worldwide, causing human diseases ranging from gastroenteritis to typhoid fever. In addition, there is an ever-increasing incidence of antibiotic resistant Salmonella worldwide, especially in non-typhoidal Salmonella. Collectively this information will yield new information about Salmonella as an enteric pathogen, infectious disease mechanisms, and explore the interactions that occur between bacterial virulence factors and host defense mechanisms. It is hoped that by understanding the basic mechanisms of disease, potential lines of therapeutics can be developed."



**Professor Annalee Yassi has received \$417,875 over 3 years for her team to study *Social Circus and Health Equity: An interdisciplinary, intercultural, international collaboration.***

“Social circus combines physical demands with humor and creative expression to develop perseverance, self-esteem and teamwork especially within marginalized communities. The past 15 years have seen a rapid expansion of social circus projects in over 25 countries.

and Canada is certainly a world-leader in this area. Working closely with the communities involved, the team will contribute to world knowledge on theory, ethics and methods regarding social circus for addressing health disparities, then disseminate this knowledge in Canada and abroad so that others could implement and study social circus programs with the aim of better promoting health equity. “

**Professor Wilfred Jeffries has received \$834,006 over 5 years for his vaccine work on *CD 74-Dependent MHC Class I Endolysosomal Cross-presentation Pathway***

“The development of vaccines remains empirical and we lack the knowledge to predict efficacy because we still lack a knowledge on the basic aspects of immune defenses especially those most closely linked to pathways leading to immune activation such as antigen processing. We wish to further examine the exact role CD74 has within DCs. The work in this proposal has the potential to improve the predictability and efficacy of vaccines. “

## **The Centre for Drug Research and Development Appoints Two Leading Health Researchers as Co-Scientific Directors**



The Centre for Drug Research and Development (CDRD), Canada’s national drug development and commercialization centre (a Centre of Excellence for Commercialization and Research (CECR)) headquartered in Vancouver is pleased to announce the appointment of **Dr. T. Michael Underhill**, Professor in UBC’s Department of Cellular & Physiological Sciences in the Faculty of Medicine; and **Dr. Michael A. Rudnicki**, Senior Scientist and Director of the Regenerative Medicine Program and the Sprott Centre for Stem Cell Research at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute as Co-Scientific Directors effective March 1st, 2014.

Dr. Michael Underhill remarked, “For me personally, I am proud to have been involved with CDRD in various capacities since its founding; including as a PI whose research has been advanced through the great work done there. Each of these roles has proven to be highly rewarding, but I am particularly pleased to now be working with Dr. Rudnicki, and stepping into this new role, as its primary function is liaising directly with CDRD’s network of fellow PIs across the country to add value to their discoveries, and ultimately commercialize these innovations as new therapeutics.”

Full January 23, 2014 press release available [here](#).

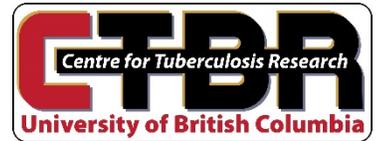


## UAEM's Recent Speaker Series Featured Dr. Robert EW Hancock

Dr. Hancock spoke to UAEM students on January 27, 2014 about what university researchers can do about inequities in health delivery to resource poor individuals.

## SAVE the DATE: World Tuberculosis Day, March 21, 2014

The Centre for Tuberculosis Research at UBC will be holding their annual symposium to highlight the current research and present needs for tuberculosis control. Keynote speaker for this year's event is Dr. Anil Koul, Scientific Director and Head, Respiratory Infections Discover, at Johnson and Johnson, Antwerp, Belgium.



# NGDI-UBC News

## Vancouver Public Salon of Inspiring Ideas, February 19, 2014



A reminder that Kishor Wasan will be speaking at this event representing NGDI.

Tickets are \$20 online and \$25 at the door. For a pre-salon dinner and premiere circle tickets are \$120.

Purchase at [www.ticketstonight.ca](http://www.ticketstonight.ca).  
For more information about the salon:  
[www.globalcivic.org](http://www.globalcivic.org).

**Date:** February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from 6:30 – 10:00 pm.  
**Location:** Vancouver Playhouse Theatre

**WEDNESDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 19th**  
 7:30PM – 9:00PM  
**THE VANCOUVER PLAYHOUSE**  
 600 Hamilton Street, Vancouver B.C.  
 (Dunsmuir and Hamilton)  
 DOOR OPENS AT 6:30pm  
**TICKETS**  
 ONLINE \$20  
 AT THE DOOR \$25  
 PRE-SALON DINNER + PREMIERE  
 CIRCLE TICKET \$120  
[www.ticketstonight.ca](http://www.ticketstonight.ca)  
[info@ticketstonight.ca](mailto:info@ticketstonight.ca)  
 604.684.2787  
[www.globalcivic.org](http://www.globalcivic.org)

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**PUBLIC SALON 2014**  
 INSPIRING IDEAS

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 SPICE GODDESS  
**ROSEMARY CONDER**  
 ELEPHANT ADVOCATE + CAREGIVER  
**BRUNO FRESCHI**  
 ARCHITECT  
**CHARLES MONTGOMERY**  
 THE HAPPY CITY  
**STEVE RIO**  
 SOCIAL CHANGE DIGITAL VISIONARY  
**KISHOR WASAN**  
 NEGLECTED GLOBAL DISEASES  
**SHENTIAN ZHENG**  
 CHINESE MODERN ART CRITIC

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[WWW.TWITTER.COM/PublicSalon](http://WWW.TWITTER.COM/PublicSalon)



## WIPO Re:Search Investigator Meeting, February 13, 2014.

The University of British Columbia has made another major commitment to tackling neglected tropical diseases, malaria, and tuberculosis through signing up as a member of [WIPO Re:Search](#).

As a “provider” member, UBC has committed to sharing research discoveries, outputs and know-how with other groups and companies striving to find treatments for diseases affecting the world’s least developed nations. Technologies, data, compounds and know-how can all be contributed to WIPO RE:Search, a searchable, public database of available intellectual property assets and resources, and provided at no cost to other members in order to tackle the different diseases in countries where these treatments are most needed. Beyond the sharing of resources, however, WIPO Re:Search is designed to spark new collaborations and partnerships between researchers at the different member organizations and institutions.

UBC’s commitment to providing global access to relevant technologies was first



formally expressed in 2007, when it became the first university in Canada to publish [Global Access Principles](#). In April 2013, its commitment and activities in this area were recognized with the top ranking in the first [University Global Health Impact Report Card](#), produced by the student-based group Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM).

WIPO Re:Search was formed in 2011 through the efforts of several of the world’s leading pharmaceutical companies, the [World Intellectual Property Organization](#) (WIPO), and [BIO Ventures for Global Health](#).

**NGDI will be meeting with representatives from BIO Ventures for Global Health February 13.** If you would like to be in the meeting, please contact Jocelyn via [jocelyn.conway@ubc.ca](mailto:jocelyn.conway@ubc.ca).

## NGDI-UBC Hires Two Arts Internship Students for Spring Semester

NGDI-UBC provides opportunities for student involvement in the development of its Neglected Tropical Disease Database. This project is also supported by the Work and Learn Program, the School of Library, Archival, and Information Studies. We welcome new students Doe Lee, Economics and Joei Benjathikul, Political Science and Psychology.

Masters of Arts Candidate, Raquel Baldwinson as the Project Lead has also provided support to two recent Directed Studies students, Catherine Ryczkiewicz in Geography and Katherine Brown in Psychology and Visual Arts.

Jocelyn Conway also welcomes new intern Rafeh Ahmed, Economics and Political Science who will be developing a literature review paper.



## Dr. Kishor Wasan keynote Speaker at Pharmacy Student's Professional Development Week 2014

Approximately 500 pharmacy students from across Canada converged in Vancouver on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Dr. Kish Wasan led with the keynote speech which was very well received by the students. Jocelyn Conway and Raquel Baldwinson manned a booth at the Health Fair and spoke with many students excited to begin their careers and with a new interest in pharmacy and global health.



## Dr. David Zakus featured as Distinguished Lecture Speaker

Dr. Zakus, Director of Global Health at the University of Alberta spoke to a small but interested crowd on January 24, 2014. His talk *Global Health: Reconsidering it's Meaning and Purpose to Everyone*, was a thorough and broad description of global health issues and the complexity which encumbers it around the world.



# Funding and Educational Opportunities

## UBC Graduate Global Leadership Fellowship

The Graduate Global Leadership Fellowships enable promising leaders from developing countries to pursue doctoral studies at UBC. The fellowships are to support international students showing outstanding leadership in humanitarian and development work in their home country. Two fellowships will be offered; each fellowship provides an \$18,000 stipend plus tuition each year for four years.

### Applicants must:

- Hold a student visa at the beginning of the fellowship funding period
- Be a citizen of a developing country (see list of eligible countries on website link below)
- Be starting a PhD or DMA program at the UBC Vancouver campus in Jan 2014, May 2014, or Sep 2014.

Deadline for graduate programs to submit nominations to the Faculty of Graduate Studies: **4:00pm Friday 21 March 2014** (please set an earlier internal deadline for your students)

Please see the Graduate Awards website for more information:

<http://www.grad.ubc.ca/awards/graduate-global-leadership-fellowship>

The contact at the Faculty of Graduate Studies for this award is Anne Brozensky, [anne.brozensky@ubc.ca](mailto:anne.brozensky@ubc.ca)



## Medicines for Malaria Call for Proposals

Medicines for Malaria welcomes proposals in the following four areas:

1. Compounds addressing the key priorities of the malaria eradication agenda
2. Assays addressing liver stage vivax
3. Asexual liver and blood stages
4. Resistant strains

Please visit [MMV's website](#) for detailed information.

All applications, using the templates on our website, should be sent electronically to: [proposals@mmv.org](mailto:proposals@mmv.org)

**Submission deadline: 12 noon CET March 14th 2014**

## Tropical and Geographic Medicine Intensive Short Course

This new course is offered through the School of Population and Public Health Continuing Education.

Date: May 5-9, 2014

Time: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location: UBC Vancouver campus

An intensive, week-long course for physicians, medical trainees, nurses, pharmacists, microbiologists, public health practitioners, and health managers who intend to practice in the tropics or who require an update on major tropical diseases.

This course is the first of its kind in western Canada and emphasizes three broad areas:

- Clinical tropical medicine
- Parasitology
- Public health

Through didactic lectures, interactive problem-solving discussions and practical laboratory teaching, attendees will learn:

- a clinical approach to the evaluation and management of tropical diseases;
- practical laboratory skills, with a focus on the identification of parasites important for the diagnosis of tropical disease;
- public health principles and applications including outbreak management and environmental health interventions.

Please visit our [course website](#) for more information and specific learning outcomes for course participants.



Photo credit: Scanty Nebula



Photo credit: Jodi Jacobson



Photo credit: James Gathany

# Upcoming Conferences

## **GHIC 2014 Global Health & Innovation Conference**

April 12-13, 2014  
Yale University, New Haven, CT

**Unite For Sight** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit global health delivery organization that is free of commercial interests and committed to promoting high-quality health care for all. The Global Health & Innovation Conference is presented annually by Unite For Sight. GHIC 2014 is Unite For Sight's 11th annual conference.

The Global Health & Innovation Conference is the world's leading and largest global health conference and social entrepreneurship conference. Presented annually by Unite For Sight, the Global Health & Innovation Conference provides a forum for the most thorough, comprehensive, and groundbreaking work in global health, social entrepreneurship, and international development.

The Global Health & Innovation Conference is held in historic conference venues within a dynamic city that has more than 300 restaurants within three blocks of the conference venues. The central conference venue is the historic Shubert Theater, 247 College Street, in downtown New Haven.

Date: April 12-13, 2014

Location Yale University, New Haven, CT

For more information: <http://www.uniteforsight.org/conference/>



Fifth Annual CUGH conference  
**Universities 2.0: Advancing Global Health in the Post-MDG Era**  
May 10-12, 2014 | The Washington Hilton, Washington DC

Consortium of Universities for Global Health  
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
Stanford University

PANELS

### **KEYNOTE ADDRESSES BY:**

**Jim Kim**  
President,  
The World Bank

**Peter Piot**  
Director, London School of  
Hygiene & Tropical Medicine;  
Founding Ex. Dir., UNAIDS

**Jeffrey Sachs**  
Director, The Earth  
Institute, Columbia  
University;  
UN Special Advisor, MDGs

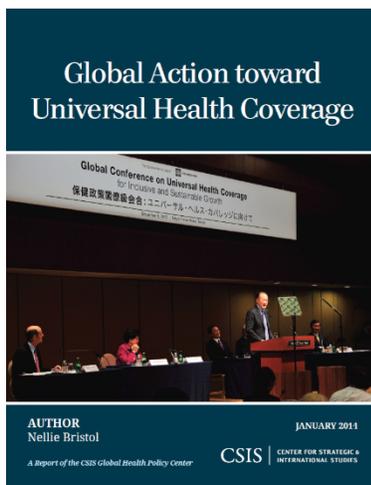
Date: May 10-12, 2014

Location: The Washington  
Hilton, Washington, DC

For more information: <http://2014cughconference.org/>

# Reports of Interest

## Global Action toward Universal Health Coverage



From the overview:

As national incomes have risen across diverse countries – along with the burden of noncommunicable diseases – demand has intensified for quality, affordable health services. Many countries today are actively seeking to bring about universal health coverage – ensuring quality health services for all at a price that does not create undue financial pressure for individuals seeking care. The effort has stirred expanded interest and guidance from international organizations such as the World Health Organization and the World Bank, and led to new platforms for developing countries to learn from each other. While universal health coverage will provide new funding and

opportunities, including for the private sector, there is a need for dynamic, transparent negotiations among all health constituents, to forge enduring, feasible arrangements that ensure quality services reach all populations and make the best use of scarce health resources. Universal health coverage will remain a work in progress for many countries for many years. It will require grappling with considerable uncertainties and risks. It also has the potential to attract greater attention to health spending, health systems, and improved equity, advances that will benefit human development more broadly.



## World Health Organization: past, present and future

D. Sridhar, L. Gostin

With WHO reform high on the agenda of the member states of the World Health Assembly, it is with great pleasure that we are publishing this special issue of Public Health: 'WHO Past, Present and Future.' Under the Guest Editorship of Larry Gostin and Devi Sridhar, we present 13 papers that explore the history of the WHO and opportunities for its reform and future governance, as well as a reflection on the reform process from the WHO itself. In

this Editors Choice paper, the Guest Editors set the issue into context as a rich resource for policy makers and those involved in global health, and highlight how the papers demonstrate the fundamental challenges the WHO faces and recommend how these challenges can be overcome. We are pleased to offer free open access on this site to all articles in this special issue for a period of three months.

Special issue available at: <http://www.publichealthjrnl.com/current>