



# 10th Summer Institute on Migration and Global Oakland, California, U.S.A. June 22 - 25, 2015 Final Report

Berkeley



UC GLOBAL HEALTH INSTITUTE  
University of California



MAHRC  
MIGRATION AND HEALTH  
RESEARCH CENTER  
University of California



Although migration is not a recent phenomenon, the study of the causes and repercussions that migration has on the health of the migrants, as well as on the populations in the countries of origin, transit and destination, is a relatively new area of interest. While the topic of migration and health has gained increasing interest in the past decade, there are serious limitations in terms of the amount and quality of evidence available to properly assess and manage migration flows and migrants' complex health issues, including problems related to access and utilization of health services.

Since 2006, the Health Initiative of the Americas (HIA) of the University of California Berkeley, School of Public Health, in conjunction with the Center of Expertise on Migration and Health (COEMH) of the UC Global Health Initiative (UCGHI), and the Migration

and Health Research Center (MAHRC), has organized and hosted the Summer Institute on Migration and Global Health (SIMGH), an annual four-day conference dedicated to exploring these issues. This year's key partners also included: the UC Center of Expertise in Women's Health and Empowerment, the Research Program on Migration and Health (PIMSA), the Iniciativa Binacional Zacatecana de Salud (IBIZA), and the Consulate of Mexico in San Francisco through its "Ventanilla de Salud" program.

The main objectives of the Summer Institute on Migration and Global Health are to:

- 1) Develop partnerships among researchers, junior faculty, students, health professionals and other stakeholders, working on migration and health issues.
- 2) Share existing and expand new methodologies to address opportunities and challenges on research and public health practices of mobile populations.
- 3) Engage in training and practical education of junior researchers on topics related to migration and global health.



Students and health professionals listen to the plenary session.

The **10th Summer Institute on Migration and Global Health** took place from June 22 to 25 in Oakland, California.



Stefano Bertozzi, Dean of the School of Public Health UC Berkeley, gives the opening remarks.

A total of 112 people attended, including professionals working in the field of migration and health, researchers, academic faculty, students, and providers of medical and social services to migrant communities. They represented 35 organizations and handful of participants traveled internationally from Mexico, Spain, China, Japan, Switzerland, Lebanon, and Great Britain. Thirty-three speakers from national and international organizations such as the International Organization for Migration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Mexican Secretariats of Health and Foreign Affairs, as well as several respected professors from universities in the U.S. and around the globe conducted lectures and workshops. The University of California campuses were represented by 22 students and 13 faculty members.

### **Process: the issue from different angles**

The 10th Summer Institute was structured in four parts: Plenary presentations, thematic workshops, junior researchers and PIMSA workshop, and a field trip.

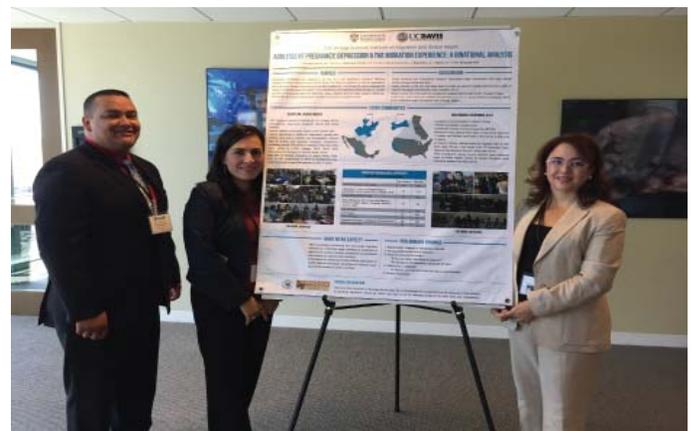
### **Key Note Presentations**

Morning sessions were dedicated to plenary presentations that provided a broader perspective of the current situation that migrants face around the world, as well as government efforts that are taking place to address those challenges.

The main topics addressed by world experts were:

1. Global perspective and current actions on migration, human mobility and health
2. U.S. and Mexican government efforts addressing migrant health
3. Access to healthcare for migrant populations in the United States
4. Climate change, environmental migration, health and human security
5. Migration and mental health
6. Women and Migration

Thanks to collaboration with the UC Center of Expertise in Women's Health and Empowerment, and the participation of national and international researchers, a full day of the Summer Institute was dedicated to presentations focused on the challenges and vulnerabilities that women experience as part of the migratory process. Presentations discussed the situation that migrant domestic workers face in Lebanon; sex trafficking, migration and health among adolescents in Central America and Mexico; the Indian immigrant nurses working in the U.S. and the implications for health disparities; and the latest global studies in human trafficking and health.



One of the PIMSA funded research groups present their findings during the poster session.

### **Thematic workshops**

During the afternoon sessions, simultaneous workshops were offered to participants covering different methodologies proven to be useful when researching and working with mobile populations.

By dividing the audience into smaller groups and allowing between 90 minutes to 3 hours per workshop session, participants were able to engage in a more in depth discussion and participate in practical exercises according to the subject. The main topics covered during the fourteen workshops were:

1. Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods in Global Migration
2. Community-based Participatory Research
3. Outreach and Health Promotion
4. Public Policy
5. Mental Health
6. Occupational Health

### Junior researchers and PIMSA workshop

The Summer Institute also hosted the sixth annual Center of Expertise on Migration and Health (COEMH) workshop for University of California students. The purpose of this workshop is to engage junior researchers on topics related to migration and global health. During a daylong session, ten UC students had the opportunity to present their ongoing research and receive feedback from UC faculty, experts and peers. Final papers were collected and will be published in a peer reviewed journal. Furthermore, three binational research groups, funded by the Research Program on Migration and Health (PIMSA), presented their findings.



Councilmember Gil Cedillo receives the Migration and Global Health Award.

### Field Trip



Participants enjoy the ferry trip from Oakland to San Francisco.

On the final day of the Summer Institute, participants were brought to the Mexican Consulate in San Francisco where they visited the “Ventanilla de Salud” (VDS, or “Health Window” for its English translation). Participants were able to observe first-hand this program that has become a model of excellence in many Latin American consulates in the United States, providing health information and preventive services to their constituents who visit the consulates on a daily basis. Representatives from the Mexican Consulate as well as the Tiburcio Vazquez Health Center, the organization that runs the program at the San Francisco Mexican Consulate, provided a comprehensive presentation of the program, and participants were given the opportunity to ask questions and learn how this health model operates.

### Migration and Global Health Awards

As part of the celebration of the 10th anniversary, the “Migration and Global Health Awards” were presented to four individuals whose work has had a tremendous impact on the health of the migrants. The awardees were: Dr. Robert Ross, President of The California Endowment; Councilmember Gilbert Cedillo, from Los Angeles city District 1; California Assemblymember Luis Alejo, representing the 30th District and Chair of the California Latino Legislative Caucus; and Dr. Paula Leite from the Policy Migration Unit at the Mexican Secretariat of Government.

## Networking opportunities

The event also organized social activities including a welcoming reception on the first day at a lively lounge in Oakland, and a night out in San Francisco on Wednesday evening, which entailed a ferry trip to the beautifully restored San Francisco Ferry building from Oakland's historic Jack London Square, dinner at Fisherman's Wharf, and strolling along the Embarcadero in front of the famous San Francisco skyline. These non-academic spaces allow for excellent networking opportunities among the participants and speakers, helping to accomplish one of the objectives of the Summer Institute, which is to enhance and strengthen the network of professionals working on migrant health issues around the world. Summer Institute organizers distributed a contact list of all participants and speakers to encourage post-Institute communication and collaboration.



Participants receive certificates of completion.

## Some comments from participants

*"Thank you very much for bringing all the great presenters. I learned great information that I will apply to my work with the migrant community."*

*"It was a wonderful opportunity to meet and interact with professionals from other states and countries working in migrant health issues. I might even start a collaboration with one of them."*

*"It was awesome. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present my work and receive wonderful feedback from people that have a lot of experience in this arena."*

## Conclusions

After ten years, the Summer Institute on Migration and Global Health has become one of the most important events worldwide on the topic of Migration and Health, and the only one that includes different perspectives and approaches to discuss and analyze this issue. Participants benefit from the information presented, and the opportunity to meet and interact with other professionals working on similar areas. This event is contributing to better understand the complexity of migration and health, to form better researchers in the arena, and ultimately to reduce the health disparities that the migrant populations face around the world and in the United States in particular.

To find more information about the 10th Summer Institute on Migration and Global Health, including program, Power Point presentations, photos and video, please visit HIA's website. ([hia.berkeley.edu](http://hia.berkeley.edu))

## Funding

The event was possible thanks to the generous contribution of the following organizations: The UC Center of Expertise on Migration and Global Health; UC Center of Expertise in Women's Health and Empowerment; The California Endowment; and IBIZA.

Funding for this conference was made possible in part by a grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.