

JCIRP Achieves Global Reach and Local Impact



Drs. Elizabeth Krebs (center) and Stanton Miller (second from right) are analyzing crashed motorcycle helmets from Rwanda with the support of medical students from University of Rwanda (UR) and Sidney Kimmel Medical College (SKMC): Emmanuel Mashyaka (UR MS5), Jules Iradukunda (UR MS6), Alex Rugamba (UR MS4), Myles Dworkin (SKMC MS4/MPH), Kelly Kaneza (UR MS4). Dr. Krebs aims to expand the bidirectional medical student exchange program between UR and SKMC that was initiated in 2006 by Dr. James Plumb, now the director of the Jefferson Center for Urban Health.

Since its launch in 2014, the Jefferson Center for Injury Research and Prevention (JCIRP) has been designed on the model for Injury Control Research Centers (ICRCs) put forth by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As one of just 30 ICRCs in the U.S., JCIRP remains committed to addressing the challenges outlined in the CDC Injury Research Agenda for 2009-2018 and the Pennsylvania Injury Prevention and Control Plan.

"We are making great strides in fostering interdisciplinary collaboration across campus and community borders – all with the goal of saving lives and reducing disability," says Stanton Miller, MD, MPH, Clinical Assistant Professor and Executive Director, JCIRP.

Battling the Firearm Violence Crisis

In Spring of 2017, Dr. Miller and Charles J. Yeo, MD, FACS, Chair of Surgery at Jefferson, reached out to Philadelphia Health Commissioner Thomas Farley, MD, MPH, to pose an earnest query: What can we, as a Department of Surgery, do to help combat gun violence?

The initial meeting planted the seed for what became a daylong symposium, Code Red: Battling the Plague of Gun Violence, on June 21, 2018. More than 300 healthcare professionals attended the event, which so far has prompted the formation of two city-wide committees in conjunction with Commissioner Farley's office. One is focusing on firearm violence and gun control policy formulation; the other, with Dr. Miller as a co-chair, is devoted to the formal scientific study of firearm violence and its prevention.

Investigating Motorcycle Crashes in Rwanda

Elizabeth Krebs, MD, Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, first visited Rwanda in 2009 as a fourth year medical student at Jefferson. Despite nearly 100 percent helmet use compliance, motorcycle crashes are a predominant cause of brain injuries in Kigali, Rwanda. Dr. Krebs and some engineering colleagues wondered if these helmets could be optimized to more effectively prevent traumatic brain injuries. They began to investigate the possibility of a motorcycle helmet specifically tailored to conditions commonly encountered in the developing world.

Dr. Krebs, who returned to Jefferson last year as faculty, won a Dean's Transformational Science Award in support of her research and Jefferson's growing global health presence. With Dr. Miller as a co-investigator and support from JCIRP, the study aims to investigate motorcycle crash dynamics, resultant injuries and the damage sustained by the helmet. The goal: to help engineers understand the forces most commonly impacting the head that a helmet must be designed to mitigate.

Support of this research highlights Jefferson's growing commitment to global health and "Medicine+" elements within our JeffMD curriculum, which encourages interdisciplinary collaboration and cross-fertilization of knowledge domains to enrich the education of healthcare providers. The coming year will bring new global initiatives, such as the Jefferson Consortium for African Partnerships (JCAP), bi-directional student and faculty international exchanges and

collaborations with architecture and engineering colleagues on the Jefferson East Falls campus.

Eakins Writers' Workshop

Dr. Miller says that in shaping JCIRP, he wanted it, at the core, to be a serious center for formal scientific research in injury science. Yet he also didn't want it to lose its humanity: "In the end, we're talking about people's lives and the disability caused by and life lost from injury."

The Eakins Writers' Workshop, a medical humanities initiative within JCIRP and the Department of Surgery, provides a forum for capturing stories of injury. The workshops are being led by writing faculty from Jefferson – East Falls Campus, with initial sessions focused on telling stories from the perspectives of healthcare providers who care for the injured. Preliminary plans are taking shape for a publication called *Evanescent*, where these stories can be featured.

"Over time, we want to expand the workshop to patients, families and friends, as well," Dr. Miller says. "We want to craft and publish stories from all perspectives. It's about documenting people's experiences – and helping them heal."

If you have interest in research related to injury prevention and control, please contact Dr. Miller via email at Stanton.Miller@jefferson.edu or by phone 215-503-1016. Dr. Krebs can be reached via email at Elizabeth.Krebs@jefferson.edu for inquiries related to global health.

Awards & Accomplishments

Geno Merli, MD, is the 2018 recipient of the Sidney Kimmel Medical College Career Educator Award.

Drs. Melissa Lazar, Joshua Marks, David Rittenhouse, and Alliric Willis, each received a Sidney Kimmel Medical College Dean's Award for Excellence in Education.

Scott Cowan, MD, was appointed Medical Director of Quality and Safety at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital.

Gerald Isenberg, MD, has been named *President-Elect* of Thomas Jefferson University Hospital Medical Staff.

Lisa Bevilacqua, MD (PGY1), received the Patricia Numann Medical Student Award from the Association of Women Surgeons (AWS). Named in honor of the founder of AWS, this award was established to encourage and support female medical students pursuing a career in surgery.

Alec Beekley, MD, has been selected to serve as Director of the Division of Minimally Invasive, Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery.

Warren Maley, MD, has been selected to serve as Director of the Jefferson Transplant Institute and Division of Transplant Surgery.

Francesco Palazzo, MD, is Editor of the recently published textbook *Fundamentals of General Surgery*. **Michael Pucci, MD**, contributed significantly to the publication.

Gary Rosato, MD, was elected Vice President of the prestigious Halsted Society at the 92nd Annual Meeting at Stanford University in September.

On October 3, **Gerald Isenberg, MD**, and **Orlando Kirton, MD**, were inducted as Associate Members into the inaugural class of the Academy of Master Surgeon Educators, established by the American College of Surgeons.