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## NGDI Member and Partner News

### Dr. Brett Finlay receives Genome British Columbia Award for Scientific Excellence

Life Sciences BC Awards will recognize NGDI member Dr. Finlay, UBC Peter Wall Distinguished Professor, Michael Smith Laboratories and the Departments of Microbiology and Biochemistry. He will receive the award on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Faces of Innovation Gala. For information on other awardees visit:

<http://www.lifesciencesbc.ca/newsroom/lcbc-news/news03051301.aspx>



### Spring 2013 Wall Exchange, featuring Dr. Brett Finlay

**Title: Bugs 'R Us: The Role of Microbes in Health, Disease and Society**

The Spring 2013 Wall exchange will feature Dr. Brett Finlay on Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013 at the Vogue Theatre in Downtown Vancouver at 7:30 pm. Doors open 6:30 pm. Come early to hear the Oscar Hicks jazz sextet. Tickets are free but must be reserved [here](#).

### NGDI member Dr. Mark Ansermino featured in School of Population & Public Health Grand Rounds

Dr. Ansermino, Associate Professor, UBC's Department of Anesthesiology, Pharmacology and Therapeutics; Pediatric Anesthesiologist, BC's Children's Hospital was invited to conduct Grand Rounds at the School of Population and Public Health. On March 22, 2013 he presented his talk titled: **Mobile Gadgets for Global Health**.

### Jo-Ann Osei-Twum Awarded Global Stars in Global Health Student Internship

Grand Challenges Canada has awarded Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Student Jo-Ann Osei-Twun a summer internship in a very competitive program. She will start her position on May 6<sup>th</sup> in Toronto. Jo-Ann completed a Bachelor of Science in Cell Biology and Genetics from UBC and started her Masters program in 2010 under the supervision of Dr. Kishor Wasan, professor and associate dean, Research & Graduate Studies, UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Jo-Ann is currently investigating the role of P-glycoprotein in the absorption of Amphotericin B, which could have important implications on its oral bioavailability. [<read more>](#)

### The Centre for Tuberculosis Research sponsored TB Awareness Day at UBC 2013

TB Awareness Day, 2013 was held at Life Sciences Institute on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Finally, the keynote speaker **Prof. Robert Wilkinson**, from the University of Cape Town, South Africa, will present his data over the last 10 years together with that of other to understand "Why are tuberculosis rates so high in Cape Town, South Africa?" Other speakers included Drs. Victoria Cook and Patrick Tang of the BCCDC, and Prof. Yossi Av-Gay, Drs. Israel Casabon, and Santiago Ramón-García, all of UBC.

### Universities Allied for Essential Medicines Global Health Conference

The annual Global Health Conference was held on March 16<sup>th</sup> at St. John's College with a keynote by Dr. Julio Montaner. Other speakers included Dr. Kishor Wasan and UAEM-UBC Founding member Patricia Gabriel.

## Dr. Larry Lynd joins Executive Council of Friends of Rwanda Forum

Associate Professor Dr. Larry Lynd of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of British Columbia (UBC) is joining the Executive Council of the newly created Friends of Rwanda (FOR) Forum. Established to strengthen relations between Canada and Rwanda, the FOR Forum will be launched on March 21, 2013, at Western Ontario University (UWO), with a one-day event showcasing Rwanda history, culture, and current affairs.

“The Forum will spread awareness of key issues facing Rwanda, and promote a better understanding of these issues in Canada,” says Dr. Lynd. “The upcoming launch and other Forum events will foster a dialogue about these issues, disseminate research, and encourage new partnerships in academia and business between Rwandans and Canadians.”

Dr. Lynd is Associate Director of the Collaboration of Outcomes Research and Evaluation ([CORE](#)) at UBC, and is currently collaborating with a research team from UWO on a project focusing on maternal, newborn, and child health in Rwanda. In 2009, Lynd and the same team collaborated on an evaluation of overall health care quality in Rwanda. [<read more>](#)

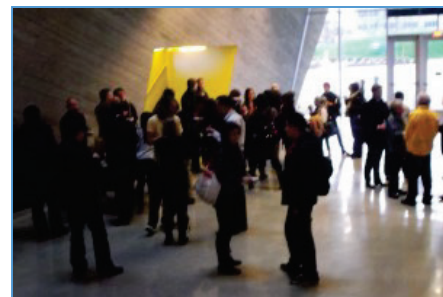
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## NGDI News

### NGDI Distinguished Lectureship Seminar with Dr. Peter Singer

On March 6, 2013, the Neglected Global Diseases Initiative at UBC (NGDI) held its eighth Distinguished Lectureship, featuring Dr. Peter Singer. Peter A. Singer has dedicated the last decade to bringing science and innovation to tackle the health challenges of the world’s poorest people. He is known around the world for his leadership with many organizations that catalyze innovation and creative solutions to the some of the most pressing global health problems.

Dr. Singer lectured to about 75 people and focused on Canada’s role in Global Health and particularly in the Neglected Global Disease work. According to the Expert Panel on Canada’s Strategic Role in Global Health, the opportunities for Canada include indigenous and circumpolar health research, population and public health, community oriented primary health-care, smart partnerships in health education and research, and global health innovation.



Dr. Singer encourages everyone to visit [Grand Challenges](#) and to consider applying to either phase I (innovation) or phase II: “scale up of innovation” programs. After all, he says, “the best ideas come from anybody.”



Earlier in the day Dr. Singer met with several Grand Challenges Grantees: left to right: Dr. Kishor Wasan, (Director of NGDI) Dr. Richard Lester, Dr. Charles Larson (Director of The Centre for International Child Health) Dr. Santi Ramón-García, Dr. Kate Tairyan, Dr. Singer, Dr. Tabassum Firoz, Dr. Hongshen Ma, Jocelyn Conway (NGDI) Dr. Christian Kastrup, and Dr. Erica Frank. [<read more>](#)

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## [NGDI-UBC to Host Stakeholders for New Global Health Training Program](#)

The Neglected Global Diseases Initiative has been chosen to host a key stakeholders meeting for a new **Joint Canadian/International Global Health Research Training and Career Development Program**.

A select group of Canada's top global health investigators, partners from low/middle-income country institutions, as well as representatives from the Global Health Research Initiative, the International Development Research Centre, the Canadian International Development Agency, the Public Health Agency of Canada, Health Canada, and Grand Challenges Canada will be invited to participate in the drafting structure and direction of this initiative.

The implementation of this training program would enable Canadian universities to address the complex challenges of global health through multidisciplinary, international and public-private partnerships and to train the next generation of global health scholars through innovative, problem-based training programs. It would bring the benefits of long-lasting formative partnerships between Canadian science and scholarship and low-/middle-income collaborators to help build health systems and structures that support research and health care both in Canada and beyond.

Participants will include global health leaders from the University of Toronto, University of Ottawa, The University of British Columbia, McGill University, the University of Manitoba and others. The meeting will take place on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

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## [Review of the Quality of Pediatric Medications in Developing Countries](#)

The Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences accepted the above paper for publication and provided an online early viewing. This paper was the outcome of funding by the WHO Essential Medicines and Health Products Department in December 2011. Authors are: Jocelyn Conway, Lisa Bero, Clive Ondari and Kishor Wasan. Read the full paper [here](#).

**ABSTRACT:** The quality of essential medicines for pediatric populations in developing countries is largely unknown. This review examines quality studies (2000–2011) of medicines on the WHO Essential Medicine List for Children, the quality of a subset of pediatric formulations, and the association of these poor quality medicines with adverse clinical outcomes. We searched Embase, Medline, BIOSIS, and IPA using MeSH subject terms for quality measures, medicine formulations, and substandard medicines and combined these with 267 medicines, and 91 low-income and lower-middle-income countries. Seventy articles met our inclusion criteria examining the quality of 75 medicines from 28 countries. Content and dissolution tests were utilized most often. Results indicate that antibacterials, antifungals, and antiretrovirals were consistently of good quality. Quality tests on pediatric formulations were performed on 55 of 75 of the medicines studied and followed the general trend of quality results. Three studies were included that examined clinical consequences of substandard medicines—two cases of diethylene glycol poisoning and one case of substandard malaria drugs. We conclude that there is a need for more quality studies of pediatric formulations of essential medicines in developing countries and their clinical consequences.

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## [NGDI Director, Dr. Kish Wasan has busy speaking month in March](#)

Dr. Wasan spoke about the NGDI several times this month. He was invited to speak to 2 UBC Student groups, Amnesty International Conference on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Global Lounge Global Health Night on March 8<sup>th</sup>. He also provided a seminar to the Chemical Biology and CHBE class on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. He was a featured speaker at the Universities Allied for Essential Medicines on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

The most prestigious event occurred on March 15<sup>th</sup> where he was invited to speak at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Consortium of Universities for Global Health Conference (CUGH) in Washington DC. He spoke to a crowd of over 1,000 with co-presenters Steve Davis, President, PATH and Sasha Kramer, Co-Founder of SOIL.



The panel was moderated by Alex Dehgan, Chief Scientific Advisor, USAID. The panel was titled: Innovative Approaches and Technologies for Global Health Plenary Panel.

## Funding Opportunities

### Grand Challenges Explorations Round 11

Grand Challenges Explorations is an agile, accelerated grant initiative with a short two-page application and no preliminary data required. Anyone with a bold idea can submit a proposal on one of several designated topics, and proposals are solicited twice a year for an expanding set of topics. Successful projects are eligible to receive a follow-on grant. Proposals will be accepted until **May 7, 2013** at 11:30 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time for projects focusing on five topics. [Click here](#) for details. [Sign up](#) to receive news and announcements via email.

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### CIHR Grants

The [Dissemination](#) and [Planning](#) Grants: Spring 2013 Competitions have opened and the deadline is June 17<sup>th</sup> for proposals.

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### Burroughs Wellcome Fund

**Interfaces in Science: Career Awards at the Scientific Interface** – Deadline September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013

BWF's Career Awards at the [Scientific Interface](#) provide \$500,000 to bridge advanced postdoctoral training and the first three years of faculty service. These awards are intended to foster the early career development of researchers who have transitioned or are transitioning from undergraduate and/or graduate work in the physical/mathematical/computational sciences or engineering into postdoctoral work in the biological sciences, and who are dedicated to pursuing a career in academic research. These awards are open to US and Canadian citizens or permanent residents as well as to US temporary residents.



**Biomedical Sciences: Career Awards for Medical Scientists** – Deadline October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013

Five-year \$700,000 awards for [physician-scientists](#) to bridge advanced postdoctoral/fellowship training and early years of faculty service. Proposals must be in the area of basic biomedical, disease-oriented, or translational research. Proposals in health services research or involving large-scale clinical trials are ineligible. Awards are made to degree-granting institutions in the US or Canada on behalf of the awardee.

**Infectious Diseases: Investigators in the Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease** – Deadline November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013

Five-year awards provide \$500,000 to support accomplished investigators at the assistant professor level to [study pathogenesis](#), with a focus on the interplay between human and microbial biology, shedding light on how human and microbial systems are affected by their encounters. The awards are intended to give recipients the freedom and flexibility to pursue new avenues of inquiry and higher-risk research projects that hold potential for significantly advancing the biochemical, pharmacological, immunological, and molecular biological understanding of how microbes and the human body interact.

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## International Youth Internship Program

The International Youth Internship Program (IYIP) is a program for Canadian graduates (ages 19 to 30 inclusive), part of the Career Focus stream of the Government of Canada's [Youth Employment Strategy](#) (YES). Canada's YES provides Canadian youth with tools and experience they need to launch successful careers.

- The objectives of the International Youth Internship Program are to:
- Provide eligible youth with international experience, skills and knowledge that will prepare them for future employment
- Increase employment opportunities by promoting awareness among Canadian organizations of the advantages of integrating young Canadian professionals into their structures and programs
- Provide opportunities for Canadians to increase their awareness, deepen their understanding and engage in international development
- Contribute to the advancement of CIDA's mandate to reduce poverty, promote human rights and increase sustainable development and to meet CIDA's priorities for official development assistance.

CIDA funds selected Canadian partner organizations (CPOs) to deliver IYIP projects in accordance with agreed administrative and financial procedures. Funding is provided for a variety of costs related to the internship, including travel, living allowance, and administrative costs. CIDA allocates up to \$12,000 per internship to selected Canadian partner organizations.

Selected Canadian partners work with overseas partner organizations to design, deliver and monitor internships supporting local development projects that reflect CIDA's [Key Development Challenges](#). Interns are recruited by the CPOs to carry out the development-related activities identified in a work plan established by all parties. When interns return to Canada, they take part in outreach activities organized by the CPOs to share their experience and insights on development issues.

To be eligible for the International Youth Internship Program, an intern must be:

- A Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- A post-secondary graduate—graduate of a degree or diploma program from a university, college, post-secondary school of technology, post-secondary institute or a CEGEP (collège d'enseignement général et professionnel)
- Out of school
- Between the ages of 19 and 30
- Unemployed or underemployed
- Legally entitled to work in Canada

For more information, see the [FAQs for interns](#). The applicant MUST meet all eligibility criteria at the time of signing their contract with their Canadian partner organization.

**Canadian partner organizations do their own recruiting** for the International Youth Internship Program. If you are interested in applying, consult [available internships](#) or the websites of the Canadian partner organizations.

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## Call for Papers

### Welcome to The Lancet Global Health!



We are delighted to announce the forthcoming launch of our first online-only, open-access journal, *The Lancet Global Health*. The new journal will develop *The Lancet's* commitment to evidence-based medicine and public health in low-income and middle-income countries and offer readers unrestricted access to all content. Do come back and visit the site as we add more content.

Please [sign up for e-alerts](#) to keep abreast of developments.

#### About the Journal

Launching in June, 2013, *The Lancet Global Health* will publish high-quality original research, commentary, correspondence, and blogs on the following subjects as they pertain to low- and middle-income countries: reproductive, maternal, neonatal, and child health; adolescent health; infectious diseases, including neglected tropical diseases; non-communicable diseases; mental health; the global health workforce; health systems; health policy; and public health. All original research will be subjected to *The Lancet's* usual rigorous standards of external clinical and statistical peer review, and will be edited by experienced copy editors to the highest standards.

Read the full [information for authors](#).

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### Global Health: Science and Practice Journal - Inaugural Issue March 2013



Very little of the scholarly literature represents lessons learned from global health programs implemented in the field. *Global Health: Science and Practice* (GHSP), a new open-access journal, was developed for global health professionals, particularly program implementers, to validate their experiences and program results by peer reviewers and to share them with the greater global health community.

The [inaugural March 2013](#) issue of GHSP illustrates the breadth of topics of current interest to the global health community, using a clear and concise communication style that lays out key concepts prominently.

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## Upcoming Conferences

### The 10th Annual Western Regional International Health Conference

Hosted by the OHSU Global Health Center Student Interest Group – for full [conference information](#)

Dates: April 5 to 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Keynote address begins at 6:30 p.m., April 5th, at the Portland Art Museum

**Howard Frumkin, MD, MPH, DrPH**

Howard Frumkin, MD, MPH, DrPH is Dean of the University of Washington School of Public Health, Former Director of the National Center for Environmental Health and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and Special Assistant to the Director for Climate Change and Health, at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and former Chair of Environmental and Occupational Health at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health.

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## Global Health and Innovation Conference 2013

Presented by Unite For Sight, 10th Annual Conference

Saturday, April 13 - Sunday, April 14, 2013, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, USA

Website: <http://www.uniteforsight.org/conference>

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## ISNTD Bites 2013

We are holding our **ISNTD Bites 2013 Vector Control and Disease Surveillance Partnering** day on the 15th October in London. As part of this international partnering day we will have a poster exhibition and accompanying research showcase (online and print version to accompany the event) and so have a call out for abstracts within the following areas;

- Insecticide resistance
- Pyrethroid resistance
- Integrated vector control strategies
- Dengue
- Chagas Disease
- Malaria control
- Bednet control measures
- Epidemiology of vector borne NTDs
- Phenotypic expression of resistance
- Vector genomics
- Novel insecticides - chemistry and mechanistic studies
- Ontology for vector surveillance
- Crowdsourcing for disease surveillance



There is no cost to submit an abstract for consideration however if work is selected for poster exhibition there will be a charge of 150 pounds to cover printing costs should you wish your work to be in the poster exhibition- the selected works will also appear in our research hub and and print book that will be the official literature for the event.

Full details are on [www.isntdbites2013.com](http://www.isntdbites2013.com) - for review of last years ISNTD Bites which was held at the Natural History Museum in London please visit our parent site [www.isntd.org](http://www.isntd.org) for press releases and feedback from last years event.

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## Reports of Interest

### Global Burden of Disease 2010 (GBD) Visualizations – Cool stuff!

The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation is hosting interactive visualizations recently released Global Burden of Disease 2010 papers.

The Global Burden of Disease (GBD) is the most comprehensive effort to date to measure epidemiological levels and trends worldwide. It measures the impact of hundreds of diseases, injuries, and risk factors in 187 countries around the world over two decades as part of a collaboration with researchers globally.

GBD Compare is new to IHME's lineup of visualizations and has countless options for exploring health data. To help you navigate this new tool, we have a [video tutorial](#) that will orient you to its controls and show you how to interact with the data. You can also [watch the video](#) of IHME Director Christopher Murray presenting the tools for the first time at the public launch on March 5, 2013.

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### Closing the Health Equity Gap: Policy Options and Opportunities for Action

**World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland**

Available online PDF [64p.] at: <http://bit.ly/XnEvWl>

*“Summary.....This report brings together a series of policy briefs and is aimed at policy-makers and others interested to improve health equity by acting within the health system and on broader governmental policy.*

The report provides an update and overview of the vast amount of evidence produced during the Commission on Social Determinants of Health and identifies policy options to implement the main recommendations of the Commission. It draws from the extensive work of the nine global knowledge networks set up by WHO to generate evidence for the Commission.

It first considers the essential role of the health sector in reducing inequities in five areas (working towards universal coverage; public health programmes; measuring inequities in health; facilitating mobilization of people and groups; intersectoral action). Second, it discusses how the health sector can work with other sectors that are also vital to this task in seven additional areas (early child development; urban settings; globalization

The report ends by outlining one way to put together a national action plan addressing these issues, in light of the different starting points and priorities found in each country.”

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