



## features

### Peruvian Team Welcomes New Project Coordinator

The Peruvian team has renewed its activities and is pleased to introduce its new Project Coordinator, Ines Bustamante. A psychologist holding Masters degrees in both Public Health and Health Science, Ms. Bustamante is currently a doctoral candidate at the JHU Mental Health Department. She is an Associate Professor at the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia's School of Public Health and Director of both the Adolescent Health Research Unit and the Master of Public Health program at the same school. Ms. Bustamante has carried out multi-site research projects involving several Latin American countries and interventions for the prevention of STIs, HIV/AIDS, drug use and unwanted pregnancies. In addition, she has experience developing training modules for healthy lifestyle promotion in urban and rural settings. The project will greatly benefit from Ms. Bustamante's expertise and she is looking forward to working with and supporting the Peruvian team in its research endeavours.



### Ananda Galappatti Wins 2008 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Emergent Leadership

In August, Sri Lankan TGH team member, Ananda Galapatti, was awarded with the 2008 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Emergent Leadership, which he describes as "an acknowledgement of the considerable work that many practitioners in Sri Lanka have undertaken over the past 15-20 years." Ananda is being recognized for "his spirited personal commitment to bring appropriate and effective psychosocial services to victims of war trauma and natural disasters in Sri Lanka." Sometimes described as "Asia's Nobel Peace Prize", the Ramon Magsaysay Award recognizes individuals "who address issues of human development in Asia with courage and creativity, and in doing so have made contributions which have transformed their societies for the better." Created in 2000, the Award for Emergent Leadership honours men and women who are forty years of age and below. For a biography of Ananda Galapatti, please visit <http://www.rmaf.org.ph/Awardees/Citation/CitationGalappattiAna.html>



## CONTENTS

*features* .....p.1

*in brief* .....p.4

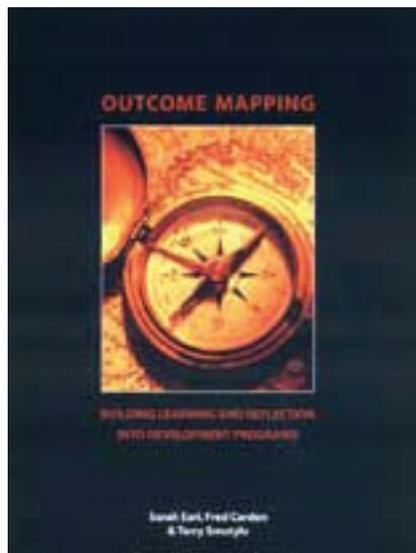
*special report* .....p.5



## features

### Upcoming Midterm Program Evaluation

The Trauma and Global Health Program is rapidly approaching its midterm evaluation period. We have decided to use Outcome Mapping, a methodology focusing on changes to the behaviours, relationships, actions or activities of the program's partners, as an evaluation tool. As part of this process, Program Manager and Network Coordinator, Consuelo Errázuriz, recently attended a workshop in Ottawa on Outcome Mapping. The success of our evaluation activities depends on the collaboration of each principal investigator. Please read the document, "Outcome Mapping: Building Learning and Reflection into Development Programs", accessible by visiting our website at <http://www.mcgill.ca/trauma-globalhealth>, clicking on Resource Center and then on Tool Kit. This link will take you to the IDRC's web site where you can find additional information. Further discussion about our midterm evaluation and the Outcome Mapping methodology will take place in an upcoming meeting using Maratec.



### Pilot Study Underway: Gendered Responses To Distress and Resilience Among Indigenous Men and Women in Guatemala

The Guatemalan team has launched research on gendered responses to distress and resilience with Patricia Foxen as principal investigator and Dionisia Cuin as local researcher. The main goals of the pilot research project are to explore the meanings of the concept of "resilience" among indigenous men and women, examine the relationship between various forms of violence and aggression and local idioms of distress among indigenous men and women, document and examine individual and collective strategies for coping with distress and vulnerability among men and women, and define the social junctures and spaces where interventions could be focused to allow better responses to trauma and distress among both genders in Guatemalan indigenous communities. A series of in-depth, semi-structured interviews were conducted with indigenous men and women in several villages of Chiche. At this time the fieldwork is concluded and the interviews are being translated and transcribed.



## features

### Participation at the 5th Summer Institute for New Global Health Researchers

Paula Godoy and Victor Lopez successfully applied to the 5th Summer Institute for New Global Health Researchers on Vancouver Island, BC, Canada. They presented a poster at the Indigenous Health Research Symposium at the University of Victoria Faculty Club on 23rd July. The Summer Institute is usually hosted in Canada or in a low- or middle-income country and brings together new and experienced global health researchers to strengthen partnerships and build capacity in translating research into action.



### Feature Interview to Appear on IDRC Website

An interview with Trauma and Global Health Program team members Duncan Pedersen, Victor Lopez, and Marina Piazza is to appear in the coming weeks on the International Development Research Centre website. Stay tuned to our website for a link to the article, entitled "New Prescription for Traumatic Times."

### notes from the field: Sri Lanka

*I have introduced several seminars on culture-related matters into the undergraduate syllabus already: I am teaching one six-hour seminar on Cross Cultural Psychology and on another on Applied Clinical Psychology in the Sri Lankan Context. All the articles and lessons from the summer workshop prove to be more and more helpful as time goes by. Along with Ms. Maleeka Salih, a Maldivian PhD student from University of Edingburgh, I am trying to develop a module on qualitative research methods for undergraduates - although to get the module approved and to make it a compulsory course is lot of work. I am also supervising three final-year research projects directly related to culture and psychology: one on the local understandings on psychopathology (the attitude towards mental illness among professionals and general community - a comparative study), another on mapping culturally sensitive psychotherapeutic approaches with cancer patients into Beck's CBT module, and a third on cultural meanings of hallucinations among patients with schizophrenia. In April, I will be presenting a paper on the topic of emotion and culture at the upcoming Conference on Wellbeing and Development organized by the University of Colombo's Social Policy Analysis and Research Centre.*

- Udeni Appuhamilage, past TGH fellow



# TRAUMA & GLOBAL HEALTH BULLETIN

<http://www.mcgill.ca/trauma-globalhealth>

october 2008

## in brief

### **Oxfam America Provides Grant to PRDA**

Oxfam America has provided a grant for the People's Rural Development Association (PRDA) to extend their research on the mental health and wellbeing of communities affected by conflict and the tsunami under the patronage of the Teasdale-Corti project. This generous grant has helped PRDA to further explore and study the perceptions of wellbeing of the affected communities, factors contributing to increase/decrease their wellbeing, coping strategies adopted by affected communities and the agencies that they would approach in times of crisis and need. Participatory methods were used to elicit perceptions of wellbeing in a refugee community affected by the conflict and living in the North-Western Province of Sri Lanka and in two communities affected by the tsunami in the south of Sri Lanka.

### **Developing a Toolkit for Psychosocial Interventions**

Under the Teasdale-Corti project, a consultative process has been initiated with agencies working on psycho-social issues and their respective communities to develop a "process

tool-kit" for psycho-social interventions in Sri Lanka. This work has been undertaken under the capacity building component of the Teasdale-Corti project and the methodology development process involves a number of joint partnerships with agencies working on psycho-social issues in conflict and tsunami affected communities. The purpose of this initiative is to evolve a bottom-up and indigenous approach/methodology for psycho-social interventions.

### **SPARC Conference on Wellbeing and Development in Sri Lanka**

Chamindra Weerackody, TGH Sri Lanka Team Leader, will be presenting his paper, "Factors and Processes Influencing the Wellbeing of Communities Affected by Conflict and the Tsunami in Sri Lanka" conducted under the Teasdale-Corti project and complemented by a grant from Oxfam America at the University of Colombo's Social Policy Analysis and Research Centre's Conference on Wellbeing and Development in Sri Lanka. The conference will be held April 2 and 3, 2009 and will bring together academics and professionals who have been involved in studying wellbeing, wellness, and related concepts in Sri Lanka.

### **TGH Team Members Publish in the International Journal of Migration, Health & Social Care**

Trauma and Global Health Program team members Chamindra Weerackody and Suman Fernando are publishing their article, "Field Report: Perceptions of social stratification and well-being in refugee communities in North-Western Sri Lanka" in a forthcoming issue of International Journal of Migration, Health & Social Care (Volume 4, Issue 2). This issue will appear in November 2008.

## what's new?

Have something to share with the rest of the team? Send your news and feedback to Ms. Tamsyn Farr at [tamsyn.farr@gmail.com](mailto:tamsyn.farr@gmail.com)



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## special report

### notes from the field: Kulmunai, Sri Lanka

*Kalmunai is in the Eastern province of Sri Lanka. The region is badly affected by the civil war and the tsunami. Most of the population of 500,000, including Tamils, Muslims, and Singhalese, are farmers, fishermen and animal breeders. The Kalmunai Base Hospital is following thousands of patients in this region with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other psychological difficulties. I express my heartfelt thanks for my visit to Montreal and the opportunity to take the McGill course and apply what I learned back in my hometown. Here are some photos from the mental health unit at the hospital where I work in Kalmunai.*

- Judy Jeyakumar, past TGH Fellow



Women celebrating World Mental Health Day



Navarathri festival celebration with our patients



Occupational therapist working with patients



Staff and patients learning meditation