This has been a landmark year for the USC Institute on Inequalities in Global Health (IIGH). Since I was appointed Director in mid-2018, we have undertaken an extensive review and strategic planning process to position IIGH to be a leading institute for global health in the world. We have redefined our mission: to create a university-wide center of excellence in multidisciplinary global health research, to provide educational opportunities for students across disciplines at every level, and to inform and shape public policy to address health disparities here in Los Angeles and around the world. We have also defined the priority focal areas where we believe that as a university we can have the most profound impact. We have formed a new leadership and governance structure and strengthened partnerships both locally and globally. I am honored to be fulfilling our mission with the Institute’s core leadership team and growing community of local and global partners.

The 2018-2019 annual report provides a snapshot of the results we have achieved in the past year. You will see examples of how through research we have created novel approaches to addressing the health challenges facing some of the world’s most disenfranchised populations. You will see the expansion of educational opportunities to help shape the next generation of global health leaders. And you will learn how our engagement and strategic partnerships enable us to play a part in reducing inequalities.

In the coming years, we aim to build on these successes and realize the strategic vision we have set for the future. We thank those of you who have worked and engaged with us for your commitment and support, and we look forward to collaborating further to address the global health challenges shaping our world.
At the USC Institute on Inequalities in Global Health, faculty and students work across disciplines to address the disparities, inequalities and broad determinants of health that impact our world. University-wide and driven by excellence in research, education and action, the Institute aims to address those issues that are too complex to have a natural home with any single researcher, department or school.

The USC Institute on Inequalities in Global Health fosters inclusive approaches to global health that engage medicine, public health, law, social science, human rights, economics, policy, communications, social work and other fields.

**OUR MISSION**

To work with partners at USC and around the world to address health-related disparities and inequalities, taking a multidisciplinary approach to advance the evidence base about what works, train the next generation of leaders, and inform public policy.

**RESEARCH**
The Institute tackles existing and emerging global health concerns using a multidisciplinary approach to expand the evidence about what works, what doesn’t, and what is needed.

**EDUCATION**
The Institute works across USC and with partners around the world to train the next generation of global health leaders.

**POLICY ENGAGEMENT**
The Institute contributes to shaping public policy to reduce health-related disparities and inequalities.
The USC Institute on Inequalities in Global Health, housed within the Keck School of Medicine, works with a diverse range of faculty and students from throughout the university to foster a truly interdisciplinary approach to global health challenges.

The USC Law & Global Health Collaboration (LGH) advances scholarship and sponsors lectures and public discussions at the intersection of law and global health. Virtually all significant global health topics raise challenging legal issues which are better understood and addressed when considered from a multidisciplinary perspective. LGH is supported by the USC Provost’s Office Research Collaboration Fund. It is led by Sofia Gruskin, alongside USC Gould School of Law Professor Alexander Capron and Associate Dean of Research Charles Kaplan from the Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work.

The Los Angeles Global Health Conference is an annual global health conference organized jointly with the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, UCLA undergraduate departments, and the USC Institute on Inequalities in Global Health and affiliated schools. Students from across Southern California and beyond come together to discuss how best to address health disparities in Los Angeles and around the world.

### SDGs IN LA: SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS TO LOS ANGELES’ WICKED PROBLEMS, A PRACTICUM

A multidisciplinary practicum supported by USC’s Office of the Provost brought together faculty and students from across the university to apply a human rights analysis to the role of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in supporting the work of the Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and to recommend further actions. This work provided the basis for ongoing collaboration between IIGH and the Los Angeles Mayor’s Office Olympic and Paralympic Development Committee.

The Los Angeles Global Health Conference is an annual global health conference organized jointly with the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, UCLA undergraduate departments, and the USC Institute on Inequalities in Global Health and affiliated schools. Students from across Southern California and beyond come together to discuss how best to address health disparities in Los Angeles and around the world.
The Institute is engaged in many diverse and innovative projects that stem from strong international partnerships to tackle existing and emerging global health concerns using a multidisciplinary approach. Examples include:

**Geneva, Switzerland**
*Project:* WHO Guideline on Self-Care Interventions for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights  
*Funder:* World Health Organization

“We envision that this guideline will help people, especially those who face difficulties accessing SRHR services, gain safe access to interventions and to appropriate support from service providers.” — Laura Ferguson, Director of Research, USC IIGH

**Malaysia**
*Course:* Health and Human Rights: Workshop on Operationalizing the Right to the Highest Attainable Standard of Health  
*Participants:* United Nations Officials, activists and students from across the Asia-Pacific region  
*Collaborators:* International Institute for Global Health, United Nations University, Malaysia  
*Location:* Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Brazil**
*Project:* Youth vulnerabilities to STIs/HIV and to dating violence: evaluating a human rights-based psychosocial intervention  
*Funder:* The São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP)  
*Collaborators:* University of São Paulo  
*Location:* São Paulo and Santos

**Africa**
*Project:* Evaluating the Impact of a UNDP Project on Human Rights, HIV and Sexual and Reproductive Health of LGBT People and Women and Girls in Sub-Saharan Africa  
*Collaborators/Funders:* UNDP Regional HIV, Health and Development Cluster  
*Location:* Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Namibia, Lesotho, Sierra Leone and eSwatini

**Indonesia**
*Project:* Advancing Access to Justice for People who Use Drugs in Indonesia  
*Funder:* Open Society Foundations  
*Collaborators:* Community Legal Aid Institute (LBH Masyarakat)  
*Location:* Jakarta

"Working with LBH Masyarakat was a dream come true for me as an aspiring human rights lawyer with a background in Southeast Asia. Seeing LBHM’s work both locally and with international partner organizations dedicated to promoting justice gives much needed hope not just to clients, but to human rights defenders as well.” — Krisha Mae Cabrera, Student Intern, LBH Masyarakat, Indonesia

14 Collaborating partners and organizations  
35 Countries where projects are currently happening
RESEARCH

FEATURED HIGHLIGHTS

Breman Global Health Fellows

The Breman Global Health Fellowship supports students interested in global health and public service careers outside of the United States by funding field, clinical or laboratory research.

AGNES PREMKUMAR
2019 Breman Global Health Fellow, Costa Rica

"Assessing the effectiveness of the Hands for Health reproductive health education campaign in the Brunca region"

MILES LAMBERT-PECK
2019 Breman Global Health Fellow, Uganda

"Social enterprise as an ecohealth intervention: an exploratory case study in southern Uganda"

KYA KRAUS
2018 Breman Global Health Fellow, Ghana

"Understanding the community perceptions of children with developmental disabilities in Ghana"

JONATHAN ROBINSON
2018 Breman Global Health Fellow, Vietnam

"Trauma patients in Vietnam – patient outcomes associated with the use of pre-hospital emergency medical services in trauma patients in northern Vietnam"

The Gambia Maternal and Child Nutrition and Health Results Project: Impact Evaluation

The first randomized evaluation that includes community-based results-based financing, this study compares maternal and child nutrition and health outcomes (health status and uptake and quality of services) in settings where the results-based financing project has been implemented with the same outcomes in control areas.


Development of USC Global Health Hub in Nairobi, Kenya

IIGH faculty traveled to Nairobi, Kenya to meet with partners to begin establishing a USC-IIGH hub in the region. This innovative initiative will foster research and educational initiatives between students and faculty from across USC and the region.

11th Revision of the International Classification of Disease (ICD-11): Impact for Transgender People

A multidisciplinary team of USC researchers and students have begun to look at how countries can best be supported in addressing revisions to the ICD to support the health and rights of transgender populations, including charting an optimal course of action to incorporate appropriate changes into healthcare delivery, national laws and policies, and educational and social interventions.

Collaborators: Children’s Hospital Los Angeles and USC Schools (Dworak-Peck, Dornsife, Gould, Keck, Annenberg and Rossier)

"Every day in Uganda was a new adventure bristling with opportunity for self-growth, making new friends, and overcoming challenging obstacles.”

Miles Lambert-Peck, 2019 Breman Global Health Fellow
IIGH, in partnership with John Snow, Inc. (JSI), conducted baseline evaluations of the Global Fund’s Programs to Reduce Human Rights Barriers to HIV, TB and Malaria. IIGH’s work was primarily focused in three of the 20 countries in the Global Fund’s Breaking Down Barriers Initiative.

**Collaborators:** The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and JSI  
**Locations:** Ghana, Indonesia and Kenya

**Evaluation of the Global Commission on HIV & the Law**

Supported by a grant from the United Nations Development Programme, IIGH is conducting an evaluation of the relevance, effectiveness and impact of the Global Commission on HIV and the Law at the global, regional and national level.

**Collaborators:** United Nations Development Programme

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IIGH is currently evaluating the United Nation Development Programme’s work to address the legal and human rights barriers in accessing HIV services faced by vulnerable communities in ten countries in Africa. The evaluation pays particular attention to legal and policy environments, using human rights as a cornerstone of the work.

**Collaborators:** United Nations Development Programme and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria  
**Locations:** Botswana, Cote D’Ivoire, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia

**Visiting Research Scholars**

Each year, the Institute welcomes visiting scholars from around the world to engage and work with IIGH faculty and USC students.

**BEATRICE MAINA, MA**  
PhD Student, School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Research Officer, African Population and Health Research Center, Nairobi, Kenya

**HERTA OLIVEIRA, RN, MPH**  
PhD Student, University of São Paulo, Brazil

**SUSANA TIRADO SOTO**  
Medical Student, School of Medicine, University of Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia  
Research volunteer, Hospital Universitario San Vicente Fundación, Medellín, Colombia.

“I will definitely carry the lessons and experiences from these past six weeks (in Costa Rica) for the rest of my life.”  
Agnes Premkumar, 2019 Breman Global Health Fellow

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"28"  
Faculty publications
**EDUCATION**

**FEATURED HIGHLIGHTS**

**Undergraduate and graduate courses taught by IIGH faculty**

- **HP 270 - Introduction to Global Health**
- **PM 506 - Overcoming Real World Challenges in Global Health**
- **PM 565 - Introduction to Global Health**
- **PM 568 - Ethical Issues in Public Health**
- **PM 576 - Global Health Research and Programs**
- **PM 577/LAW 707 - Global Health, Law, and Human Rights**
- **LAW 713 - International Human Rights Law**

**Additional Student Opportunities**

- **Global Health Case Competition**
- **Global Health - Summer at USC High School Program**

**Continuing Education Opportunities**

- **NCDs and Human Rights Online Short Course**
- **Drones in Global Public Health Certificate Course**

**Global Health Governance and Diplomacy in Practice in Geneva**

IIGH brings students to Geneva, Switzerland to engage with global health institutions and participate in the World Health Assembly in order to learn about global health governance and diplomacy in practice.

**Health and Sustainable Development: Perspectives from Costa Rica**

Graduate students are encouraged to participate in a unique course taught by IIGH faculty in Costa Rica exploring health and sustainable development.

**Global Fellowships and Internships Offered to USC Students**

IIGH draws on partnerships and collaborations around the world to give students opportunities to carry out internships at organizations of interest. Fellowship opportunities also exist for students in order to deepen their understanding of health inequalities in low- and middle-income countries.

**Global Collaborative Course: Ethical Issues in Public Health**

This innovative online course brings together students from universities across the world to discuss the ethical principles involved in the distribution of health resources, the conduct of global public health research, and the implementation of public health initiatives across different nations, cultures, religions.

**Students enrolled in courses taught by IIGH faculty**

- **84** Undergraduate, graduate and PhD students across USC mentored by faculty
- **263**
PROMOTING POLICY ENGAGEMENT

FEATURED HIGHLIGHTS

The USC Institute on Inequalities in Global Health contributes expertise and research findings to scientific advisory panels, commissions and multilateral organizations in order to shape public policy in ways that will improve global health outcomes.

Celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in Los Angeles

On December 10, 2018, the USC Institute on Inequalities in Global Health hosted a symposium that drew hundreds of community members, students, organizers, activists and consular representatives to USC’s Bovard Auditorium where speakers from academia, the United Nations, government and civil society discussed why, and how, human rights matter and can make a difference for sustainable development, health and well-being locally and around the world. The unprecedented event included the UN deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, USC Interim Wanda Austin and Provost Michael Quick, and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. Immediately following the celebration, IIGH faculty and USC students took part in facilitating the Los Angeles Youth Solutions Summit.

Ban on Sex Reassignment Surgeries on Intersex Infants and Children in India

A landmark legal decision to ban sex reassignment surgeries in India cited the World Health Organization report, “Sexual Health, Human Rights and the Law,” which was developed with IIGH faculty.

Ensuring Human Rights in the Provision of Contraceptive Information and Services

IGH faculty worked closely with the World Health Organization to develop official guidance on ensuring human rights in the provision of contraceptive information and services. This guidance has been instrumental in strengthening rights-based programming and implementation through the development of new tools and approaches to quality-of-care monitoring. Sofia Gruskin participated in a webinar to raise awareness of the guidance, providing insight and recommendations from a human rights perspective to several hundred learners from around the world.

Related Publications

Celebrating the 70th anniversary of the UDHR, celebrating sexual and reproductive rights
Eszter Kismödi and Laura Ferguson, published in Reproductive Health Matters.

Association of Pacific Rim Universities Global Health Program

The USC Institute on Inequalities in Global Health collaborates with APRU to coordinate the Global Health Program Workshop at its yearly meetings. IIGH faculty member Mellissa Withers manages the APRU Global Health Program, which seeks to foster excellence in global health research and education across APRU.

@sKELINKenya

“We had a great meeting with our partners from @USCGlobalHealth exploring ways to expand collaborations in fighting health inequalities & realisation of the right to health for all. Excited about achieving greater things together! @SofiaGruskin @lauraf_la #TeamKELIN”
SELECT PUBLICATIONS

2018-2019

Human rights and legal dimensions of self care interventions for sexual and reproductive health
Laura Ferguson, Susana Fried, Thabo Mataseng, Sundari Ravindran and Sofia Gruskin, published in BMJ

Engaging global institutions to achieve practical justice: the case of sexual rights

Sexual health, sexual rights and sexual pleasure: meaningfully engaging the perfect triangle
Sofia Gruskin, Vithika Yadav, Antón Castellanos-Usgili, Gvantsa Khizanishvili and Eszter Kissmódı, published in Sexual & Reproductive Health Matters

Establishing competencies for a global health workforce: recommendations from the Association of Pacific Rim Universities
Melissa Wilthers, Hsien-Ho Lin, Terry Schmidt, John Paul Caesar Robles delos Trinos and Shubha Kumar, published in Annals of Global Health

Sex work-related stigma: experiential, symbolic and structural forms in the health systems of Delhi, India
Martha S. Ryan, Devaki Nambiar and Laura Ferguson, published in Social Science & Medicine

The Manila declaration on the drug problem in the Philippines

Police-related deaths and neighborhood economic and racial/ethnic polarization, United States, 2015–2016

‘We are not infertile’: challenges and limitations faced by women in same-sex relationships when seeking conception services in São Paulo, Brazil
Paula Galdino Cardin de Carvalho, Cristiane da Silva Desert,雨forest or jungle: navigating the traditional beliefs and practices during pregnancy, childbirth, and the post-partum period in Asian countries
Melissa Wilthers, Nina Kharazmi and Esther Lim, published in Psychology Today

A meta-narrative literature synthesis and framework to guide future evaluation of legal empowerment interventions
Katherine Footer, Michael Windle, Laura Ferguson, Jordan Hatcher, Carrie Lyons, Emma Gorin, Anne L. Stangl, Steven Golub, Sofia Gruskin and Stefan Baral, published in Health and Human Rights Journal

Global Health Leadership: Case Studies from the Pacific Rim
Melissa Wilthers and Judith McCool (editors)

In transition: ensuring the sexual and reproductive health and rights of transgender populations. A roundtable discussion
Sofia Gruskin, Avery Everhart, Diana Feliz Olivia, Stefan Baral, Sari L. Renner, Eszter Kissmódı, David Cruz, Cary Klemmer, Michael R Reich and Laura Ferguson, published in Reproductive Health Matters

Resource kit: ensuring the sexual and reproductive health and rights of transgender populations
by the USC Law & Global Health Collaboration

Sexual and reproductive health and rights for all: translating the Gutmacher-Lancet Commission’s global report to local action
Laura Ferguson and Sapna Desai, published in Reproductive Health Matters

Daniel Tarantola and Sofia Gruskin (book edited by Gian Luca Buri and Brigit Toebes), published in Research Handbook on Global Health Law

Characteristics of adolescents living with HIV receiving care and treatment services in antiretroviral therapy clinics in Cambodia: descriptive findings from a cross-sectional study
Siyan Yi, Sovannary Tuot, Khuondyla Pal, Vohith Khok, Say Sok, Pheak Chhoun, Laura Ferguson and Glau Mitsu, published in BMC Health Services

From evidence to action: challenges for the Brazilian Unified National Health System in offering pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV to persons with the greatest vulnerability
Elaina Miura Zucchi, Alexandre Grandeiro, Dulce Fernaz, Thiago Félix Pinheiro, Tatiana Alencar, Laura Ferguson, Denize Lotufo Estevam, Rosemeire Munhoz and Equipe do Estudo Combinat, published in Cadernos de Saúde Pública

Desert, rainforest or jungle: navigating the global sexual rights landscape
Sofia Gruskin, Alice Miller, Jane Cottingham and Eszter Kissmódı, published in Sexuality Policy Watch

Postpartum depression in Mongolia: A qualitative exploration of health care providers’ perspectives
Justin Tropp, Batulga Gendenjants, Solongo Ganbold, Undra Bat-Erdene, Doljinmaer Doripurev, Munkhuu Bayalag and Melissa Wilthers, published in Midwifery

US opposition to breastfeeding resolution: don’t be surprised, do be concerned
Laura Ferguson for the Center, published in Health Journalism

The how: a message for the UN high-level meeting on NCDs
Kent Buse et al. (Sofia Gruskin), published in The Lancet

Workplace wellness programming in low-and middle-income countries: A qualitative study of key informants in Mexico and India
Heather Wipfli, Kristin Desai, Naveen Kundal, Myriam Reynales, Deepika Bahl, Monika Arora, Shalini Bassi and Shubha Kumar, published in Globalization and Health

A vicious cycle: domestic abuse, homelessness, trafficking
Melissa Wilthers, published in Psychology Today

Competency-based education in low resource settings: development of a novel surgical training program
Meghan McCullough, Alex Campbell, Armando Siu, Libby Durnwald, Shubha Kumar, William P. Magne, and Jordan Swanson, published in World Journal of Surgery

Assessing changes in HIV-related legal and policy environments in Sub-Saharan Africa
Laura Ferguson, Alexandra Nicholson, Ian Henry, Ambuj Saha, Tilly Sellers and Sofia Gruskin, published in PLOS ONE

International approaches to tobacco prevention and cessation programming and policy among adolescents in India
Anjupreet Sidhu, Shubha Kumar, Heather Wipfli, Monika Arora, and Thomas Valente, published in Current Addiction Reports

When perpetrators are also victims
Melissa Wilthers, published in Psychology Today

Traditional beliefs and practices during pregnancy, childbirth, and the post-partum period in Asian countries
Melissa Wilthers, Nina Kharazmi and Esther Lim, published in Midwifery

Depression in rheumatoid arthritis: special considerations for ethnic minorities
Melissa Wilthers, P. Katz and George Karpouzas, published in Rheumatoid Arthritis: Risk Factors, Health Effects and Treatment Options
USC INSTITUTE ON INEQUALITIES IN GLOBAL HEALTH
STRATEGIC PLAN
2019-2024

OUR VISION:
A MORE JUST AND HEALTHY WORLD

OUR MISSION:
TO WORK WITH PARTNERS ACROSS USC AND AROUND THE WORLD TO ADDRESS HEALTH-RELATED DISPARITIES AND INEQUALITIES THROUGH RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT

FOCUS AREAS:
(1) Sexuality, gender and rights
(2) Sustainability, power, poverty and mobility
(3) Urban health in the 21st century
(4) Communication, technology and innovation

RESEARCH
Expanding the evidence base about what works to advance global health

EDUCATION
Training the next generation of global health leaders

POLICY ENGAGEMENT
Informing public policy to more effectively contribute to global health outcomes

CROSS-CUTTING PRACTICES
- Multidisciplinary approaches to research, education and policy engagement
- Long-term partnerships with academic institutions, civil society organizations, governments and United Nations agencies

KEY OBJECTIVE
Conducting relevant global health research and disseminating research results across the four focus areas

KEY ACTIVITIES
- Conducting research and reviews
- Disseminating research findings, publications and scholarship
- Hosting conferences, workshops and events
- Hosting visiting researchers and scholars
- Expanding the Program on Global Health and Human Rights
- Establishing research and learning hubs

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
- # of USC faculty involved in IIGH research activities by school and type of engagement
- # and diversity of active research and funding partnerships each year (for IIGH itself and for faculty and students associated with IIGH)
- # of books, peer-reviewed publications, and abstracts per year by faculty and students associated with IIGH in each of the four focus areas
- Citation counts and downloads for products/publications associated with IIGH

KEY OBJECTIVE
Developing and providing hands-on interdisciplinary education and training programs

KEY ACTIVITIES
- Providing global health courses at undergraduate and graduate levels
- Organizing international immersion courses
- Offering Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) courses
- Teaching online certificates and short courses
- Spearheading case competition
- Expanding fellowship programs
- Providing student practica and internships
- Arranging speaker series
- Establishing research and learning hubs

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
- # of students benefiting from IIGH teaching and training each year, differentiated by country of origin, geographic location, and type of program and/or course, with attention to qualitative measures including student satisfaction and success stories
- # of USC faculty involved in IIGH education activities by school and type of engagement
- # and diversity of active educational and funding partnerships each year (for IIGH itself and for faculty and students associated with IIGH)
- # of international visiting scholars working with IIGH each year

KEY OBJECTIVE
Contributing expertise and research findings to scientific advisory panels, commissions and multilateral organizations

KEY ACTIVITIES
- Conducting evaluations of regional and global health initiatives, undertaken by major multilateral organizations
- Establishing policy-oriented documents, tools and technical reports
- Participating in high-level working groups, meetings, committees, conferences, workshops, advisory boards and panels
- Disseminating findings and key messages through social media, print media and television
- Establishing research and learning hubs

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
- # of IIGH-associated reports, tools, evaluations and other outputs integrated into global policy and programs
- Participation of IIGH faculty and staff on scientific committees, policy advisory panels, evaluations and similar processes
- # and diversity of active policy and funding partnerships each year (for IIGH itself and for faculty and staff associated with IIGH)