Washington, DC—Global health challenges pose some of the most difficult problems faced by nations worldwide.

Between March 14 – 16, leaders from an array of disciplines from the US and around the world will be meeting in Washington, DC to attend the Consortium of Universities for Global Health’s 4th Global Health Conference. They will be presenting innovative, evidence-based solutions to address these challenges (www.2013globalhealth.org).

Some of the issues include:

- The explosion of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), on top of aging populations, threatens the stability of economies worldwide. There are, however, ways to dramatically reduce their impact. **Dr. John Ratey from Harvard** will show how a poorly performing school in Illinois dramatically improved outcomes for their students through regular physical activity, and how this initiative could be a model to tackle the epidemic of childhood obesity and reduce the impact of NCDs.

- **Steve Hargarten, Assoc. Dean of Global Health at the Medical College of Wisconsin** and Director of the Injury Research Center at the Medical College of Wisconsin and NYU’s Dennis Smith, consultant to the NYPD, will provide solutions on how to reduce the gun violence that claims over 30,000 people’s lives a year in the US, and how legislators have prevented researchers from even studying this issue.

- **Dr. Nora Volkow, Director of the National Institute on Drug Addiction (NIDA)** will show the new science behind addiction, which could lead to policies that can reduce addiction, crime, and incarceration rates.

- **National Geographic explorer, David Quammen, and EcoHealth Alliance VP, Dr. Billy Karesh**, who have travelled to some of the remotest areas of the world and dealt with some of the world’s most dangerous diseases, will discuss the **interplay between environmental degradation and the next global pandemic**, which could kill millions of people.

- **Actor Ashley Judd** and a panel of experts will discuss the crisis in the Sahel and what can be done to address this complex mixture of insecurity, environmental degradation, and human deprivation.

“We already have the knowledge to address most of the global health problems before us,” says Keith Martin MD, Head of Secretariat, Consortium of Universities for Global Health. “Our great challenge is to overcome the knowledge-implementation gap and breathe life into the solutions we already know will save millions of lives and billions of dollars. Universities can play a vital role in achieving this goal, and this conference will outline some of those opportunities.”

For a list of speakers and conference details, please see www.2013globalhealth.org. For interviews about the conference and the issues that will be dealt with please contact CUGH’s press office: murphyp2@globalhealth.ucsf.edu or (415) 999-7241.