

Institute for Global Health Center for Global Cardiovascular Health

We seek to improve global cardiovascular health and healthcare across the spectrum of disease prevention.

Cardiovascular diseases are the leading cause of death and disability across the globe. Out of 54 million deaths each year, one-third, or 18 million, are caused by some form of cardiovascular disease. As of 2015, there are an estimated 422 million individuals worldwide living with prevalent cardiovascular diseases, with 7 million fatal heart attacks and 9 million fatal strokes each year. Eighty percent of these cardiovascular events are occurring in low- or middle-income country settings where they are also more likely to occur prematurely (in individuals younger than 70 years).

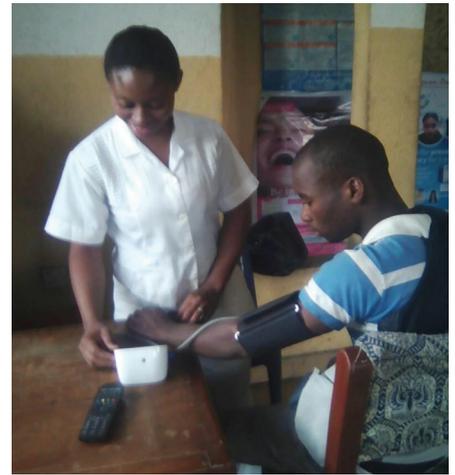
The **Center for Global Cardiovascular Health** within the Institute for Global Health aims to bridge the gap between the world we live in today and the world we aim to get to tomorrow.

Imagine a world where:

- Every person who has an acute cardiovascular event receives timely, high-quality care no matter where they live;
- Individuals with cardiovascular disease are supported to optimize their health behaviors and adherence to simpler, lower-cost medications that are tailored to their needs;
- The food supply supports cardiovascular health; and
- Almost no one uses tobacco.

This picture is very different than the world in which we live—where individuals who have acute cardiovascular diseases receive highly heterogeneous care, where most individuals with cardiovascular disease take zero medications to prevent a recurrent event, where the food supply is rife with junk food, and where 20 percent of the world uses tobacco.

These gaps fundamentally drive the Center for Global Cardiovascular Health’s vision and collective actions. This global problem requires a global, transdisciplinary, comprehensive, and coordinated solution that spans the entire spectrum of prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation to reach every person on the planet. The United Nations has set a goal of reducing the risk of premature death from chronic diseases—like cardiovascular diseases—by one-third by 2030. The Northwestern Center for Global Cardiovascular Health aims to use implementation, health systems, and health policy research, training, and action to build and strengthen partnerships with collaborators in high-burden areas to equitably improve global cardiovascular health and health care, especially within the context of primary health.



Non-physician-based blood pressure monitoring in Abuja, Nigeria.



“What will it take to get us from where we are now to a world where ideal cardiovascular health and healthcare are normative? This fundamental question drives the Center for Global Cardiovascular Health’s vision and collective actions.”

Mark Huffman, MD, MPH, '11 GME, Director, Center for Global Cardiovascular Health, the Quentin D. Young Professor of Health Policy, and Associate Professor of Preventive Medicine in the Division of Epidemiology and of Medicine in the Division of Cardiology



Our center’s activities and ambitions provide a roadmap to achieve this goal and ultimately end cardiovascular diseases.

- Achieve tobacco endgame where less than 5 percent of the world’s population uses tobacco.
- Improve the healthfulness and sustainability of the global food supply.
- Develop, test, contextualize, and scale novel, effective, and efficient strategies for global cardiovascular disease prevention and control, including medicines that simplify care, support from non-physician health workers, and technology-based environmental surveillance systems and low-cost interventions applicable to both US and international settings.
- Create training and knowledge networks for world-class cardiovascular care anywhere in the world by leveraging resources and expertise from both Northwestern University and Northwestern Medicine.
- Learn, develop, test, and implement new scalable research methods, diagnostics for rapid phenotyping, and interventions through collaborative breakthrough research with a broad range of scientists including faculty, trainees, and staff at Northwestern University and its partners.
- Improve the quality and safety of cardiovascular care in low- and middle-income countries through research and training in implementation science, health systems strengthening, and health policy.
- Train the next generation of global cardiovascular scientists, practitioners, administrators, policymakers, and leaders from the United States and abroad.



Lisa Hirschhorn, MD, MPH, serves as associate director of the Center for Global Cardiovascular Health. She is professor in the Departments of Medical Social Sciences and Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and faculty in the Center for Prevention Methodology and Third Coast Center for AIDS Research.



2017 World Heart Federation Emerging Leaders seminar on essential medicines hosted by University of Cape Town, South Africa.

Please Join Us in Partnership

We invite interested friends to join us in embracing the tremendous potential of the Center for Global Cardiovascular Health. Your support will enable the center’s passionate efforts led by our dedicated faculty physicians and scientists. The following funding opportunities are available to accelerate the center’s exciting trajectory.

Endowing and Naming the Center for Global Cardiovascular Health	\$10 million
Endowing and Naming Professorships	\$3 million
Establishing Research Innovation Funds at the Center	\$500,000+
Supporting High-Impact Initiatives at the Center through Endowed and Expendable Gifts	\$10,000+