



18th Annual CHOP Pediatric Global Health Conference

**Transforming Global Health:
Storytelling and Science in Advocacy**

**Friday, October 23 –
Saturday, October 24, 2026**

CHOP HUB for Clinical Collaboration

Course Overview

The 18th Annual CHOP Pediatric Global Health Conference, “Transforming Global Health: Storytelling and Science in Advocacy,” will convene a diverse community of clinicians, researchers, advocates and global partners to explore how narrative and evidence together drive meaningful change in child health. Through dynamic presentations, real-world case studies, and multidisciplinary discussions, the conference will highlight the power of stories to humanize challenges, elevate underrepresented voices, and strengthen advocacy efforts worldwide. Participants will examine innovative ways to communicate science effectively, translate research into action, and champion equitable, child-centered solutions across global contexts. This gathering offers an inspiring forum for learning, connecting and collectively advancing progress in global child health.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of the conference, participants will be equipped to:

- Understand how stories and advocacy shape funding priorities, public opinion and policy implementation
- Develop clear messages for patients, families and policymakers to counter misinformation
- Identify trusted community voices that can be leveraged to promote evidence-based health information
- Translate personal stories into advocacy, legislative or institutional action
- Co-create narratives that advance global child health with the community, rather than extracting stories from it

Target Audience

Physicians, advanced practice nurses, nurses, social workers, communications specialists, content creators, allied health professionals, medical writers, mental health professionals, public health professionals, researchers, human rights activists, educators, policymakers, trainees, students, and anyone working in or interested in global health or public health.

Accreditation Statement



In support of improving patient care, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

Designation of Credit

Physicians: Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia designates this live activity for a maximum of 11 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Nurses: This program provides 11 ANCC contact hours.

Cancellation and Refund Policy

Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia reserves the right to cancel or postpone any course due to unforeseen circumstances. In the event of cancellation or postponement, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia will refund any registration fees, less a service charge, but is not responsible for any related costs, charges, or expenses to participants, including cancellation charges assessed by airlines/travel agencies. To process refunds for course withdrawals, cancellations must be received in writing by Monday, October 12, 2026. Please email cmeoffice@chop.edu. No refunds will be issued thereafter.

Services for People With Disabilities

Participation by all individuals is encouraged. If arrangements are required for an individual with special needs to attend this meeting, please contact the **CHOP CME Department at 215-590-5263** at least two weeks in advance so that we may better serve you during the conference.

Lactation Facilities

Each office floor of The HUB, has a lactation room. Lactation rooms are also available in the Buerger Center, which is adjacent to The HUB. Please contact the CHOP CME Department at cmeoffice@chop.edu at least two weeks in advance so we may ensure the rooms remain accessible on the weekend day of the conference.

General Information and Registration Fees

The registration fee includes registration materials, continental breakfast, lunch, breaks and dinner. The conference syllabus will also be available online.

Physicians.....	\$225
Other Healthcare providers.....	\$145
Students (in-person or virtual).....	\$25
Virtual for High-Income Countries.....	\$75
(According to World Bank Rankings)	
Virtual for Low- and Middle-Income Countries.....	\$0
(According to World Bank Rankings)	
Optional Post-Conference Dinner.....	\$45

Preregistration is required. Registration is limited; register early to secure your spot.

Register now: chop.cloud-cme.com



PROGRAM

Friday, October 23, 2026

OPTIONAL PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS

BUILDING NURSING CAPACITY WORLDWIDE: INNOVATIVE APPROACHES & STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Location: The HUB

8:30 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. Welcome
Sally Poliwoda, MPH, BSN

9:05 a.m. Keynote: Building Nursing Capacity Worldwide
Deva-Marie Beck, PhD, RN, DTM, HSGAHN

9:20 a.m. Lightning Talks
Moderator: Sally Poliwoda, MPH, BSN

*Meghan Botes, PhD
Susan Solecki, DrPH, FNP-BC, PPCNP-BC & Marcia Gamaly, PhD, RN, CEN, CBN
Lisa Morrissey, MPH, MSN, RN, NE-BC
Carmen Alvarez, PhD, CRNP, CNM, RN
Stephen Abane, BSN, RN
Ardith Aspaas, BSN, RN
Irene Pelaelo, RN
Alexandra Sawick, MSN, RNC-NIC, CBC*

10:15 a.m. Panel Discussion and Q & A

10:45 a.m. Summary & Closing Remarks

11:00 a.m. Adjourn for Networking Lunch

IMPACT OF CONFLICT ON CHILD HEALTH

Location: The HUB

12:30 p.m. Registration

1:00 p.m. Impact of Conflict on Child Health
Moderator: Vinay Kampalath, MD, MSc, DTM&H

*Bethany Ellis, MPP
Aqsa Durrani, MD, MPH
Kathryn Falb, ScD, MHS
Katia Vieira de Moraes LaCasse, MD, MPH
Molly Knight Raskin*

3:00 p.m. Adjourn

Friday, October 23, 2026

GLOBAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Location: The HUB

- 3:30 p.m. Registration
- 4:00 p.m. Welcome
Jordan Orange, MD, PhD
- 4:15 p.m. Global Health Youth Stories
Moderators: Marissa Olson, MPH & Piper Kaplan
- 4:45 p.m. Keynote Addresses
Moderator: Alexandra Sawick, MSN, RNC-NIC, CBC

Using Stories, Science and Advocacy to Advance Child Health in Ghana
Anthony Enimil, MB ChB, MPhil

Grassroots to Global: My Story as an Advocate for Global Health
Deva-Marie Beck, PhD, RN, DTM, HSGAHN
- 5:45 p.m. The Dr. Ingrid Japa Top Oral Abstract Presentations
Moderators: Elizabeth Lowenthal, MD, MSCE & Bianca Nfonoyim Bernhard, MD
- 6:45 p.m. Interactive Dinner
- 8:00 p.m. Adjourn

Saturday, October 24, 2026

GLOBAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

Location: The HUB

- 8:00 a.m. Welcome
Joanna Parga-Belinkie, MD, IBCLC
- 8:05 a.m. Keynote Addresses
Moderator: Joanna Parga-Belinkie, MD, IBCLC

The AAP and Its Role in Modern Advocacy for Children
Mark Del Monte, JD

My Story as a Health Advocate
Edith Bracho-Sanchez, MD
- 9:30 a.m. Poster Walks and Coffee Break
- 11:00 a.m. Spotlight Session – Creative Warriors Advancing Global Health Equity
Moderators: Fares Marayati, MD, MSc & Maria Dunn, DO

Evan Thornburg, MAUB
Dorothy Novick, MD
Matthew Kerr, BEd
Joel Bervell, MD
- Noon Lunch

- 1:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions – Transforming Global Health:
Storytelling and Science in Advocacy**
- Breakout A: Once Upon a Time: Using Stories to Advance Global Health**
Moderator: Keri Cohn, MD, MPH, DTM&H
- Stories from the Front Lines to Advocacy**
Tanya Haj-Hassan, MD
- Media as a Force for Public Health**
Aubrey Whelan, BA
- Harnessing the Power of Community to Advance Global Health**
Idris Robinson, DrPH, MPH
- Breakout B: Data-to-impact: Sharing Science to Advance Global Health**
Moderator: Vanessa Denny, MD, MS
- Using Data to Change Neonatal Practice in China**
Huayan Zhang, MD
- Using Science to Make NICUs in Botswana Safer**
Jonathan Stryko, MD, MSc, IBCLC
- Podcast Power – Sharing Science Online**
Angelarosa DiDonato, DNP, CRNA
- Breakout C: Advocacy Toolbox – How to Up Your Advocacy Impact Factor**
Moderator: Tyler Rainer, MD, MSHP
- My Tips and Tricks to Up Your Advocacy Impact**
Edith Bracho-Sanchez, MD
- Pediatricians Using Podcasts as an Advocacy Tool**
Katie Lockwood, MD, MEd
- Ideas On How to Be a More Effective Advocate for Your Patients**
Andre Ford, PhD
- 2:00 p.m. Coffee/Tea Break**
- 2:15 p.m. Takeaway Toolkit**
Moderator: Adelaide Barnes, MD
- Keri Cohn, MD, MPH, DTM&H*
Vanessa Denny, MD, MS
Tyler Rainer, MD, MSHP
- 2:45 p.m. Conference Resolutions**
Moderator: Nancy Etzel, MBA, MSN, CRNP
- Anthony Enimil, MB ChB, MPhil*
Shiloh Sziy, BSN, RNC-NIC
Bianca Nfonoyim Bernhard, MD
- 3:15 p.m. Closing Remarks**
Andrew Steenhoff, MBChB, DCH
- 3:30 p.m. Adjourn**
- 6:00 p.m. Post-Conference Dinner (Optional)**

Unless otherwise noted, faculty is from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and/or the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

Planning Committee

Adelaide Barnes, MD

Medical Director, Global Pediatric Education

Associate Program Director, Pediatrics Residency Program

Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

Alejo Carbajal Jr., MPH

Global Health Partnership Coordinator

Center for Global Health, University of Pennsylvania

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Director, Pediatric Emergency Medicine – Global Health Fellowship & Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

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Professor, Clinical Anesthesiology and Critical Care

Maria Dunn, DO

Pediatric Hospitalist, Dominican Republic Lead Pediatrician

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NeoSurgery APP Manager, Newborn/Infant Intensive Care Unit

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Executive Director of Global Health Initiatives

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Ghana - CHOP Partnerships Co-Lead Pediatrician & Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

Jeremiah Goldstein, MD

General Pediatrician, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, Philadelphia

Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Drexel University College of Medicine

Planning Commitete (continued)

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Practice Assistant Professor of Nursing

Family and Community Health Department

University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing

Jianghong Liu, PhD, RN

Professor of Nursing & Faculty Director of Global Health Minor

University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing

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Symposium Course Director

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Medical Director, Global Health Center & Professor of Pediatrics

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Clinical Research Assistant, Indigenous Health Unit

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Director, Acute Care Global Health Fellowship

Associate Director of Global Health, Division of Emergency Medicine

Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

Faculty

Stephen Abane, BSN, RN

Charge Nurse, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Talensi District Hospital, Tongo, Ghana

Carmen Alvarez, PhD, CRNP, CNM, RN

*Associate Professor & Associate Dean for Global Engagement
University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing*

Ardith Aspaas, BSN, RN

*Nurse Consultant, Maternal and Child Health Program
Office of Clinical and Preventive Services, Indian Health Service*

Deva-Marie Beck, PhD, RN, DTM, HSGAHN

International Co-Director, Nightingale Initiative for Global Health (NIGH)

Joel Bervell, MD

Science Communicator & Host of “The Dose” podcast with the Commonwealth Fund

Meghan Botes, PhD

Senior Lecturer, Nursing Education, University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), South Africa

Edith Bracho-Sanchez, MD

*Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Columbia University Department of Pediatrics &
Pediatric Hospitalist, Columbia University Irving Medical Center, New York City*

Mark Del Monte, JD

Chief Executive Officer/Executive Vice President, American Academy of Pediatrics

Vanessa Denny, MD, MS

Pediatric Critical Care Attending

Angelarosa DiDonato, DNP, CRNA

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University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing*

Aqsa Durrani, MD, MPH

Board President, Médecins Sans Frontières, USA

Bethany Ellis, MPP

Executive Director, Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict

Anthony Enimil, MB ChB, MPhil

*Consultant Pediatric Infectious Disease Specialist, Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital,
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Kathryn Falb, ScD, MHS

*Assistant Professor, Center for Humanitarian Health, Department of International Health
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore*

Andre Ford, PhD

*Executive Administrator, The COLOURS Organization & Vice Chair, Community Advisory Board
(CAB) of the Penn Center for AIDS Research (CFAR)*

Marcia Gamaly, PhD, RN

Assistant Clinical Professor, Drexel University, Philadelphia

Faculty (continued)

Tanya Haj-Hassan, MD

Pediatric Intensivist

Vinay Kampalath, MD, MSc, DTM&H

Assistant Professor & Academic Fellow, University of Geneva

Piper Kaplan

2024 Youth Arts Competition Winner

Matthew Kerr, BEd

Co-Director/ Founder of Beyond the Bars (Community-based Music and Resource Connection Program)

Molly Knight Raskin

Freelance Journalist, PBS

Katie Lockwood, MD, MEd

Attending Physician and Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

Elizabeth Lowenthal, MD, MSCE

*Global Health Research Director & Attending Physician
Professor of Pediatrics*

Fares Marayati, MD, MSc

Pediatric Resident

Lisa Morrissey, MPH, MSN, RN, NE-BC

*Senior Director, Nursing & Patient Care Services
Hematology/Oncology/Stem Cell Transplant, Boston Children's Hospital*

Bianca Nfonoyim Bernhard, MD

Pediatric Emergency Medicine – Global Health Fellow

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Professor of Pediatrics and Director, Gun Safety Program, Center for Violence Prevention

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Pediatrician-in-Chief & Chair of the Department of Pediatrics

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*Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Co-host of the AAP podcast “Pediatrics on Call”
Co-founder of Pediatric Health Chat at CHOP*

Irene Pelaelo, RN

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Department of Nursing Science
Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Botswana*

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Clinical Nurse Expert, Former Global Health Nurse Fellow

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Health Ethics and Access Officer/Bioethicist

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