OIP ANNOUNCEMENT: ZIKA VIRUS IN CENTRAL AMERICA
DECEMBER 14, 2015

We would like to let you know about a recent travel notice issued by the CDC regarding the Zika virus. The Zika virus is spread by mosquitos and causes mild illness in 20% of people who are infected; the most common symptoms include fever, rash, joint pain or red eyes. Symptoms are usually mild and last for a few days to a week, and hospitalization for Zika is uncommon.

The CDC is issuing a travel notice because the disease is now being transmitted locally in Panama and Guatemala. Countries that have past or current evidence of Zika virus transmission include Uganda, India and Mexico.

Travelers can protect themselves from the Zika virus by preventing mosquito bites. The CDC suggests:

1. Covering exposed skin
2. Using insect repellent
3. Sleeping in screened-in rooms

Additional information about the virus can be found at: http://www.cdc.gov/zika/

Although we do not anticipate any issues relative to this notice, we wanted to be sure you had this information as the Office of International Programs strives to ensure all of our students have a safe and healthy international experience. We are always willing to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have about your upcoming trip. Please feel free to contact Kimberly Connelly (kconnelly@kumc.edu) or Zachary Rogers (zrogers2@kumc.edu) with any questions you have. Another great resource is our Student Health Office. You can direct specific medical questions to Stephanie Jernigan sjernigan2@kumc.edu or her staff.