

## Vision

The Center for Global Health aims to leverage Hampton Roads communities' unique strengths in education, research and service, to improve the health and quality of life for people locally and around the world.

## Mission

The Center for Global Health is dedicated to positively impacting the health and well-being of populations through collaborations with faculty, students, communities and partners.

## Academic and Research

- One of the main initiatives of the center is the implementation of a new graduate level online certification program that can be completed in one year. The competency-based certificate program provides comprehensive training in the global health field for graduate students and professionals who are practicing or plan to practice in a worldwide setting. The certification is also available to disciplines outside of the healthcare field.
- The center aims to create research collaborations with academia and community partners locally and globally, and increase faculty and student engagement in global health.
- The center also works with many local NGOs, including Physicians for Peace and Operation Smile.

## Leadership Team

Dean Shelley Mishoe of ODU's College of Health Sciences, launched the Center for Global Health in 2012. Dr. Muge Akpınar-Elci, the center's director, leads a burgeoning initiative that encourages a transdisciplinary approach in addressing global health issues at home and abroad. The center's advisory board is composed of prominent leaders in academia and the Hampton Roads community, including:

- Ron Sconyers, Brigadier General (USAF, Ret.)
- Edwin Burkett, MD, MBA Director, Global Health Division and Assistant Professor, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
- Susan Girois, MD, MPA Board Certified Internist Alternate Project Director, Integrated Care Clinic, City of Norfolk Community Services Board
- Regina Karp, PhD, Director, International Studies Program, College of Arts and Letters, ODU
- Heidi A. Kulberg, MD, MPH Health Director, Virginia Beach Dept. of Public Health
- Marcelo Siles, PhD, Executive Director, Office of International Programs, ODU
- Cynthia Romero, MD, FAAP Director, M. Foscue Brock Institute for Community & Global Health, Eastern Virginia Medical School

## Initiatives

### Let's Move Virginia Beach

This afterschool program was created to address obesity in school-age children through improved nutrition education and increased physical activity. The program is a partnership of the Center for Global Health, the Virginia Beach Department of Health, and Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation.



*From right: Dr. Muge Akpınar-Elci, Director of the Center for Global Health, Marilyn Bartholmae an ODU Health Services Research PhD student, and Barbara Geraghty an ODU/EVMS MPH student, prepare for the "Let's Move Virginia Beach" program at Bayside Elementary School.*

### Climate Change and Global Health

Hampton Roads is experiencing a climate change and sea level rise. These phenomena contribute to health problems. The center has taken the initiative to engage the public and explore ways to minimize the negative effects of climate change and sea level rise on public health.

### International Partnerships

The magnitude of global health challenges confirms that no single organization can work alone to meet them. The center is currently working with many international NGOs to help build their capacity locally and internationally.

### Autism Therapy Training

The center is supporting and collaborating on a Dominican Republic-based project organized by the ODU Darden College of Education's Department of Communication Disorders and Special Education, ODU Physical Therapy and Athletic Training Department, and Dominion Physical Therapy to provide training for the treatment of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

### For more information, contact:

Muge Akpınar-Elci, MD, MPH, Director,  
College of Health Sciences, ODU, Health Science Bldg.  
Room 3133, Norfolk, VA 23529

Phone: (757) 683-6160 Fax: (757) 683-5336

Email: [centerforglobalhealth@odu.edu](mailto:centerforglobalhealth@odu.edu)

Website: <https://www.odu.edu/hs/centers/globalhealth>

