



**April 20, 2023**

## **Road Map Bulletin: Reciprocal Learning and Innovation in Global Health Partnerships**

Happy Thursday, Mount Sinai Community –

Earlier this month, we celebrated World Health Day, which reminds us the fight for health equity stretches beyond our Health System, our city, and even our country. Despite significant progress in recent years, millions of people around the world still lack access to basic health care services. Solving this disparity and achieving true health equity requires building long-term partnerships, bringing experts together from across the globe, and coordinating between governments, health care providers, and non-profit organizations to address the systemic challenges that prevent people from accessing the care they need and deserve.

At Mount Sinai, many of those efforts are organized by the [Arnhold Institute for Global Health](#). A leading center for global health research and advocacy, the Institute promotes health equity globally and works to improve health outcomes for underserved communities worldwide. Their work includes innovative research, education, and advocacy programs, all developed in the context of equitable global partnerships.

The Arnhold Institute currently has strategic partnerships in Nepal, Ghana, Kenya, and Queens, New York, as well as engagement with the government of Guyana. Importantly, the Institute does not structure its partnerships as one-way relationships, with external experts coming in to tell communities what they are doing wrong. Instead, these are true partnerships, with information sharing and learning going both ways—and the Arnhold Institute regularly takes lessons from other countries and works with colleagues at Mount Sinai to implement them here in New York City.

We sat down with **Arnhold Institute Director Rachel Vreeman, MD, MS, Chair of the Department of Global Health and Health System Design at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**, to learn more about some of the organization's initiatives. She emphasized that Mount Sinai's international health engagements are not short-term, standalone trips, but partnerships that have grown over decades.



"We enter into long-term relationships with international medical schools and health systems that are equitable partnerships—and then we can together advance health equity." Rachel explained, "we build institutional relationships that let us together advance research, implement new solutions in health care systems, and then also learn how to impact health equity here in New York."

That last point—the idea of "reciprocal learning"—is key to the Arnhold Institute's work and how these international partnerships can create innovation to further the cause of health equity here in New York City.

One example of reciprocal learning is the integration of doulas—who provide support before, during, and after major health-related experiences like pregnancy. Health organizations in Nepal have made a concerted effort to treat pregnant patients in hard-to-reach communities with community health workers who follow pregnant patients and their infants closely and help them connect to the wider health care system and increase their access to more treatment options. Thanks to the Arnhold Institute's expertise in this area, Elmhurst and Queens Hospital are now reaching pregnant people in Queens that we wouldn't otherwise reach and improving their care by providing community-based doulas—with a focus on ensuring access to care for people of color.

This example is an important reminder that achieving true health equity is not something we can achieve alone—it requires partnerships and collaboration across Mount Sinai, across New York City and state, and across the globe.

All the best,

Angela and Shawn

### **Additional Highlights**



Health inequity exists in many ways, including disparities health insurance reimbursement models and the under-funding of Medicaid. This is a problem that **Gary Butts, MD, Executive Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer** outlined in [his recent \*Times Union\* letter to the editor](#). [Click here to read.](#)

In recognition of Black Maternal Health Week, an annual celebration from April 11-17, the Arnhold Institute for Global Health (AIGH) held a webinar on the maternal issues affecting Black women and women of color. To watch the webinar, [click here](#) and stay tuned next month as we explore this topic in our maternal health Bulletin series.

## Join Us for Upcoming Events

**Chats for Change: In the News** — Chats for Change is a production of the Icahn School of Medicine's Racism and Bias Initiative. Join us on **April 25, 2023, from noon-1 pm** as we critically deconstruct a current newsworthy topic related to racism and bias. We will use the What? So What? Now What? critical reflection model to explore what happened, what we learned from the event or topic, how we can apply this learning to our day-to-day, and if there is follow-up needed. [Register on Zoom.](#)

**Autism Awareness Panel** — In recognition of National Autism Awareness Month, join the Heritage of Latinx Alliance (HOLA) ERG and the All Differing Abilities Partnering Together (ADAPT) ERG for the Autism Awareness Panel. This virtual panel will take place on **Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at 1 pm** and will feature an engaging and informative dialogue centered around Autism Spectrum Disorder. [Click here](#) to register to attend the panel and receive a calendar notice with the Zoom link.

**Center for Asian Equity and Professional Development Town Hall** — The Center for Asian Equity and Professional Development (CAEPD) Education and Research Committee would like to invite all Asian and Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) faculty, staff and students, and their allies to an interactive Town Hall on **Thursday, May 18, 2023, from 6-7 pm**. We will discuss taking steps to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion within the Mount Sinai Health System. Advance registration is [required](#). For more details, visit [Mount Sinai Daily](#)

[Road Map for Action](#)

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