

# Global Health Newsletter

April 2023

## Staten Island University Hospital

Madi Lindauer, MD MPH

### Americas

#### California Migrants Made Climate Migrants

Most of the US summer strawberries are grown in the Pajaro valley in California and picked between April and November. The majority of the strawberries are picked by immigrant farm workers, many of whom lack legal status. Therefore, during times of natural disaster are ineligible for federal disaster relief funds, health insurance and unemployment benefits. Currently, 18 percent of the 3,000 residents in Parajo live below the poverty line.



<https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2019/05/20/strawberry-growers-lose-thousands-of-berries-to-recent-rains/>

In March 2023, there was severe rains which lead to widespread flooding. More than 2,000 people were evacuated from Pajaro due to the floods and more than 900 homes and business were damaged. The extent of damage to the agricultural land is still being assessed, but early numbers estimate that the floods have caused a loss of yields by 30-50% on top of the thousands of acres destroyed by floods in January. The fields that are viable for picking are severely damaged and can be hazardous to the workers. However, as this is their only source of income they still go to the fields when available. As the flood waters carry sewage and other contaminants the flooded farmlands, under federal regulations, will have to wait at least two months and undergo testing before crops can be replanted.

#### Further reading

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/mar/27/california-farm-workers-pajaro-california-flooding>

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2023-01-21/storm-flooding-compounds-misery-for-california-farmworkers>

### Middle East/Northern Africa

#### Egypt's Health Ministry to Begin Monitoring Antimicrobial Use

A cooperation protocol was signed between the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) and Axis Pharma to digitalize the national surveillance and economic evaluation of antibiotics to reduce the global problem resulting from over prescription of antibiotics when deemed unnecessary. The goal is to enhance the surveillance of antimicrobial resistance in Egypt. These two parties will conduct research studies to the economics of health in the areas of rationalizing of the use of antibiotics. One aspect is to analyze when antibiotics are given to ensure that this is the appropriate treatment. In May, the MoHP trained pharmacists in proper usage of antibiotics.



<https://www.healthcaremea.com/egypt-to-begin-electronic-surveillance-of-antimicrobial-resistance/>

#### Further Reading

<https://www.healthcaremea.com/egypt-to-begin-electronic-surveillance-of-antimicrobial-resistance/>

<https://www.zawya.com/en/life/health/egypts-health-ministry-signs-protocol-to-launch-electronic-antimicrobial-surveillance-platform-ucb8idp2>

## Asia/Pacific

### India Protests Free Emergency Care

After two weeks, protests of tens of thousands of private doctors in Rajasthan, India end. The protests were against a landmark bill which guarantees a right to health for this northern Indian state covering 80 million people. The new bill has made it mandatory for both public and private hospitals to offer emergency treatment to all people, despite their ability to pay. It would require medical services be provided prior to payment. The costs would later be reimbursed by the government for patients unable to pay. The private doctors claim there is no clarity about how and where this money will come from. The strike of these private doctors caused an influx of patients into the public healthcare sector and many patients traveled to neighboring states to receive care.



<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/jaipur/rajasthan-right-to-health-act-doctors-protest-shok-gehlot-8537261/>

Many other Indian states have their own health insurance programs which provide healthcare to the poor for free. There is also a federal health insurance program, PM-JAY, which was created in 2018 to cover the poorest 40 percent of people. This occurred after the Supreme Court held that denial of emergency medical care was a constitutional violation of right to life.

Public health in India remains inconsistent with the country spending approximately 2 percent of its GDP on public healthcare (one of the lowest in the world) which results in higher healthcare costs for the individual. The private healthcare system makes up about 80 percent of total healthcare spending. As a result, more than 55 million people are pushed into poverty due to healthcare expenses. 17 percent of households state they are affected by high healthcare costs. Often people must go to private healthcare facilities due to public healthcare facilities being full.

#### Further reading

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-65159986>

<https://nha.gov.in/PM-JAY.html>

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2280161/world>

## Sub-Saharan Africa

### Ghana is First Country to Approve Malaria Vaccine

Malaria kills one child every minute worldwide. In Ghana, in 2021, there were 5.3 million cases and 12,50 deaths. The University of Oxford developed the R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine that targets the first stage of the parasite's life cycle. This is the second ever malaria vaccine to be approved by the WHO and is the first to exceed the threshold of 75 percent efficacy over the 12 month follow up. The vaccine is a three dose regimen with increased efficacy with a one year booster shot. Ghana's Food and Drugs Authority has approved the vaccine in use in children between five months to three years old. Current clinical trials have shown efficacy levels of 77 percent one year after the booster dose given.



<https://www.indiatoday.in/health/story/what-is-r21-matrix-m-vaccine-the-newly-approved-world-changer-malaria-vaccine-ghana-2359924-2023-04-14>

Currently the Serum Institute of India is manufacturing the vaccine and is preparing to produce between 100-200 million doses per year. A new vaccine factory is currently being constructed in Accra, Ghana. The estimated cost per dose of R21 is expected to cost a couple of dollars.

#### Further reading

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-65252511>

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/593221-ghana-first-to-approve-new-oxfords-r21-vaccine-against-malaria.html>

## Europe

### Junior Doctors in England Strike

Junior doctors (equivalent of a resident in the United States) staged a four day strike from April 11 to 15<sup>th</sup> which led to about 195,000 scheduled appointments and operation cancellations. At the peak of the strike 27,361 junior doctors who currently make up about half of the health care workforce went on strike. They are demanding a 35 percent pay raise. Due to inflation it is estimated that since 2008 junior doctors have suffered a 26 percent pay cut. A first year junior doctor makes about \$36,795.

This is not the first time that junior doctors went on strike. There was a 72 hour strike from March 13 to 15 which led to the postponement of approximately 175,000 appointments and operations. In addition, there is a planned walkout by nurses in May 2023..



<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/health/uk-tens-of-thousands-of-doctors-kick-off-3-day-strike/>

### Further reading

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2023/04/nhs-england-publishes-data-on-junior-doctor-strike/>

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/04/14/business/junior-doctors-strike-uk/index.html>

## What's New at Northwell's Center for Global Health?

Daniel Leon MBA PMP

### Northwell Global Health Takes Over Washington

Northwell's Global Health team was in Washington, DC, over the weekend, for the 14th Annual Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) Conference.

Representatives from various Northwell service lines shared progress from numerous projects aimed at advancing global healthcare at Northwell. The Center for Global Health, led by director, Dr. Eric Cioe Peña, was also in attendance, co-hosting a discussion about exciting advancements in Telemedicine and its benefit in Ukraine. Also present at the discussion were Dr. Jonathan Berkowitz, Director of the Center for Emergency Services at Northwell, and Liaison of Ukrainian Affairs, Dr. Olga Berg.



"These CUGH Conferences provide a valuable platform for global health professionals to exchange ideas and discuss innovative solutions to pressing global health challenges" said Dr. Eric Cioe Peña about the annual event. Since early 2022, Northwell has used Telemedicine to assist in over 200 surgery and trauma cases. Northwell has also donated over \$300,000 in medical supplies and over 700 Physician and administrative hours to Ukraine relief efforts.



### Northwell Explores ECT in Guyana

Northwell Health's global psychiatry team met with mental health leaders from Guyana's Georgetown Public Hospital in early April, to progress their plans for expanding access to quality mental healthcare throughout Guyana. Their goal is to establish a new Electro-Convulsive Therapy (ECT) center. Northwell Psychiatry is collaborating by providing educational support and facilitating ECT training for local psychiatric professionals who are new to the technology. The Center for Global Health and Northwell procurement leadership also contributed by donating a new ECT machine to the GPHC Psychiatry Department. CGH will be sending the equipment to Guyana with seven GPHC Psychiatric professionals who are currently in New York undergoing ECT training at Northwell, as part of this ECT advancement initiative.



### Global Health Strikes a Chord at 'Harmony for Humanity'

On April 2nd, Jacob Podwall, a student from Great Neck North High School in Long Island, NY, organized a benefit concert to raise funds for families affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Accompanied by nothing but his piano and a video montage showcasing the devastation, Jacob performed covers of songs by artists such as Coldplay and Green Day, rallying the crowd's support and raising over \$5,000.

"The event was beautiful. The music and moving images of people affected by the Earthquake, made it hard not to cry. I was just so happy to see everyone so enthusiastic about global health" said Saleha Atif, Program Manager at the CGH. After the concert, Jacob Podwall and family presented a check of the proceeds to the Center for Global Health. The check has since been deposited to Northwell Foundations and will be used to support Turkey and Syria earthquake relief efforts.



In March, Northwell shipped 22 pallets filled with dialysis kits and other difficult-to-source medical supplies to Turkey and Syria. Donations for earthquake relief are still being accepted online at <https://support.northwell.edu/center-for-global-health>. Northwell is also still accepting unused medical supply donations at our Integrated Distribution Center in Bethpage. Contact [globalhealth@northwell.edu](mailto:globalhealth@northwell.edu) for more detail.

## Upcoming Lectures/Conferences

### **The Business of Saving the Planet** – May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 12:00p-1:30p

Discussion featuring three corporate leaders driving impact and change within the sustainability space. Our conversation will feature Emma Stewart (CSO of Netflix), Anisa Kamadoli Consta (CSO of Rivian), and Dave Stangis (CSO of Apollo) and will be moderated by alumnus Scott Atkinson, A&S '20 (Partner, Heidrick & Struggles).

**Registration:**[https://events.jhu.edu/form/saving-the-planet-2023?utm\\_source=Alumni+-+Weekly+Update&utm\\_campaign=34c0bf51f7EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2023\\_04\\_12\\_11\\_48&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_82ece9ffab-d399afcb90-%5BLIST\\_EMAIL\\_ID%5D&mc\\_cid=34c0bf51f7&mc\\_eid=5be8110185](https://events.jhu.edu/form/saving-the-planet-2023?utm_source=Alumni+-+Weekly+Update&utm_campaign=34c0bf51f7EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_04_12_11_48&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_82ece9ffab-d399afcb90-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D&mc_cid=34c0bf51f7&mc_eid=5be8110185)

**Hopkins Health Equity Discussion-** May 4<sup>th</sup> 12:00p-1:00p

Ida Jones, archivist at Morgan on Dr. Kelly Miller, who was an activist from Howard and 1st black medical student to enter Hopkins in the 1800s and Hopkins PhD student Makeda Stevenson.

**Registration:**

[https://events.jhu.edu/form/HealthEquityMay2023?utm\\_source=Alumni++Weekly+Update&utm\\_campaign=34c0bf51f7-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2023\\_04\\_12\\_11\\_48&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_82ece9ffab-d399afcb90-%5BLIST\\_EMAIL\\_ID%5D&mc\\_cid=34c0bf51f7&mc\\_eid=5be8110185](https://events.jhu.edu/form/HealthEquityMay2023?utm_source=Alumni++Weekly+Update&utm_campaign=34c0bf51f7-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_04_12_11_48&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_82ece9ffab-d399afcb90-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D&mc_cid=34c0bf51f7&mc_eid=5be8110185)

**Johns Hopkins Health Policy Forum-** May 5<sup>th</sup> from 12:00p-12:45p

Michelle Lujan Grisham, governor of the State of New Mexico, for a virtual fireside chat to discuss health policy solutions for New Mexico and beyond, as well as strategies for leading on public health and policy issues.

Bloomberg School Dean Ellen MacKenzie will host the discussion, which will cover topics such as: addressing poverty and health inequities, education as a public health tool, efforts to improve indigenous health, and more.

**Registration:**[https://hub.jhu.edu/johns-hopkins-health-policy-forum-series/?utm\\_source=Alumni+-+Weekly+Update&utm\\_campaign=34c0bf51f7EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2023\\_04\\_12\\_11\\_48&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_82ece9ffab-d399afcb90-%5BLIST\\_EMAIL\\_ID%5D&mc\\_cid=34c0bf51f7&mc\\_eid=5be8110185](https://hub.jhu.edu/johns-hopkins-health-policy-forum-series/?utm_source=Alumni+-+Weekly+Update&utm_campaign=34c0bf51f7EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_04_12_11_48&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_82ece9ffab-d399afcb90-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D&mc_cid=34c0bf51f7&mc_eid=5be8110185)

**VIDEO ON DEMAND: Multiple Micronutrient Supplements: Achieving a critical standard of care for pregnancy in humanitarian settings**

Though approved by the WHO, UNICEF, and WFP for use in humanitarian emergencies since 2006, the use of MMS in these settings is not yet widespread. Where MMS are available, results are promising. On Tuesday, March 28, the CSIS Global Food Security Program (hosted) maternal nutrition and humanitarian experts to discuss opportunities to expand access to MMS for pregnant women, particularly in humanitarian settings.

<https://www.csis.org/events/multiple-micronutrient-supplements-achieving-critical-standard-care-pregnancy-humanitarian>