

# **WORLD NOTES**

## **NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH AND DISEASES**

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**Vol 17 No 2 MARCH-APRIL, 2005**

### **World Health Interest Group (WHIG)**

**Friday 9:00 - 10:00am Wolstein Research Building (WRB1403)**

The Center for Global Health and Diseases has initiated the World Health Interest Group (WHIG) as a new Friday morning meeting. This new seminar and discussion series will focus on a broad range of topics related to infectious disease research in international settings. Areas of interest are certain to include epidemiology, bioethics, medical anthropology, pathogenesis, drug resistance, vector biology, cell and molecular biology, vaccine development, diagnosis, and socio-cultural factors contributing to, or compromising effective health care delivery in endemic countries. Speakers will include a diverse group of local faculty, post-doctoral and graduate student trainees, as well as visiting colleagues from around the world. A light breakfast will be served. Peter A. Zimmerman, Ph.D, Associate Professor, Center for Global Health and Diseases

### **Case-Uganda Program Hits the Front Page**

A three part series describing the Case-Makerere University collaborative work in Uganda splashed across the front pages of the Cleveland Plain Dealer on Sunday, November 21. It was written by PD medical reporter Regina McEnery who interviewed most of the major Case investigators and traveled to Uganda to visit Makerere University and Mulago Hospital to interview Ugandan collaborators there. The series emphasized the importance of the scientific investigations of AIDS and tuberculosis carried out by the collaborating Cleveland and Ugandan investigators; these two diseases are Subsaharan Africa's most important health problems. McEnery also described the many difficulties initially faced by the Case scientists when they entered a country whose academic and medical infrastructures had been largely destroyed during the Idi Amin-Milton Obote years. Finally, McEnery emphasized many of the human interests aspects of the Case-Makerere University collaboration and the individuals who work as part of it. The three articles were accompanied by color photographs taken in Uganda and brief profiles of the principal collaborating investigators. Those who missed these articles can access this text at <http://www.cleveland.com/uganda/index.ssf>, or call the Center at 216-368-6323 for a reprint.

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**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:** <http://ora.ra.cwru.edu/geomed/intlhlth/CIH.htm>



**CALENDAR OF INTERNATIONAL  
HEALTH CONFERENCES AND  
COURSES**

**UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS** International health seminars are held on the second Thursday of the month from noon to 1:00 pm in the Rainbow Amphitheater R B & C

**March 14 Intestinal worms- speaker TBA**

**April 11 Bacterial Meningitis, Emerging crisis, potential solutions  
Bobbi Baetz-Greenwalt, MD**

**METROHEALTH** International Health seminars are held semi-monthly on Fridays from noon to 1:00 pm in **K 101 Note room change**

**March 18 CANCELLED**

**April 15 TBA**

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**Get involved**

**USEFUL WEBSITES FOR  
INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS**

No one should go overseas — perhaps anywhere, but certainly to a third world country — without visiting three websites

**www.cdc.gov** This is the website for the Centers for Disease Control. This easily

searched website provides useful information about current health threats in various regions throughout the world. This is the place where you can find out what immunizations you need, whether the water is safe to drink, whether you need to take malaria prophylaxis and what antimalarial drugs work in the place you are going. This is where you can find out if there is currently an outbreak of meningitis or dengue. You need to go to a traveler's clinic, but you also need to be informed, and the CDC is the best source of information about health problems for travelers.

**www.who.int** This is the website for the World Health Organization. A second opinion, if you will, for the advice you get from the CDC. It is not as easily navigated as the CDC website, but may have useful additional information.

**www.travel.state.gov** At this website you can search by country for current travel advisories. These are the State Department's warnings. Is that attempted coup d'état in Senegal a threat to your travel plans? To your security? Should you change your plans and go to Ghana instead? Or maybe Paris? This is where the most reliable assessment can be found. Of course, you should be alert to news reports, but a report on Fiji and its restless ethnic groups may not be available in today's paper. However, always look at the date on the reports in this website; some may not be very current. This website is also a good source of information about passport and visa requirements.

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