



**Arnold School of  
Public Health**  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

# Spring 2024 Newsletter

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The purpose of our Global Health Newsletter is to disseminate the global health research, education, and outreach of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

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## Faculty Spotlight

*Matthew Haldeman, MD, Clinical Instructor of Family and Preventive Medicine*



**Tell us a bit about yourself, your career, and how it led you to USC.**

*Hello everyone! My name is Matthew Haldeman; I'm an academic Family Medicine physician with USC/Prisma Health.*

*After finishing medical school at Ohio State, I completed residency in Greenwood, SC, after which I worked as a hospitalist and did rural ER work in Edgefield, SC. But my true passion was tropical medicine and global health! So, I completed my certificate in tropical medicine during that time, and I later came to USC for a fellowship in Global Health, which I completed from 2017-2019. During that time, I lived/worked in Tanzania, where I undertook a research project on antibiotic stewardship. I also gained skills in point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) during this time. I left USC at the end of 2019, as I was sponsored by a non-profit organization, Seed Global Health, to travel to Lusaka, Zambia, where I lived for 2.5 years and helped start that country's first residency program in Family Medicine. In August 2022, I returned to USC/Prisma Health Family Medicine as a faculty member, but my work in global health has continued.*

**How would you describe your current global health work?**

*I am currently involved in a variety of global health projects! I am still very connected to my colleagues in Zambia, and travel there to support the team there once/year. My research interests focus around POCUS in low-resource settings, as well as tropical medicine. I am currently leading a project in Zambia, looking at the utility of POCUS for young children with severe acute malnutrition. In addition, I am collaborating with Dr. Nolan from USC's Arnold School of Public Health on a project here in SC—looking for cases of a parasitic roundworm, *Strongyloides stercoralis*. Finally, I am collaborating with a colleague from University of Minnesota to examine the use of POCUS as a risk stratification tool among patients with dengue fever...we'll see where it goes!*

**What other global health activities are you involved in?**

*I continue to support the growth of Family Medicine in Zambia, and I'm also part of a task force looking to start the first Family Medicine residency in Tanzania. I also continue to work with Seed Global Health, serving as their Associate Director of Family Medicine. Finally, I am the Director of Global Health Projects for the Global Ultrasound Institute—most recently I've helped implement a Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation-funded project, helping to train 1000 midwives in sub-Saharan Africa in basic obstetric ultrasound skills.*

**What advice would you give to current students interested in your field?**

*I'd encourage students interested in Global Health to find a mentor! Find someone who is doing what you're interested in, and ask that person to mentor you. I was mentored by several key individuals in my career so far, and their guidance has been priceless for me!*

**Any additional thoughts you would like to share.**

*I would encourage all students looking into Global Health—don't be afraid to think big! Global Health is a field where even one person can make enormous impact!*

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## **Postdoctoral Fellow Spotlight**

*Mariam El Amin, PhD, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders*



**Tell us a bit about yourself, your education, and how it led you to USC.**

*I'm a speech language pathologist from Lebanon where I practiced as a clinician before being awarded the Fulbright scholarship to pursue my graduate studies in the United States.*

*Therefore, I worked on developing my research skills to diversify the research on child language development. I am currently completing a postdoctoral research fellowship at the South Carolina Research on Language and Literacy Lab (SCROLL) with Dr. Suzanne Adlof.*

**How would you describe your current global health research?**

*My research focuses on expanding the global science of communication sciences and disorders research. To do so, I have two intersecting research objectives: 1) expanding language assessment and intervention practices for multilingual speakers, 2) increasing access, transparency, and diversification of science in communication sciences and disorders (CSD) through open science practices. Additionally, I am interested in how public health policy and the context families are in impacts language development identification. For my dissertation study, I examined the child directed speech of Lebanese Arabic speaking mothers in Lebanon. I am interested in expanding my research scope to examine Arabic speakers in the United States.*

**How has your time at USC prepared you for your future career path?**

*As a postdoc at the SCROLL lab at USC, I have gained experience in different research methodologies such as experimental study design and systematic literature reviews. Additionally, I was able to expand my understanding of the literature as it relates to the home literacy environment and Developmental language disorder overlap with dyslexia. I also gained experience with secondary data analysis and working on large-scale data collected in the schools. These skills will*

*prepare me for a research career in the future!*

**What do you recommend to current students at USC that are interested in global health?**

*I would recommend that students make use of their time at USC and reach out to faculty who have experience working in global health and see if they can get research experience working with them. Additionally, I would recommend that students attend the global health talks organized by the department as it's a great way to interact with speakers with lived experience in different countries and healthcare systems.*

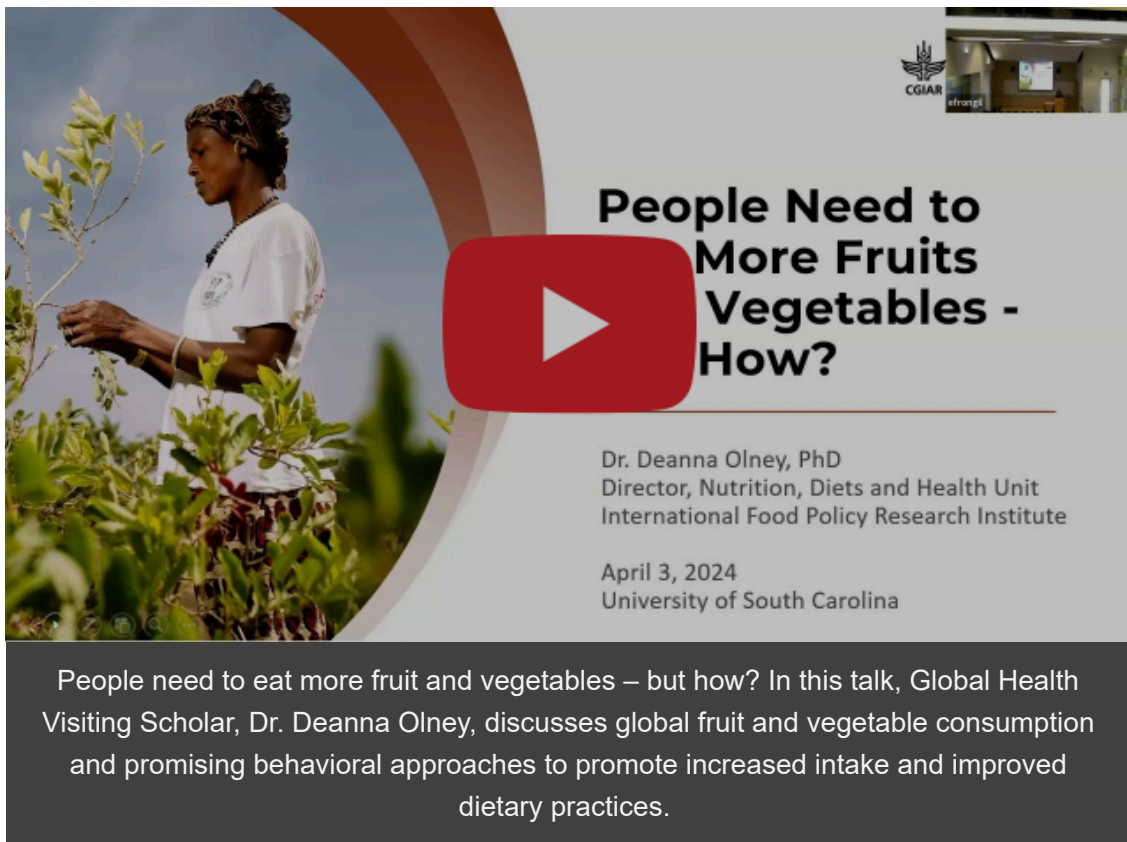
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## **Highlighting Global Health Work at USC**

As we continue to build our semester newsletters, it would be helpful to get your suggestions on individuals (faculty, staff, students, or alumni) that we should highlight. If you know of anyone at or affiliated with USC who is currently doing global health work that you recommend we reach out to, please email [emkenney@email.sc.edu](mailto:emkenney@email.sc.edu).

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## **Global Health Events**



**People Need to More Fruits Vegetables - How?**

Dr. Deanna Olney, PhD  
Director, Nutrition, Diets and Health Unit  
International Food Policy Research Institute

April 3, 2024  
University of South Carolina

People need to eat more fruit and vegetables – but how? In this talk, Global Health Visiting Scholar, Dr. Deanna Olney, discusses global fruit and vegetable consumption and promising behavioral approaches to promote increased intake and improved dietary practices.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND GLOBAL HEALTH FORUM: PRESENTERS NEEDED



Each year, the ASPH enrolls around 100 international students who have diverse backgrounds, varied experiences, and come from a variety of countries. We want to hear from you! We are seeking international students who will volunteer to make 15–20-minute presentations on any aspect of public health improvements or challenges related to their home country.

If interested, please contact Victoria Adebisi ([vadebisi@email.sc.edu](mailto:vadebisi@email.sc.edu)).

Each year, the ASPH enrolls around 100 international students who have diverse backgrounds, varied experiences, and come from a variety of countries. The International Student and Global Health Forum is a place for students to present their international interests and expertise in global health.

We want to hear from you! We are seeking international students who will volunteer to make 15–20-minute presentations on any aspect of the public health improvements or challenges of their home country. Please email Victoria Adebisi ([vadebiyi@email.sc.edu](mailto:vadebiyi@email.sc.edu)) if you are interested in presenting. Also, join the Global Health Student listserv for updates on events, opportunities, and more.

**Join the Student Listserv**

## Recent Publications

Aggarwal A, Zhang R, Qiao S, Wang B, Lwatula C, Menon A, **Ostermann J, Li X**, et al. Stigmatizing clinical setting erodes physician-patient interaction quality for sexual minority men through perceived HIV stigma and HIV infection concerns in Zambia. *AIDS Care*. 2024;0(0):1–10. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09540121.2024.2324288>

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**Faculty Directory update** – we've recently updated our [Global Health Faculty Directory](#). If you would like to be included in the directory, please email [emkenney@email.sc.edu](mailto:emkenney@email.sc.edu).

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