Dr. Matt Kynes has been involved in global health since he worked in South Sudan for two months as a medical student. In the past year, he has provided anesthesia care for a week-long ophthalmology mission to the Moore Pediatric Surgery Center in Guatemala City sponsored by the VCH and the Shalom Foundation, and traveled to AIC Kijabe Hospital for a month-long rotation as a pediatric anesthesia fellow.

The Kijabe rotation was sponsored by VIA and included opportunities for clinical and didactic teaching, patient care focused in pediatrics and ICU, and attendance at a national meeting of Kenyan anesthetists. Some of the most memorable experiences from this trip included partnering with nurse anesthetists who had literally started out mopping the floor of the ORs and were now providing exceptional care for complex cases referred from throughout the country and beyond, and working with highly-skilled local surgeons who had left more lucrative positions to provide care to impoverished patients at a mission hospital. Dr. Kynes was also fortunate to be able to take his family, including two young children, who were thrilled with the adventure of life in Kenya.

One of the reasons Dr. Kynes came to train and work at VUMC was for the opportunity to impact global health and anesthesia through the incredible resources of VIA. The needs for safe and accessible anesthesia globally are so great, but there are many faculty, nurses and residents at Vanderbilt making positive strides to make quality surgical and anesthesia care a reality for patients across the globe through education, service and research.