

**Interdisciplinary Professional Collaboration: from Global to Classroom,
Student Engagement**

Researchers:

- Dr. Cheryl Hickey, Department of Physical Therapy, Fresno State
- Dr. Helda Pinzon-Perez, Department of Public Health, Fresno State
- Dr. Leslie Zarrinkhameh, Department of Physical Therapy, Fresno State
- Ashley Aliotti, MPT, DPT, Fresno State
- Hatice Alkan, MPT, DPT, Fresno State
- Barbara Chan, MPT, DPT, Fresno State
- Brittany Person, MPT, DPT, Fresno State
- Kimberley Voelz, MPT, DPT, Fresno State

Background

Over a three year period two departments at Fresno State, in the College of Health and Human Services, (Public Health (PH) and Physical Therapy (PT)) began establishing a globally focused initiative, using collective efforts, to identify and address key health problems that could be solved with a faculty/student based approach. To date, this global initiative includes the following participating countries, the United States, Ecuador, The Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Uganda, and Colombia. In conjunction, two teleconferences hosted by Fresno State have been held under the leadership of Dr. Pinzon-Perez with support of the CHHS International Committee and in assistance and participation of her PH 135 students. In Fall of 2013 PH and PT faculty joined to address some identified health issues in Gulu, Africa.

Results

PH faculty visited Gulu and disseminated a needs questionnaire. Results of the data and the physical visit lead to PT students in the joint Doctoral Program devising a five year Master Plan which included the mission, intent and specific educational goals that both PH and PT could address. In Spring of 2014 under the supervision of Dr. Hickey, the first educational module on Pulmonary Health and Wellness was created by the Doctoral students as part of their PHTH 294 course. Efforts to tread inter-professional collaboration with a global emphasis through our students' curriculum, continue.

Future

This fall 2014, PT doctoral students will begin planning and producing the next education module on Ebola and infectious diseases, through their course under the leadership of Dr. Zarrinkhameh. In addition, it is planned that dissemination of these two educational modules to individuals in Gulu and the additional five participating countries, will take place in spring of 2015 via telecommunication methodology as part of PH and doctoral course work.