



2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

USC Institute on Inequalities in Global Health

Table of Contents

02

Letter from the director

05

Our mission & vision

08

From local to global

10

Year in review

13

Working across boundaries

15

Leading by collaboration

17

Responding to today's urgent challenges

20

Spotlight: COVID-19

22

Expanding the evidence base

25

Convening critical conversations

27

Shaping public policy

30

Spotlight: Dobbs decision

32

Championing student engagement

35

Training the next generation of leaders

38

Select publications

41

Partners and funders

Letter from the Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We are coming to the close of another year that pushes us to redefine what it means to be engaged in global health. Since 2018, we have been an institute that takes inequality as its starting point. This means that everything we do — from our lecture series to the research we produce, to how we engage with our partners — centers an inherent understanding of the deep disparities that result in unequal health outcomes. In seeking to address this, we have built a university-wide center of excellence focused on multidisciplinary responses to global health concerns. We provide educational opportunities for students across disciplines at every level and inform and shape public policy to address health disparities both locally and globally. Most of all, we remain attuned to the urgent challenges and priorities that demand our flexibility and creativity in rethinking both how we work and where to place our focus.

Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to sit down and reflect on the experiences and colleagues who inspired me to link health and human rights several decades ago, and my journey to Director of the USC Institute on Inequalities in Global Health. The timing could not have been more apt. Like many of us, I was still reeling from the Dobbs decision that overturned, senselessly, the constitutional right to abortion in the U.S. I was reminded not only why I entered this work, but why our work at the Institute is so imperative.

As I write this letter, global health, human rights, and bodily autonomy are under renewed threat the world over. In our 2019—2020 report, we were deeply concerned by the inequalities stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. We still are, even as much of our world now teeters on the edge of forgetting COVID all too soon. The dismantling of *Roe v. Wade* is not only an assault on health and human rights in the United States, but a threat to reproductive freedom around the world. The war in Ukraine rages on, with devastating consequences to health, health systems, and community well-being. The spread of mpox and Ebola are striking reminders of the interconnectedness of our world, and the need for responses to public health emergencies to be grounded not only in sound evidence and science, but to bring equally explicit attention to the protection of human rights, community engagement, and strong political commitment and leadership.

This is why IIGH exists. At the beginning of this academic year, in response to the Dobbs decision we pledged to address its local and global repercussions in our research, our teaching, and our policy work. Our fall 2022 lecture series focused on bringing scholars, practitioners and activists into conversation about the future of reproductive justice and offered space for students to come together to strategize about actions to take. We hosted an array of medical and service providers working in restrictive legal environments, lawyers, policymakers and activists engaging daily at the frontlines, and thought leaders working to address the devastating implications for people's lives. Each panel brought home the fact that collectively we can and must work to protect abortion for the generations to come. And this is only the beginning.

As the need for our work grows, we too are growing. In November 2021, we appointed Jonathan Cohen as our Director of Policy Engagement. This year, he led efforts to sharpen our advocacy at the federal level, as well as work on queer aging. Director of Research Laura Ferguson was awarded tenure this year, and has continued to expand our cutting edge research into new areas including bringing gender, legal and human rights concerns to One Health and Artificial Intelligence projects. Director of Education Shubha Kumar led work in partnership with KSOM's Division of Global Emergency Medicine to launch the first online Pre-Departure Training course for all KSOM students traveling overseas and/or to border regions. We have filled new staff positions with passionate researchers, thinkers, and doers. We are thrilled to continue building our institute in new and exciting directions.

The need for our work has never felt more pressing. IIGH will continue to expand the evidence base about what works and what doesn't, including support for the health and rights of marginalized and vulnerable populations across an increasing range of adverse social, economic, cultural, political and environmental contexts. We remain grateful to our friends, colleagues, and collaborators at USC and across the world who help to make this mission possible. Our work in global health is only successful if we all engage, listen, and learn from one another. We hope you will consider working with us and our partners around the world in fostering a more inclusive, more equitable approach to global health. With compassion and commitment, we can help one another navigate a way forward.

Warmly,



Sofia Gruskin, JD, MIA

Professor, Keck School of Medicine and Gould School of Law
Director, Institute on Inequalities in Global Health



"IIGH will continue to expand the evidence base about what works and what doesn't, including support for the health and rights of marginalized and vulnerable populations across an increasing range of adverse social, economic, cultural, political and environmental contexts."

Our people

USC IIGH Leadership



Sofia Gruskin
JD, MIA
Director



Laura Ferguson
PhD, SM, MA
Research Director



Jonathan Cohen
JD, MPhil
Director of Policy Engagement



Shubha Kumar
PhD, MPH
Education Director

Faculty and Staff



Caroline Diamond
Project Specialist



Michelle Anderson, PhD, M.Phil
Program Specialist



Sarah Emoto
MPH
Program Specialist

SENIOR ADJUNCT FACULTY

Rajat Khosla, LL.M, LL.B
Jeffrey O'Malley, MA
Daniel Tarantola, MD



Michelle Chow
MA
Manager



Summer Peet
Communications & Strategy
Lead, Health & Human Rights
Oral History Project



Mellissa Withers
PhD, MHS
Director, APRU Global Health
Program

STUDENT RESEARCHERS

Maylis Basturk
Arthur Bookstein
Sheridan Coomer
Rhea Desai
Gurmun Dhillon
Jose Gutierrez
Lillie Guo
Ngoc Hyunh
Alex Natividad
Gaea Morales
Srijan Mukherjee
Ifeayin (Ezi) Ogbuli
Justine Po
Krishni Satchi
Yagna Sreeramaneni
Asna Tabassum
Kelly Wong

Our mission:

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

Our vision:

A more just and healthier world.

At the University of Southern California Institute on Inequalities in Global Health, leaders **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.

In line with our strategic plan, the USC Institute on Inequalities in Global Health **fosters an inclusive approach** to global health that engages a range of disciplines, including medicine, public health, law, social science, human rights, economics, policy, communications and social work.

Our approach

RESEARCH - POLICY - EDUCATION

RESEARCH



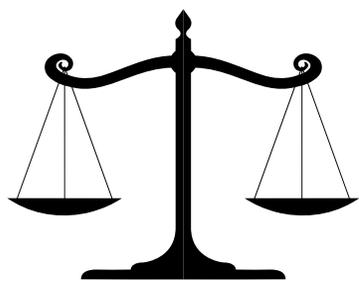
USC IIGH collaborates with dozens of civil society, academic, government and UN partners around the world, as well as with faculty and schools across USC, to conduct innovative research that transcends borders and disciplines to expand the evidence base about what works, what doesn't, and what is needed.

93

external collaborating
and partner
organizations

POLICY ENGAGEMENT

USC IIGH has launched efforts with partners at global and local levels to contribute to and shape policy agendas to reduce health-related disparities and inequalities. Our policy engagement leverages our research and teaching to engage officials on concrete ways to embed equity and equality into policies, financing, programs, and diplomacy impacting health.



EDUCATION



USC IIGH is a major center of education with a focus on training the next generation of global health leaders in collaboration with a range of international partners, all with a strong commitment to addressing inequalities.

*"I learned so much. And I cannot emphasize how much this project has enriched my own experiences and enriched my own understandings. It's been absolutely phenomenal to be able to explore these issues from a firsthand story that someone is providing." – Asna Tabassum, Student Interviewer with **The Health and Human Rights Oral History Project***

293

OUR FOCUS AREAS:

URBAN HEALTH

SEXUALITY AND GENDER

SUSTAINABILITY AND MOBILITY

COMMUNICATION,

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

**USC students enrolled
in courses taught by
IIGH faculty in 2022**

From local ...

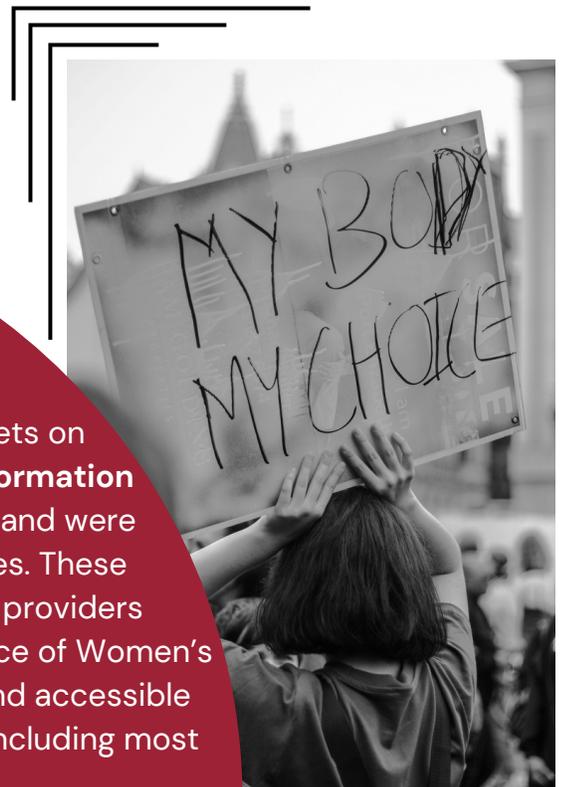


USC IIGH continues to be a leader in drawing attention both locally and globally to ongoing vaccine inequities. On April 22, this mural, created by local artist Sergio Robleto, was unveiled at a public event at the Weingart East Los Angeles YMCA. With food, music and inspiring speakers, this was our first community-based event since the pandemic, and it made us all realize

once again the power of coming together. The mural illustrates the benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine and booster, features a QR code that drives viewers to public health resources, and honors the impactful work of the YMCA and its partners during the height of the pandemic. IIGH was proud to leverage its partnership with Reckitt, the makers of Lysol, to commission a mural in Los Angeles that depicts positivity, hope and the promise of “togetherness.”

IIGH’s ongoing collaboration with Reckitt also included the free distribution of 6 million packs of Lysol brand disinfectant wipes to the greater Los Angeles area. Stay tuned for more exciting updates.

In response to the Supreme Court ruling which took away the constitutional right to abortion, USC IIGH has partnered with the **LA County Office of Women’s Health** to develop evidence-based fact sheets on abortion. The fact sheets are **designed to counter disinformation and provide information on access to abortion services**, and were written and designed to be accessible to broad audiences. These materials will be widely distributed to health and SRH service providers across LA County. The collaboration between IIGH and the Office of Women’s Health is ongoing, and includes production of informative and accessible trainings and other materials adapted to particular settings, including most recently for survivors of domestic violence.



IIGH, in partnership with the **African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC)**, conceptualized and drafted a framework and accompanying toolkit on HIV-related inequalities for the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). **The HIV Inequalities Framework and accompanying Toolkit** are intended to help the Joint Programme to identify the HIV-related inequalities that matter most for a country's HIV epidemic, help determine those which can most effectively be reduced or even eliminated, and prioritize interventions to this end through support to countries and communities. The framework draws attention to some of the populations most affected and commonly left behind in the HIV response, and provides an approach to exploring and addressing identified cross-cutting social and structural health systems and services drivers of relevant inequalities.

The framework was recently finalized after a year-long process that included intensive desk reviews and close collaboration and consultations with key partners. This included a series of presentations at different points of elaboration of the framework which engaged different departments within the UNAIDS Secretariat, as well as representatives of regional and country offices, other UN agencies—including WHO, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women, UNHCR, WFP, UNODC and UNESCO — and a range of civil society organizations.

Alongside the framework, the accompanying toolkit is expected to be pilot tested by UNAIDS in a few countries next year.



Above: current IIGH projects.

... to global.

Year in Review

It's been a big year for IIGH. We have deepened our research, grown our team, built out new projects and initiatives, and sharpened our convening power. Below are a few highlights from the past 12 months.

SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

On June 7, 2022, USC IIGH, in partnership with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, hosted “Ending Inequalities, Ending AIDS, and Preventing New Pandemics in the Americas,” a virtual side event to the IX Summit of the Americas. The event aimed to address the underlying inequalities that have fueled the AIDS pandemic, generated disparities in access to COVID-19 vaccines, and left countries ill-prepared for future pandemics. Policymakers, academics and civil society actors from countries across the region discussed the interlinkages between inequalities and pandemics, identified challenges and opportunities to reduce them, and provided recommendations for action based on available evidence and promising practices.

THE HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

In commemoration of Human Rights Day, IIGH launched the Health and Human Rights Oral History Project (HHROHP), a growing archive of video testimonies from diverse figures in the health and human rights movement. The Project fills a critical gap in the modern history of public health by providing an inside view of the decisions, discussions, and dynamics behind some of the most impactful health and rights interventions of the past several decades. The inaugural archive of 30 oral histories is available both on our website and in the permanent digital archives housed at the USC Libraries.

The second phase of the Project, to be led by our partners at the University of Witwatersrand, will kick off in early 2023. The HHROHP is a growing project which will serve as a research and educational tool, as well as aim to influence policy development and inspire others to create their own oral histories and contribute to deepening knowledge of global health and human rights.

21

events hosted by USC IIGH in 2022

1,821

citations in 2022 of work published by IIGH faculty

53

percent of 2022 USC IIGH research projects with student participation

Below: Oanh Khuat, executive director of SCDI, discusses the development of harm reduction strategies in Vietnam during her oral history.



Thematic focus:

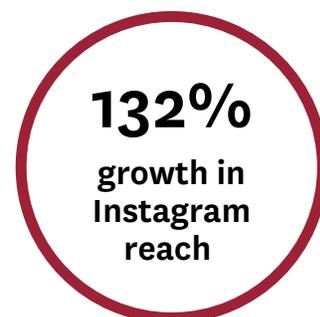
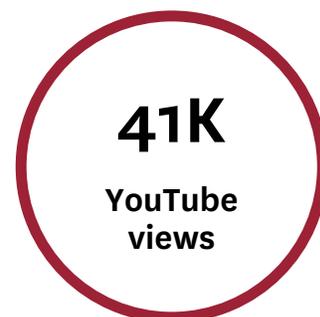
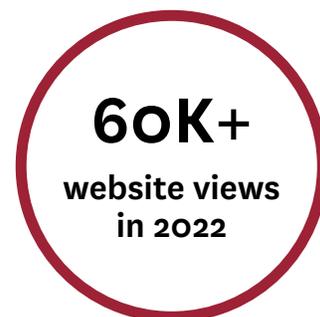
HIV-related stigma and discrimination

Over the past few years and with support from the International AIDS Society, UNAIDS and The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, IIGH has developed a portfolio of work on HIV-related stigma and discrimination across different settings. In 2021, IIGH began a systematic review of frameworks, measures and interventions designed to address and mitigate the harmful impacts of HIV-related stigma and discrimination around the world. Begun as a collaboration with the USC Southern California Evidence Review Center, work is ongoing to create a research agenda based on a gap analysis of the literature and to identify additional entry points for advocacy for relevant policy change.

Director of Research Laura Ferguson recently participated in one such opportunity to influence the field. As a member of the Planning Committee for the Global Collaboration on HIV-Related Stigma and Discrimination Scientific Workshop convened by the NIH Office of AIDS Research and the National Institute of Mental Health in partnership with the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), Dr. Ferguson presented on the current gold standard in measures and accountability for HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

Dr. Ferguson also presented findings at the 24th International AIDS Conference from the systemic literature review and a consolidation of the state of the field as the keynote for the "Getting to the heart of stigma: State of the field evidence review" pre-conference, chaired a session on the implications of these findings for medical education and was featured in the +Life Day 3 recap of the conference, where she shared how stigma and social inequalities inhibit the global HIV response. Findings have also been shared with a range of large organizations to help inform funding strategies in this area and published in peer-reviewed literature.

Important synergies exist between this work and our collaboration with UNAIDS to help countries identify and address HIV-related inequalities, as well as recent work with UNFPA that explored barriers to implementing supportive laws and policies relating to sexual and reproductive health, which included HIV-related stigma and discrimination. Lessons from each of these projects have helped inform one other, strengthening their respective outputs.



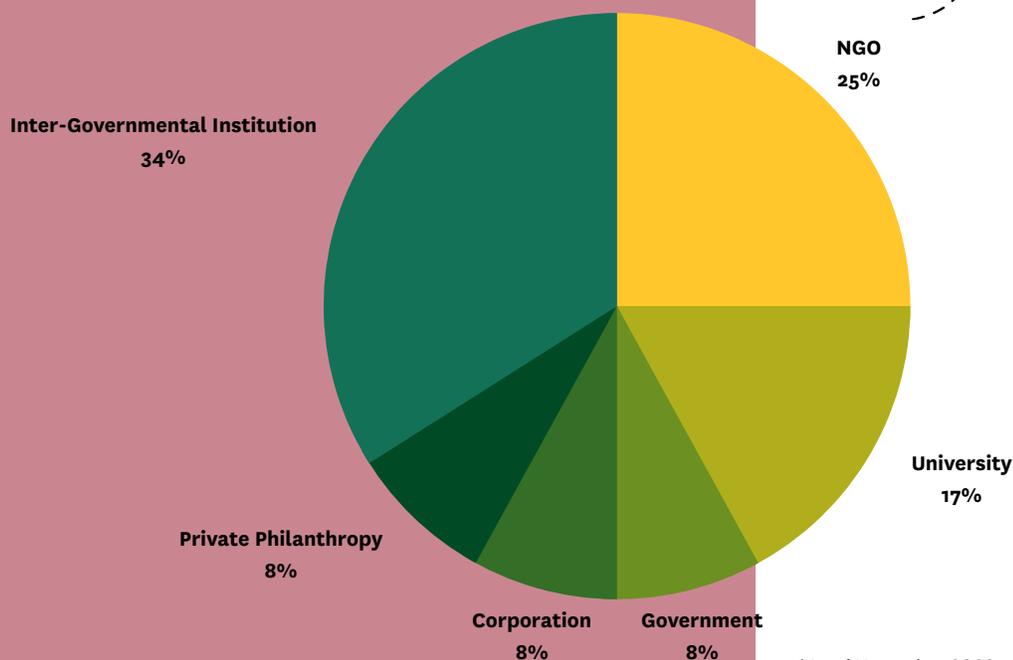
Thematic focus: Self-care interventions for health

During the COVID-19 pandemic, in collaboration with Amref Health Africa, IIGH carried out formative research on how self-care interventions, implemented with support from Community Health Workers, could help increase the accessibility of healthcare to different populations in Kenya. Other research in Brazil conducted this year explored the use of HIV self-testing to maintain access to testing in the context of the pandemic and the impact of the pandemic on the use of pre-exposure HIV prophylaxis among adolescent men who have sex with men and transgender adolescents. At the same time, discussions have taken place within USC and Los Angeles more broadly about the role that self-care interventions for health might play in our local context. The Law and Global Health collaboration (see page 15) convened several panel discussions on this theme, which led IIGH to research how self-care is understood very differently by context and what the implications of this might be as interventions are scaled up.

IIGH first became involved in research around self-care interventions for health when Dr. Ferguson joined the WHO Guideline Development Group responsible for development of the first global guideline on self-care interventions for sexual and reproductive health and rights. Dr. Ferguson also participated in updating the global guideline when WHO expanded it to also cover other areas of health.

On December 10th, Human Rights Day, Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters launched a themed issue on 'Self-Care Interventions and Rights-based Access', with Dr. Ferguson as one of the co-editors. The issue was designed to draw attention to the needs and rights of underserved populations in the context of self-care interventions for sexual and reproductive health, and includes articles covering a range of topics, geographies and populations.

Diversity of 2022 funding partnerships*



*As of November 2022.

Working across boundaries: Africa Hub

In 2019, USC IGH established the Africa Hub to help connect experts in Kenya with USC professors and students to tackle some of the world's most pressing health issues. The Hub seeks to **challenge some of the existing power imbalances within global health, to promote capacity building and to prioritize research, education and action** that are locally determined, led and owned. The initial focus of the Africa Hub has been research, and studies have been developed with a range of partners in Kenya, Malawi, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia, many of which are featured in this report. All research is jointly conceptualized and implemented with local partners, including civil society, universities and governments. Our range of partners has grown over the last year, and, in addition to new research and policy engagement, we are working towards introducing joint educational initiatives in the next year.



A May press release about IGH's Africa Hub spotlighted the Hub's COVID-related work, stretching from research around the emergence of zoonotic diseases to the linkages between gender inequalities and disease outcomes. The release was picked up by 339 outlets and widely circulated in African media.

IGH's long standing relationships developed through the Africa Hub have enabled the Institute to broaden and build out additional work on the continent. With funding from **Microsoft's Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Humanitarian Action Project**, IGH is working with the **Center for AI in Society, the Viterbi School of Engineering, and the Kenyan Ministry of Health** to help address malnutrition in children under five throughout Kenya. Leveraging data from the national health information system, along with remote sensing, weather and agricultural data, the team is developing a spatio-temporal machine-learning model to more accurately predict when and where food scarcity is likely to result in increased cases of malnutrition among children. Data from this AI model will inform a 'Food and Nutrition Dashboard' intended for use by the Ministry of Health, health facilities and civil society organizations, including IGH partners, to provide **targeted nutrition interventions throughout the country.**

The IIGH approach to global health emphasizes working across disciplines and **summoning engagement from all sectors of society to work towards common goals**. This past year, IIGH Director Sofia Gruskin spoke at a wide variety of events with diverse audiences bridging law, medicine, and community activism. Professor Gruskin's addresses at these fora prompted discussion around local and global community-driven health solutions with a focus on human rights, COVID-19, and abortion access. A sampling of these events include:

- The keynote address for Chapman University's **Fowler School of Law Diversity and Social Justice Symposium**, entitled "Current Concerns Bridging Health, Law, and Human Rights: from the Global to the Local".
- The inauguration of the Health Equity Lecture Series for **Harbor-UCLA Medical Center**.
- The keynote address at the Center for Clinical and Translational Science at the **University of Alabama** for their 2022 CEI Symposium – Rights to Health: Where do we go from here.
- The 2022 Students for Global Health Lecture Series at the **University of Cambridge**.
- A virtual keynote address titled "Health as a Human Right," for the 15th Annual Institute for Public Health Conference at the **Washington University in St. Louis**.

The IAS-Lancet Commission on Health and Human Rights is charged with bringing innovative ideas to the health and human rights field by interrogating key questions raised by complex transnational challenges including climate change, COVID-19 and other pandemics, and equitable access to vaccines, family planning and other health commodities. In her role as a Commissioner, IIGH Director Sofia Gruskin is engaged in determining **future legal, political and technical directions for the health and human rights framework** with an eye towards production of a report and recommendations in 2023. Over the last year, the Commission has met regularly in person and online, released several collective publications, and made presentations of their work – most notably at a plenary symposium held at the International AIDS Conference in Montreal.

Using a feminist, intersectional, decolonial, and political approach, the Lancet Commission on Gender and Global Health is engaged in research, evidence generation, advocacy, and public engagement to advance the world's **shared goals of gender equality and health equity**. Recognizing the pressing need for substantial, structural, and system-wide change to achieve gender equality and health equity by 2030, Professor Gruskin is working with other commissioners to shape a clear roadmap for change. This year, the Commission launched a new website to share its guiding principles and the work of the commissioners, produced a widely recognized series of events, discussions and publications, all leading towards construction of conceptual work, case studies, and ultimately a disruptive manifesto for global action.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE LANCET COMMISSIONS

Leading by collaboration

As an Institute we believe that working to address health inequalities necessitates collaboration across all sectors of society and working with a range of partners. In 2022, IIGH was invited to co-host the 13th annual **Consortium of Universities for Global Health Conference**, during which over 2,000 scientists, students, and implementers from academia, NGOs, government, United Nations, and the private sector presented research and discussed some of the most pressing health challenges our world faces. IIGH organized two important sessions at the conference highlighting human rights and inequalities concerns at the heart of global thinking and action: a plenary session entitled “Where Do Human Rights Fit in the Current Global Health Agenda?” which brought together key thinkers from around the world, and “(Un)Just Recovery: Using Global Norms to Enhance Local Efforts to Address COVID-Related Health Inequalities.”

28

**external USC faculty
involved in IIGH
research activities**

21%

**of IIGH publications in
2022 had external USC
faculty collaboration**

Global(HEALTH+LAW)

Supported by the USC Research Collaboration Fund since 2016, the **Law & Global Health Collaboration** advances scholarship and stimulates lectures and public discussions on significant global health topics that raise challenging legal issues. Based at IIGH but with a pan-university focus, the Collaboration this year worked with partners and faculty across USC schools and from around the world on the intersections of law and global health in the context of self-care technologies and abortion, with a focus on addressing challenges of access and care for the most marginalized.

Over the past year, we have significantly expanded the number and diversity of people who have been reached by the work of the Law & Global Health Collaboration. Despite the continued challenges presented by COVID-19, the shift to online events has allowed us to bring together speakers and participants from UN agencies and organizations around the world (particularly the Global South) alongside a multidisciplinary community of USC students, faculty, and staff. Through our online presence—in public lectures, panels, and symposiums—we have been able to stimulate interdisciplinary discussion and collaboration across and beyond USC at a greater scale than ever before. In this way, the Law & Global Health Collaboration Group has significantly strengthened USC’s position as a leading global resource on the intersections of law and global health.

The International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), founded in 1928, remains a key partner of IIGH, with a focus on promoting the scientific study of population and encouraging exchange between researchers around the globe. IIGH Director Sofia Gruskin has served as a Steering Committee Member on their **Scientific Panel on Population Perspectives and Demographic Methods to Strengthen Civil Registration and Vital Statistics** since 2019. In 2022, IUSSP and IIGH, alongside other partners, engaged in multiple collaborative activities ranging in topic from social norms and women's employment to sustainable human well-being, and sexual and reproductive rights. Most significantly, **IUSSP and IIGH, in partnership with the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of the Witwatersrand, and the Initiative for Social and Economic Rights in Uganda, created and launched the Population, Ethics, and Human Rights Fellowship** for exceptional early career professionals and scholars. With financial support from the International Development Research Centre, the fellowship is to begin in South Africa in February 2023, hosting fellows from Brazil, Cameroon and Uganda for a 12-month immersive experience.

The Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) is a nonprofit network of 60 universities in the Asia-Pacific. Hosted by IIGH and led by Dr. Mellissa Withers, the APRU Global Health Program aims to expand existing collaborative education and research efforts among Pacific Rim universities to address regional and global health challenges. Some key highlights of this year include:

- The new APRU Student **Global Climate Change Simulation**, a roleplaying exercise in which students formed multi-country, multi-disciplinary teams to play the role of delegates to the UN Climate Change Negotiations. The event featured 170 students from 18 universities in 10 economies, along with 16 expert speakers from UN Habitat, Adidas, the IMF, and more, as well as 24 expert facilitators on key topics such as oceans, clean energy, and reforestation.
- A 12-hour **Mini Certificate in Health Research Ethics**, in which over 500 students participated for free, and which included more than 30 expert speakers and facilitators to equip students to conduct ethical research.
- A new **Working Group on Humanitarian Emergencies and Health**, in partnership with the National University of Singapore. This group led a working group session at the APRU Sustainable Cities and Landscapes conference in Hawaii in October 2022.
- A total of 48 teams from 22 universities in 12 economies participated in the 2022 annual **APRU Global Health Virtual Case Competition**. The focus of the case was to build and strengthen the capacity of the health systems in Fiji to better respond to future public health threats, focusing on vulnerable populations.

Responding to today's urgent challenges



Since the unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine, IIGH Policy Director Jonathan Cohen, in partnership with Dr. Parveen Parmar, Chief of the Division of Global Emergency Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine, have been working with Ukrainian health reformers to highlight the inequitable effects of conflict on health and promote cross-learning between conflict-affected countries. Read more on page 26.



In collaboration with the **Uganda Virus Research Institute, Conservation Through Public Health**, and other local partners, IIGH is conducting research on neglected zoonotic diseases to understand and improve the use of a One Health approach to mitigate diseases such as Rift Valley Fever, Crimean–Congo Hemorrhagic Fever, Brucellosis, and their drivers. The IIGH team brings expertise to the partnership on the ways in which socioeconomic, gender, and law and policy influence how affected communities understand and respond to these diseases, as well as how these factors impact the incidence of disease. A review of identified drivers that lead to the transmission of infections can inform how prevention and control measures are designed, including the larger legal and policy concerns that affect implementation. The project's findings will help to put One Health into action in Uganda at the human, livestock and wildlife interface, and contribute to the evidence base for strengthened preparedness and response to other emerging zoonotic diseases and future pandemics in Uganda and beyond.

The growing movement to decolonize global health is part of a larger effort and discourse to decolonize our very futures, from health care to housing to the way we live and breathe. In March, at the invitation of students at **Cornell University's Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies**, IIGH Director of Policy Engagement Jonathan Cohen spoke at a global racial justice symposium on the topic of what health care could look like in a decolonized future. Prof. Cohen argued that to redeem ourselves from a colonial mindset in health care, we need to examine and center the ways in which Black and Brown communities have historically cared for each other, reinvigorate a movement for Health for All as the fundamental civil rights issue of our time, and end the economic co-dependency that lies at the root of global health and development.

Foregrounding equity in today's conversations...

USC IIGH has been at the forefront of raising awareness about the human rights and health equity issues around COVID and abortion. One of the ways in which the Institute accomplishes this aim is through frequent speaking engagements that bridge academia, policymakers, those in the public health field, and the general public. Recently, many of our conversations center on the ways in which health affects the enjoyment of our human rights by exploring the intersection of rights and health within the context of COVID-19 and *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. Read more about our 2022 events on pages 25-26.

and an attention to the global.

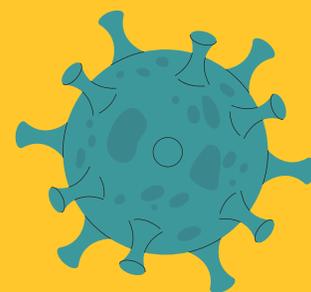
The Scientific Advisory Board to the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR SAB) acts in an advisory capacity concerning scientific, implementation, and policy issues related to the global response to HIV and AIDS. IIGH Director Sofia Gruskin is a longstanding member of the SAB, working closely with colleagues to ensure legal, human rights and gender issues are considered in all deliberations of the Board. In 2022, the SAB was delighted to welcome Dr. John N. Nkengasong as the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and Special Representative for Global Health Diplomacy at the U.S. Department of State. Much of the work of the Board this year focused on providing near-term and mid-term considerations for implementation of novel prevention interventions, including recency testing for surveillance, long-acting injectable cabotegravir (CAB-LA) for PrEP, and the dapivirine vaginal ring (DVR).

with an eye towards rights and justice...

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is one of IIGH's longest standing partners. Over the course of the year, IIGH Director Sofia Gruskin and Research Director Laura Ferguson engaged in research projects in partnership with UNDP relating to HIV and the law, including the production of four research briefs to inform policy and programmatic action. Drawing from this work, Dr. Ferguson was part of a UNDP-convened panel on 'Innovative strategies to counter criminalization and discriminatory laws' at the International AIDS Conference in Montreal, Canada, in July. Current efforts focus on a brief on mpox and human rights to help inform global, national and local responses.



spotlight: COVID-19



In 2022 we remained keenly focused on COVID-19 as the pandemic continued to affect communities around the world, with the gulf of vaccination rates persisting between countries and communities. Over the past year, we convened numerous events that examined the systemic inequities behind uneven vaccine rollout. We engaged in numerous activities which spotlit the need for increased attention to the uneven impacts of the pandemic across historically marginalized groups. For example, in partnership with **Reckitt Benckiser Group PLC**, we brought together high-level participants from across the world for a closed-door meeting focused on addressing vaccine education and access inequalities. Finally, IIGH faculty were published in leading scientific journals to assist in strengthening the discourse and expanding the evidence base around the human rights and health issues stemming from the COVID pandemic (see p. 38 for a full list of publications).

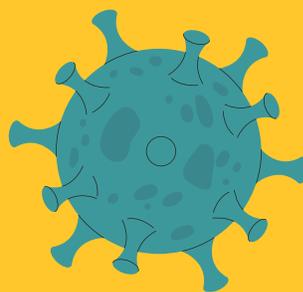
A sampling of the additional events we convened and contributed to include:

On April 21, IIGH and the USC Law & Global Health Collaboration hosted **Andy Imparato, Executive Director of Disability Rights California** and member of the **Biden-Harris COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force**, and **Rosario Galarza, Intersectionalities Officer for International Disability Alliance**. Imparato shared his work spearheading advocacy on crisis standards of care and vaccine prioritization for people with disabilities in the United States, and Galarza brought a global lens with a particular focus on strengthening the inclusion of women with disabilities and underrepresented identities in achieving vaccine access in countries around the world.

In partnership with the **Instituto de Estudos Avançados da Universidade de São Paulo (USP)**, and the **Department of Population and Public Health Sciences at the USC Keck School of Medicine**, IIGH co-hosted "The COVID-19 Pandemic is Not Only a Viral Event" to raise medical, health and human rights concerns and explore approaches to addressing new challenges in the control of the COVID-19 pandemic. This two-day conference brought together USC and USP colleagues, alongside other partners, to dialogue and debate on similarities and differences in Brazilian and US responses to address the social and political determinants of SARS -COV-2 infection and COVID-19 illness, vaccine and vaccine hesitancy, and medical issues including in addressing long COVID.

The COVID-19 pandemic has raised questions about the future of development financing in a world where pandemics defy borders and hierarchies between rich and poor nations. In April, the WHO Council on the Economics of Health for All convened an expert consultation in Washington DC to gather input on a U.S.-backed proposal for a **Financial Intermediary Fund on Pandemic Preparedness**, to be housed at the World Bank. Attending the meeting on behalf of IIGH, Policy Director Prof. Jonathan Cohen argued that to be effective, the FiF must embrace a model of inclusive governance in order to ensure that all countries have the ability to decide key questions of eligibility, prioritization, and allocation of funds.

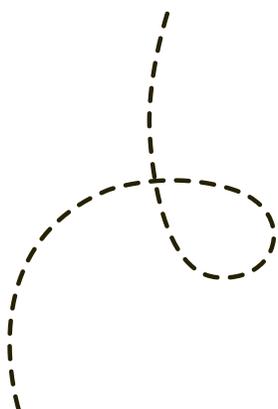
"Vaccine Justice: COVID-19, Human Rights and Equity" at Occidental College brought together IIGH Director Sofia Gruskin, Research Director Laura Ferguson and Policy Engagement Director Jonathan Cohen for a conversation about how we can best move beyond the failed framing of COVID-19 as simply a "public health emergency" to a full recognition of **COVID as a human rights emergency** which must be prioritized. Held in person in March, the event brought together students and faculty from across the Occidental community, and focused on the range of issues to be addressed to achieve vaccine equity, including the underlying vulnerabilities to ill-health caused by systemic violations of cultural, economic, political and social rights.



Expanding the evidence base

In 2019, the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** collected data from governments around the world on laws and regulations that guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health and rights. These data provided useful insights into laws and policies on paper but do not capture their impacts, nor the extent to which these laws are implemented. To begin to address these issues, **IIGH carried out case studies with partners in Colombia, Malawi, Uruguay and Zambia** regarding implementation of these laws and regulations and to advance recommendations as to how to make best use of a supportive SRH-related legal environment.

Each individual case study will be published alongside an overarching article to extrapolate lessons learned for other settings, with efforts to support countries in better implementation of supportive legal environments.



IIGH's continued dedication to identifying challenges and opportunities at the intersections of health, gender and rights includes recent research on maternity protection policy advocacy. Since last summer, IIGH has worked on an assessment of efforts by **Alive and Thrive (A&T)**, a global initiative managed by FHI Solutions, regarding policies on paid maternity leave and workplace lactation in Indonesia, Nigeria, the Philippines and Vietnam. IIGH carried out a mixed methods study to learn lessons about A&T's advocacy work, focusing on identifying the factors affecting the success of policy advocacy across these contexts. A final report was produced to help equip A&T to continue its leadership in this field and **strengthen its support to local government and civil society actors in advancing the health and rights of women and families**. Currently, IIGH's engagement with A&T focuses on maternity protections seeking broader impact through a working journal article informed by the learning assessment to offer advocacy lessons for the broader Maternal Infant and Young Child Nutrition community.

While peace is critical within any community, there is limited evidence about peacebuilding interventions in terms of what works, what the impacts are, and how best to allocate resources. Furthermore, there are currently no agreed upon standard indicators, methodologies, or tools peacebuilders can use to understand and measure their individual or collective efforts to sustain peace and/or prevent violence. With funding from USAID, and in partnership with Search for Common Ground, Amref Health Africa, and several other key partners, this research led by IIGH Education Director Shubha Kumar seeks to understand and **measure the impact of peacebuilding interventions**, specifically those that are youth-led or youth-supporting, using a novel approach – social return on investment (SROI) analysis. This study is pioneering the SROI approach in this sector, through a pilot study in collaboration with peacebuilding organizations in Kenya.



The Program on Global Health & Human Rights (GHHR), an integral component of IIGH, is at the forefront of expanding research in the field of health and human rights, including developing tools for analysis, programmatic intervention, monitoring and evaluation. Led by IIGH Director of Research Laura Ferguson, GHHR works to identify how human rights-based approaches to health make a greater positive difference to the lives of individuals and populations in a variety of areas, including HIV, sexual and reproductive health, child and adolescent health, One Health, and health systems strengthening. **GHHR emphasizes the conceptual, methodological, policy and practice implications of linking health to human rights**, with particular attention to women, children, gender issues and vulnerable populations.

This spring, IIGH began the second phase of work with the World Health Organization (WHO) on the **Global Policy Survey**, a project to help improve laws and policies globally around sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (SRMNCAH). In 2020, during Phase One of this project, IIGH had validated survey responses from 101 countries in all major UN languages using the legal documents these countries uploaded to support their responses. This year, IIGH worked with WHO to enhance the methodology of the global survey, advising on ways to improve its administration and design to help ensure accurate and complete reporting. IIGH is currently developing a **methodology for conducting country-level legal and policy dialogues relating to SRMNCAH on the basis of this survey data**. In the coming months, this methodology will be pilot tested and scaled up in order to support countries to use the data they report through this global survey to strengthen their national legal and policy environments.



Despite billions of dollars of annual expenditure in global health, and despite the realities of population aging around the world, the U.S. does not sufficiently and equitably target older adults in its global health programs. To help address this gap, Professor Cohen has joined the 2022–2023 cohort of the prestigious **Health and Aging Policy Fellowship Program**. The highly competitive program selects up to 15 fellows annually for placement with a U.S. federal agency or Congressional Office to work on policies related to an aging society. As a fellow in the Program’s global track, Prof. Cohen will work to integrate aging-related policy into U.S. investments in global health.

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

In October, IIGH researcher Dr. Michelle Anderson presented her research as an invited presenter at McMaster University Centre for Human Rights and Restorative Justice’s conference on Truth Commissions: Issues of Access and Ownership. Truth Commissions are one mechanism utilized within transitional justice and peacebuilding processes to investigate and document gross human rights violations against civilians. Despite the proliferation of truth commissions over the last 30 years, there is a lack of consensus around best practices for access and ownership of conflict data and narratives. Rapidly increasing data democratization calls for investigations of the benefits of access to this type of information, as well as the related risks and ethical considerations. Dr. Anderson’s findings on the long-term implications of access to archives of conflict data and testimonies of violence in the South African context seek to inform **a rights-based approach to digital archiving in conflict and post-conflict settings in service of inclusive and sustainable peace**.

Convening critical conversations



On February 8th, IIGH hosted a conversation with **Dr. Helene Gayle, president and CEO of The Chicago Community Trust, and current President of Spelman College**, about the work she has led in Chicago and around the world to address the most significant challenges to the health of poor and vulnerable communities. Dr. Gayle shared the initiatives she's led most recently in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including encouraging vaccine uptake in hard-to-reach and hesitant communities and catalyzing neighborhood investment to revitalize disinvested communities in ways that have had long-lasting impacts.

As an institute, we are committed to the power of making space for dialogue that brings together players from all sectors of society. Closing the chasm between the right to health and the billions of people globally to whom that ideal bears little reality requires the engagement of governments, multilateral bodies, corporations, and everyday citizens. IIGH routinely convenes representatives from these spaces for discussion around the pressing issues of our time, both through our in-house events and through our partnerships with other institutions.

2,519

attendees at USC IIGH events in 2022



As part of our commitment to integrating student opportunities and education into everything we do, USC IIGH hosts "lunch and learn" events, which emphasize student engagement on a range of topics with experts from the field. "Addressing Healthy Aging as a Human Rights Issue", our first Lunch & Learn of the year, featured IIGH Director Sofia Gruskin in conversation with Director of Policy Engagement Jonathan Cohen, who shared how his work on health and human rights led him to the aging field, research he's conducted on sexual and gender diversity in aging, and what the fields of global health and population aging can learn from each other.

HEALTH, RIGHTS, AND CONFLICT IN UKRAINE

The devastating health consequences of conflict are not experienced equitably, and can often be better understood and addressed within a health and human rights framework. Countries affected by conflict have much to learn from each other about adapting their health systems to mass displacement, civilian casualties, war crimes, and other effects of conflict. This year, IIGH Policy Director Jonathan Cohen, in partnership with KSOM Chief of Global Emergency Medicine Dr. Parveen Parmar, have been working with Ukrainian health reformers to **highlight the inequitable effects of conflict on health and promote cross-learning between conflict-affected countries.**

On April 19th, IIGH, in partnership with the USC Department of Population and Public Health Sciences, hosted a conversation about the consequences of unprovoked war on health and equality in Ukraine and beyond. The conversation brought together Tetiana Stepurko from the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in Ukraine, alongside global experts Michele Heisler (Physicians for Human Rights), Michel Kazatchkine, (Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria), and Zaher Sahloul (MedGlobal). Following this event, IIGH and a small group of Ukrainian health reformers convened a closed-door meeting with experts from Afghanistan, Serbia, and Syria to exchange knowledge about **adapting health systems from conflict, including carrying out rights-based health reforms.** The meeting produced a set of recommendations that can help to inform reconstruction and health reform efforts in Ukraine and beyond.

SELECT IIGH 2022 EVENTS

From the Global to the Local: Public Health, Poverty Alleviation, Gender Equality and Social Justice

Why Should Californians Care About Global Health?

Using Data to Advance the Science of Health Disparities: A Global, Multi-Level Perspective on Self-Care Interventions for Health and Well-Being

Acting on Equity: U.S. Foreign Policy and the Future of Global Health

Conflict, Response and Health Equity through the Lens of Ukraine

COVID-19, Disability, and the Law: Addressing Health Equity

Community Consultations and Mural Unveiling in Partnership with Reckitt and the Weingart East Los Angeles YMCA

Ending Inequalities, Ending AIDS, and Preventing New Pandemics in the Americas

Learning from Our Histories: Activism in a post-Roe World

Abortion Services and Access in a post-Roe World

Embedding Equity in U.S. Global Health Financing and Diplomacy

Engaging with Law and Politics in a post-Roe World

Addressing Healthy Aging as a Human Rights Issue

IIGH Student Symposium 2022

Addressing the Long-Term Social and Economic Impacts of Dobbs: A View from Inside USC

The Health and Human Rights Oral History Project Launch

Shaping public policy

23

organizational
collaborators in our
policy-focused work

In the past year, IIGH has stepped up its policy engagement with government officials, particularly in Washington DC, where equity has gained traction in the U.S. government's domestic and foreign policy. **Our policy engagement leverages our research and teaching to engage officials on concrete ways to embed equity and equality into policies, financing, programs, and diplomacy impacting health.** Through public events and brokering policy dialogues, we are providing a platform for health equity advocates from around the world to pose questions and convey recommendations in dialogue with influential policy officials. **We connect global, national and local actors, convening spaces in which countries and communities can learn from each other in a spirit of cooperation, outside the economic, political, and racial hierarchies that too often pervade the field of global health.** The year has included a series of policy events aimed at engaging U.S. officials in issues of advancing health equity within U.S. global diplomacy, programs, and investments.

CENTERING HEALTH EQUITY

While health has ascended in the U.S. foreign policy space in recent decades, health equity has not yet enjoyed such an ascent. In March, IIGH Director of Policy Engagement Prof. Jonathan Cohen delivered a public lecture outlining a new concept of Global Health Equity Diplomacy. This new paradigm would require **a different justification for the place of health in foreign policy, as well as new set of priorities and programs for U.S. global health.** Prof. Cohen's lecture anchored a series of IIGH events aimed at applying the equity agenda to U.S. foreign policy in health, including panels with U.S. officials and targeted policy engagement on issues such as the Financial Intermediary Fund for Pandemic Preparedness and Response.

In October, IIGH convened a conversation with global health equity leaders from the **U.S. government (Representative Barbara Lee and Assistance Secretary for Global Affairs Loyce Pace)**, the **World Health Organization (Pascale Allotey)** and **Kenyan civil society (Allan Maleche)** to discuss and capitalize on the historic opportunity offered by the Biden-Harris administration to embed equity into U.S. global health investments and diplomacy. Participants discussed what it means in practice to position health equity as a U.S. foreign policy priority.



LINKING THE LOCAL TO THE GLOBAL

IIGH has embraced its role as a nexus for furthering conversations and awareness around the links between global health issues and what happens in the state of California. In February, **IIGH hosted California Congressional representatives Judy Chu and Katie Porter** for a dynamic conversation which included attention to why California voters and taxpayers should pay attention to the issue of global health. The conversation bridged global health priorities with the local needs of people in California and across the United States with a focus on COVID-19, illustrating the far-reaching effects of federal U.S. action on population health within Southern California and in countries beyond the U.S.



49

scientific committees,
policy advisory
committees and panels
with IIGH participation

On April 19, IIGH Policy Engagement Director Jonathan Cohen participated in “**An Accountable Global Health Financing Fund: Ensuring Equity, Fairness and Sustainability,**” a closed-door roundtable hosted by the G20 Health and Development Partnership and Prof. Mariana Mazzucato, Chair of the WHO Council on the Economics of Health for All. The roundtable aimed to support the activities of the newly created G20 Joint Finance-Health Task Force and discussions on how to best achieve the goals set out in the G20 Leaders Communique in Rome in October 2021.

USC IIGH has partnered closely with leading activist organizations **Intersex Australia** and **GATE** to expand the evidence base and bring increased attention to the health and human rights issues of “sex normalization surgeries” on intersex infants. In collaboration with the **World Health Organization**, we co-authored a narrative synthesis that presents a comprehensive summary of the literature on surgeries on intersex infants and children and supports discussion on how best to serve the needs, rights, and health of intersex people. This report is intended to support community consultations in the coming year, which will seek to determine a path forward to address the health and rights issues raised by these surgeries.

The nexus between climate change and migration produces the greatest suffering among those least able and equipped to withstand its effects. In January, the **Keck Human Rights Clinic** joined dozens of organizations in calling on the Biden administration to align its border policy with its responsibility to climate refugees.

As outlined in a letter to the administration, the administration’s policy of preventing migration through deterring border crossings needlessly and cruelly exposes migrants to the effects of climate-induced extreme heat, causing severe health complications and death. IIGH advised the Keck Human Rights Clinic on their letter and on **strategies for engaging government officials on a more humane approach to the southern border.**



spotlight: Dobbs decision

Abortion is health care and health care is a human right. The overturning of Roe v. Wade in June 2022 was a significant blow to addressing inequalities in the United States and beyond, **and a call to action.** Since the decision came down, IIGH has been intensely focused on **leading efforts to mobilize action on reproductive health and rights** beginning locally in Los Angeles, and extending out to the global, as we anticipate the potential repercussions to sexual health and rights beyond our borders. IIGH faculty have published widely on the realities of abortion provision in a post-Roe world, and the Institute will continue to serve as **an incubator for new research, knowledge-sharing, and as a partner for those most impacted by the Dobbs decision.** Finally, we have placed increased attention on creating space for students to come together and strategize on the actions they can take to advocate for abortion services and provision in California and beyond. Our commitment to addressing the health and human rights issues of abortion provision will continue into the coming year.



FALL 2022 LECTURE SERIES: SEXUAL HEALTH AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

1. To kick off the 2022–2023 IIGH Lecture Series, we hosted activist, scholar, and MacArthur Fellow **Loretta J. Ross** for the event “Learning from Our Histories: Activism in a post-Roe World”. This discussion focused on the **importance of abortion as both a health and a human rights issue prior to the 1973 passage of Roe v. Wade**, during the several decades when abortion was legal, and now given the recent Supreme Court decision.



2. In October, IIGH convened a virtual panel of **clinicians, civil servants, and activists focusing on the provision of abortion services in Los Angeles and across the United States**, including states with laws that severely restrict access, such as Indiana and Texas. Discussants considered the realities of abortion provision in a post-Roe world, including the options available to individuals whether they are seeking medical or in-clinic abortion services, with attention to the legality of abortion provision in different states and across state lines. With medical evidence as its starting point, this panel contributed to **a broader understanding of the changing landscape of inequalities in health and health outcomes** within and between cities and states in the United States brought about by the Supreme Court’s recent ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization.

IIGH convened a virtual discussion that brought together practitioners, activists and scholars engaged in addressing the current legal and political landscape around abortion in the United States and beyond. Panelists provided insight into state differences in legal restrictions, political action seeking to secure access in this complex legal environment, and the implications of the US Supreme Court’s recent decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization for securing access in other parts of the world.

3.

Engaging with Law and Politics in a post-Roe World
OCT. 19, 2022 // 11 A.M.–NOON PDT
A Virtual Dialogue with:

- Aziza Ahmed**
Professor of Law, Boston University School of Law
- Lourdes Rivera**
Senior Vice President, U.S. Programs, Center for Reproductive Rights
- Jodi Jacobson**
Senior Director, Foundation Relations, Movement Voter Project and Movement Voter Fund
- Eszter Kismödi**
Chief Executive, Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters

Keck School of Medicine of USC
GEMS Center for Gender Equity in Medicine & Science
Global (HEALTH · LAW)
USC Institute on Inequalities in Global Health

4. Finally, IIGH brought together a multidisciplinary panel of faculty from across USC to discuss the broad **social and economic implications of the US Supreme Court’s decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization**. Informed by the outcomes of the midterm elections, USC experts provided insight into the current political landscape and the **potential long-term ramifications for marginalized and vulnerable communities**. In conversation were Manuel Pastor, Director of the Equity Research Institute; Parveen Parmar, Chief of Global Emergency Medicine at Keck; Daria Roithmayr, Professor of Law at the USC Gould School of Law; and John Blosnich, Director of the Center for LGBTQ+ Health Equity.

Championing student engagement

NCD ALLIANCE

Each May, the World Health Assembly (WHA) convenes in Geneva to discuss global health priorities for the year ahead. IIGH has traditionally attended each year, bringing USC students to participate in all aspects of WHA activities in partnership with the NCD Alliance. For this year's Assembly, as travel was still on hold, **IIGH offered three students the unique opportunity to provide virtual support to the NCD Alliance by monitoring discussions on non-communicable diseases and helping to inform their global and regional advocacy agendas.** The students also published blogs for the NCD Alliance and for IIGH about the Assembly and their experiences engaging with it.

One student, Ezi Ogbuli, summarized her experience, noting that *"WHA75, for me, was a stellar introduction to the ins and outs of high-level international meetings. From the rich discussion by Member States to the notable achievements and humor of the Assembly meeting, I was inspired and given hope that the future of global health would be in good hands."*



112
students

ACROSS

18
schools



The **IIGH Student Advisory Council (SAC)** comprises a multidisciplinary group of undergraduate and graduate students from across the university who serve as valued advisers to the Institute. Serving on the IIGH Student Advisory Council offers a unique community and skills-building experience for students across all USC schools engaged in and pursuing careers at the intersections of health and inequality. **This year's cohort comprises 14 students representing 11 different undergraduate and graduate programs**, and is co-chaired by Gaea Morales, a PhD student with the Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, and Jessica Santos, who is receiving her B.S. from the Viterbi School of Engineering and her MPH from Keck School of Medicine. Over the course of the academic year, SAC members actively inform, shape and improve student engagement and programming at IIGH, gaining valuable experience and access to a distinguished network of researchers, policymakers and advocates addressing inequalities in global health around the world.

The **2022 Global Health Case Competition** had the participation of 100 students, including undergraduate, graduate, medical and PhD students, representing most schools across USC. On Feb. 18, a total of 20 teams pitched their projects addressing the key obstacles to COVID-19 vaccine distribution and hesitancy to an expert panel of 19 judges drawn from academia, philanthropy, policy and implementation science. Teams presented innovative and diverse solutions to the case challenge seeking to address vaccine equity in various communities across the globe: eight teams focused on Nigeria; six focused on Brazil; and six focused on the city of Los Angeles.

Congratulations to our first-place winner, ReadySetGo, who presented a community-centric approach to combating misinformation and mistrust and increasing vaccine accessibility in Nigeria.





FOCUS ON THE SDGs

Since 2018, IIGH has engaged with the application of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to the City of Los Angeles, often working in partnership with the LA Mayor's office and partners at other local universities. In the past year, these efforts have included a mechanism to measure the impacts of COVID-19 relief and recovery funds on social justice and equity, as well as understand the impacts of policy and potential solutions on the most impacted communities within Los Angeles county. This year, USC students, staff, and faculty built upon previous work by IIGH and partners to develop issue briefs on key SDG-related social justice indicators in LA, followed by an evidence-based consideration of potential points for action, which were shared with our community partners.

Our ongoing focus on the localization of SDGs in LA also informs a forthcoming book chapter, which will appear in an edited volume focusing on the agenda of SDG Goal 16 to advance peaceful, just, inclusive societies through city-level case studies. This work will help advance understanding of sustainability using a local-global approach informed by city-level data, analyses, and practice, bridging the divide between domestic and international work on reducing inequality and inequity.

In June, IIGH was invited to present this work at the Hague as a part of the annual World Justice Forum, where our ongoing efforts in LA were highlighted alongside work in Pittsburgh, Atlanta, Toronto, Washington DC, and the Hague.



Training the next generation of leaders



Justine Po (MD '25) assisted investigators at the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) in Kenya, investigating COVID-19's impact on care for patients with chronic diseases and solutions proposed by patients and providers. She plans to continue working with APHRC throughout the school year, supporting the establishment of a network of breast cancer survivors and the creation and implementation of cancer survivorship guidelines tailored to the local context.



BREMAN GLOBAL HEALTH FELLOWSHIP

This summer, the highly competitive IIGH Breman Global Health Immersion Fellowship was awarded to two USC students to support their work addressing global health inequalities abroad.

Abigail Kim (MPH '23) assisted the Youth Public Health Ambassador Community Health Assessment research study in the Lira district of northern Uganda; facilitated meetings between the youth public health ambassadors and Ugandan policymakers in Kampala; and worked on strategies to creatively and effectively disseminate their findings at the local, district and national level.

Our partnership with UNU

IIGH works closely with the United Nations University International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH), the designated UN think tank on global health. In translating evidence to policy, generating policy relevant analysis and strengthening capacity for local decision-making, this collaboration advances evidence-based policy on a range of key issues relevant to gender, human rights, sustainable development and global health.

This year, at the request of KSOM Leadership, IIGH, in collaboration with the **Division of Global Emergency Medicine**, launched the first online Pre-Departure Training course designed for all KSOM students traveling overseas and/or to border regions. The course is aimed at **optimizing students' short-term experiences in global health, providing in-depth training on how they can best prepare for such experiences**, including modules and case scenarios designed with our partners around the world testing key concepts they may encounter in these contexts. Led by **Education Director Shubha Kumar**, this course is the first of its kind and was developed based on a comprehensive review of existing literature and curricula across universities and with input from key stakeholders, including our host partners, students, alumni, faculty, leadership and experts in the field. Initial feedback from students taking the course has been extremely positive, and the rollout over the next year is highly anticipated.

LAGHC 2022

Part of IIGH's founding mission was to bring global health to Los Angeles, and we continue to do so through a variety of engagements that comprehensively confront the broad spectrum of health-related disparities that exist in our communities, and which draw linkages to the larger global conversations at play. For many years, USC IIGH has worked in partnership with the UCLA Global Health Program to co-sponsor the **Los Angeles Global Health Conference (LAGHC 2022)**. A student-run conference, with active leadership from the USC IIGH Student Advisory Council and other students from across USC, **LAGHC in 2022 brought together more than 500 students from colleges and universities across Southern California** to highlight ongoing local and global efforts in developing health systems, partnerships and climate change mitigation.





Institute on Inequalities in Global Health



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