

Introducing the *ANNALS OF GLOBAL HEALTH*

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Global health is one of the grand challenges of the 21st century. As the world becomes smaller, more densely populated, increasingly urbanized, and more closely interconnected, it is more critical than ever that physicians, scientists, and medical researchers have knowledge and understanding of key issues in global health. New infectious diseases emerge from remote corners of the planet and spread worldwide with astonishing rapidity. Toxic pesticides no longer tolerated in North America or Western Europe are exported to Nigeria, Honduras, and Indonesia. Cancer, birth defects, and infertility result, and the pesticides come back to us on tomatoes, bananas, and cut flowers. Electronic images of McDonald's, Budweiser, and Joe Camel flash worldwide to persuade youngsters in Cambodia, Bolivia, or Malawi that they must have a hamburger, a beer, or a cigarette. Centuries-old diets and traditions erode. Obesity, diabetes, lung cancer, and heart disease follow.

Grave disparities in health status and in the availability of health care between rich and poor nations pose further threats. Those threats are hugely magnified by global climate changes, natural disasters, war, forced migration, and violations of human rights.

Global health has become an increasingly important focus of education, research, and clinical service in medical schools and universities. Driven by rapidly growing student and faculty interest and by societal recognition of the importance of the field, the number of academic global health programs in North American institutions has grown from a handful 5 years ago to more than 80 today, and another 30 have formed in academic health centers in countries around the world. Many of these new programs are interdepartmental and university-wide in scope. They support educational tracks for medical students as well as master's level, doctoral, and postdoctoral training. Some have developed formal partnerships in research and education with medical schools and health care institutions in low- and middle-income countries. Global health has become a focus of intense interest at the US National Institutes of Health, and National Institutes of Health Director Francis Collins has named global health one of his top priorities. An international scholarly society, the Consortium of Universities for Global Health, has formed and now has more than 120 members and affiliates worldwide.

To meet the new challenges of global health, we are pleased to announce the launch of the *Annals of Global Health*. The *Annals of Global Health*, formerly *The Mount Sinai Journal of Medicine*, is a respected, peer-reviewed journal published continuously for the past 79 years by the Mount Sinai School of Medicine (now the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai). The journal has been listed in Index Medicus since its beginning, and with an Impact Factor of 1.986, it is currently ranked no. 40 of the 151 journals in the General and Internal Medicine category, placing it in the top 25% in this field.

Founded in 1934 as *The Journal of The Mount Sinai Hospital*, under the editorship of Joseph H. Globus, MD a pioneer neuropathologist, the journal focused initially on the hospital's own outstanding work. Over subsequent decades, and under a series of distinguished editors—Solon S. Bernstein, MD, Lester R. Tuchman, MD, David A. Dreiling, MD, Sherman Kupfer, MD, and Leslie Kuhn, MD, the journal became national and then international in its scope and reputation. In 1968, after the founding of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, it was renamed *The Mount Sinai Journal of Medicine*. Penny A. Asbell, MD, FACS, MBA, served with great distinction as editor-in-chief from 2007 to 2012. Dr. Asbell turned the focus to translational research and oversaw a doubling of the journal's impact factor. We thank Dr. Asbell for her service.

In renaming the journal and refocusing its editorial mission and goals, we hope to publish authors from many institutions, many countries, and many disciplines. *Annals of Global Health* will advance knowledge of global health and improve the health of people in countries around the world by disseminating new information, critically analyzing complex issues, and offering authoritative guidance on policy issues.

Annals of Global Health will be an open-access, peer-reviewed journal. There will be no subscription fees to individuals or to libraries either in the United States or abroad. The journal will be accessible without cost to physicians, scientists, and concerned citizens in countries worldwide, including low- and middle-income countries and countries with distressed currencies. The Journal will be sustained by user fees to be paid by our authors, but we will waive these fees for authors from low income countries and countries with distressed currencies. Another change is that the journal will be purely electronic. There will be no paper edition. The journal's new publisher will be Elsevier. In 2014, the journal will publish six issues.

Annals of Global Health will consider health and disease in all countries. It will focus especially on the health problems of developing and transitional economies and on the health issues of disadvantaged and low-income communities in all countries. The journal has a particular interest in publishing articles that critically examine the social determinants of health and disease and those that elucidate the connections between health and human rights.

Annals of Global Health will consider reports on a wide range of topics in global health that include infectious and neglected tropical diseases, chronic non-communicable diseases, environmental health, mental health, health economics, health policy, and health education and capacity building. We invite epidemiologic analyses, reports of intervention trials, program evaluations, strategic discussions of new directions in health policy, and analyses of ethical issues in global health.

Each issue of *Annals of Global Health* will have a distinct focus and will include approximately 10 articles and features, including Original Research, State-of-the-Art Reviews, Editorials, Commentaries,

Viewpoints, Expert Consensus, and Recommendations, White Papers, and Letters to the Editor. An Editor's Page will discuss the importance of one major article in each issue. The inaugural issue will cover cardiology, and will be followed by an issue focusing on mental health.

Transforming a journal can be a perilous exercise. But some ventures are too important to ignore, and it is our conviction that the topic of global health requires the kind of attention that only a first-rate journal that is open to all can provide. We respectfully salute our colleagues and fellow journals that currently publish on this topic, but we believe that our editorial commitment will add significantly to science and make a difference in health on a global scale.

We invite authors to submit their manuscripts to *Annals of Global Health* via <http://ees.elsevier.com/aogh>. Readers may access the journal at <http://www.elsevier.com/journals/annals-of-global-health/2214-9996>. We welcome your comments and suggestions; please feel free to contact us. We hope you will join us in our efforts to improve health for all.