

Moving Mountains to Prevent Disease

Adam Weiss 13CMPH brings a wealth of field experience to his first-year class at Rollins because of his full-time job: assistant director of Guinea worm eradication programs at the Carter Center.

Weiss first learned of the disease in 2003 as a Peace Corps volunteer in rural Ghana. By his

“kinship model” of health delivery that he tailored to fit his nation’s context.

That program’s success—more than 90% of communities achieved treatment coverage of 90% or greater annually—led to a senior post in Atlanta with the Carter Center’s programs

in river blindness, lymphatic filariasis, and schistosomiasis.

Although they work on different diseases, Katarbarwa has much to teach a young colleague. “Adam and I often chat away about dealing with government ministries and how to, let’s say, get a car imported into the country,” he says. “Most people don’t think of these things as public health. But it can be very challenging. And you can’t succeed in



Moses Katarbarwa (left) and Adam Weiss are health leaders at the Carter Center, one of Rollins’ public health partners in the Atlanta community.

second year, he’d become the Peace Corps’ Guinea worm coordinator for the nation.

When his Peace Corps service ended, he remained in Ghana five more years as a Carter Center consultant,

helping design and implement interventions that resulted in disease eradication. After serving for a year in Ethiopia—and likely witnessing the last case there as well—Weiss returned stateside to pursue his MPH and join the Carter Center team in Atlanta. Like dozens of Rollins students before him, he is learning from leading experts in health, human rights, and conflict resolution.

One of those colleagues is medical epidemiologist Moses Katarbarwa 97MPH, who joined the Carter Center in his native Uganda to map the prevalence of river blindness, the second leading infectious cause of blindness worldwide. He also directed a WHO/TDR-sponsored program to control the disease using a community-based

public health unless you know who can move mountains.”—Patrick Adams 09MPH



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967 master’s degree-seeking students

134 Career MPH distance-learning students

137 doctoral students

32 Masters International students who will enter the Peace Corps after graduation; 40 MPH students are Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

24 MD/MPH students

43 dual-degree students - medicine, nursing, business, law, theology, physician assistant, and physical therapy

114 international students