A CoP is defined as "people who share a concern, a set of problems, or a passion about a topic, and who deepen their knowledge and expertise in this area by interacting on an ongoing basis." (Wenger, McDermott, & Snyder, 2002, p. 4). Members of a CoP find value in their interactions through sharing information, insight, advice, and ideas.

According to Koplan, et al. (2009), “global health is the study and practice of improving health and health equity for all people worldwide through international and interdisciplinary collaboration.”

CoP Goals:
- Investigate mentoring best-practices that foster exploration, learning and growth of undergraduate students conducting research in global contexts
- Collaborate with colleagues who currently mentor undergraduate research students in transnational and diverse cultural contexts
- Knowledge and skill building to be an effective, high quality mentor such that students who engage in undergraduate research globally, can be successful in their endeavors
- Explore ways to assist undergraduate research students in developing intercultural humility prior to their global experience and explore potential opportunities to assess intercultural learning and humility among undergraduate research students

Completed Global Engagement Survey, January 2018


CoP 2016-2017 Outcomes:
Completed Pilot Study:
Twenty-two PHS 381 practicum students, 19 (86%) completed The Scale of Ethnocultural Empathy (Wang et al., 2003) survey both prior to the course and immediately following the 3-week practicum course in Jamkhed, India at The Comprehensive Rural Health Project. The subscales (Empathetic Feeling and Expression (EFE), Empathetic Perspective Taking (EPT), Acceptance of Cultural Differences (ACD) and Empathetic Awareness (EA)) scores were used as well as the composite score. There was a significant difference in the pre-departure empathy composite score as compared to the composite scores following the 3-week immersion course at CRHP. Higher composite scores imply higher levels of overall ethnocultural empathy (Fig. 1). Additionally, statistically significant increases occurred in 3 out of 4 ethnocultural empathy subscales: ACD, EPT and EFE (Fig. 2).

Research: