

# Sustainable Solutions for Quality Care in Low Income Countries



Photo by Shari Hardy

## Sten Vermund

Professor of Pediatrics, Medicine, Health Policy, and Obstetrics & Gynecology Amos Christie Chair in Global Health Director, the Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health

## CURRENT RESEARCH

Providing necessary healthcare to patients in rural areas and with devastating illnesses

The low income nations of the world are beleaguered with resource constraints that increase health disparities between rich and poor. While the treatments and resources necessary to protect the health of the global community are often available, systemic issues of poverty, isolation, and lack of resources prevent adequate care from reaching those that are in the most need. Dr. Sten Vermund, of Vanderbilt University, has a passion for identifying where systems are not working well, figuring out the deficits in those systems, and fixing them. The particular focus of his group at the Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health is HIV prevention and treatment in low income nations. The group works in Mozambique, Zambia, and Nigeria with general populations; in Pakistan they work with persons who inject drugs; in China, they work with men who have sex with men, both homosexual and bisexual; and in the rural US they apply lessons learned overseas. In all these venues, Dr. Vermund is characterizing the magnitude of the problem and intervening with programs that are designed to provide HIV services, often in venues where no chronic care is provided for any disease and health services are severely under-capacitated.

Dr. Vermund's passion for improving the health and wellness of the global community extends beyond his work in HIV prevention and treatment. Whether solving the issues of drug stock outs, suboptimal health worker communication skills, poor relationships with local traditional healers and traditional birth attendants, or community reluctance to engage new care services, Dr. Vermund seeks to fix each problem in each venue where he works, within a research construct that enables his lessons learned...

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## AFFILIATION

Vanderbilt University

## EDUCATION

- B.A., in Human Biology, 1974 , Stanford University
- M.D., in Medicine, 1977 , Albert Einstein College of Medicine
- Pediatrics Residency, 1977-1980 , Babies Hospital, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center
- D.P.H., 1981 , Royal Society of Public Health and Hygiene, United Kingdom
- M.Sc., in Community Health in Developing Countries, 1981 , London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- and 2 more.

## AWARDS

- 2010 and 2014 Alumni awards: Albert Einstein College of Medicine Alumnus Lifetime Achievement Award and Allan Rosenfield Alumni Award for Excellence in Public Health, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University
- Douglas K. Richardson Award for Perinatal and Pediatric Health Care Research, Society for Pediatric Research, 2012
- Elected Member, Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences, 2012
- Third Annual Unsung Hero Award, Blood:Water Mission, 2014
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Award, Vanderbilt University, "presented to a Vanderbilt faculty or staff member who emulates King's principles through his or her work.", 2015

## RESEARCH AREAS

Life Science, Health IT, Infectious, Oncology / Cancer

## FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support the continued research of Dr. Sten Vermund, of Vanderbilt University, as he creates programs in low-income countries that are both effective and sustainable. Donations will fund the necessary \$10-400K required, depending on the project, for quality improvement and implementation science research. In choosing to support his research, you will be a part of determining what works and building stronger programs. If the donor wished to support the university, there are needs for endowments that could be targeted to support the Institute for Global Health.

