

Together, we can create a more sustainable future for global health

Global Health Office

Impact Report 2018—2019





"Promoting health and well-being for all requires collaboration at all levels."

### Director's Message

McMaster University has placed second in the world in The Times Higher Education Impact ranking, based on our deep commitment to the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals are designed to address the most serious challenges of our time—and they are fundamental to the work we are doing in the Global Health Office.

We have prioritized issues including racism, migration, climate change, and Indigenous health through our activities, events, and programming.

We have heard from expert speakers, including renowned epidemiologist Dr. Camara Phyllis Jones and obstetrician-gynecologist and global health advocate

Dr. Eve Nakabembe. We have held teaching labs and learning exchanges to share best practices and innovations in health sciences education, welcoming scholars and faculty from institutions in Japan, China, and Thailand.

With our network of global partners in the Master of Science in Global Health program, we are working together in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We recognize the responsibility we have as universities to develop solutions and prepare future innovators with the skills that will enable them to contribute to achieving the SDGs. We strive to create a next generation digital learning environment that is interactive, accessible to all teachers and learners, and aligns with our internationalization strategy.

Experiential learning in global health is integral to the program's curriculum design—through formal and informal educational practices, in research and teaching, in practicums, and in our students' theses. Our students have completed fieldwork and clinical placements in locations including Norway's High North and the Caribbean Region in Jamaica.

Indigenous health research and education remains a focus as we collaborate across the university and beyond. Since 2015 McMaster has partnered with the University of South-Eastern Norway (USN) to tackle the effects of global issues on the health of Indigenous communities in Arctic regions in Canada and Norway. We have received new funding from the Norwegian Agency for International Cooperation and Quality Enhancement in Higher Education (Diku) to continue this work.

Over the last year we have made significant progress, and I am grateful to our dedicated faculty, students, and staff as we respond to the SDGs and their targets. I invite you to explore the highlights of our activities and successes from 2018-2019.

Thank you,

**Andrea Baumann**, PhD Associate Vice-President

Faculty of Health Sciences, Global Health

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### Our Strategy

Our mission is to build a partnership between Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) researchers, educators and clinicians, funding agencies and global development initiatives to commit university research and education to the service for people's health worldwide for the mutual benefit of science, health, clinical practice and human development.

# Key strategic elements guiding our work in supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:

#### **Partnerships**

We collaborate with the FHS, working across campus and beyond to engage institutions locally, nationally and internationally to target the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

#### We work with global health networks and targeted initiatives including:

- Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research (CCGHR)
- Consortium of Universities of Global Health (CUGH)
- United Nations (UN), World Health Organization (WHO), Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), Nursing Now, WHO Collaborating Centres in
- Health Human Resources Nursing and Midwifery, University of the West Indiea (Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago)

#### We have focused our efforts on:

- Global security and Arctic geopolitics and autonomy (partnership with Arctic University of Norway)
- Global health diplomacy (partnership with Carleton University)
- International surgery (partnership with the University of Alberta)
- Radiation science (partnerships with Mongolia & Japan)
- Big data (partnership with Maastricht University & European Observatory)
- Artificial Intelligence and machine learning (partnership with MacPherson Institute and multilingual offerings)
- Arctic health (partnership with the Arctic University of Norway and the Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre (Iqaluit)



#### Innovation

We are committed to creating next-generation digital and experiential learning environments that align with McMaster's commitment to internationalization and global citizenship. We have been working to:

- Expand the global health graduate program
- Develop a new PhD program in Global Health
- Enhance exposure to international perspectives in all learning environments and promote reciprocal exchanges
- Support global health research and education in areas including geosecurity, population movement, climate change, humanitarian settings, human rights, structures of inequity and power, infectious diseases, and Indigenous health
- Create long-term mobility opportunities in research and internships for faculty and students

#### Communication

We make communication critical to our strategy and activities—locally, nationally, and globally. We have been working to:

- Streamline communication across our growing network of partners to work together effectively as a consortium in the international transdisciplinary model of higher education
- Highlight international achievements campus-wide
- Employ a lens of equity and social justice, uniting diverse populations with multiple languages—offering courses in languages other than English
- Maintain a robust, up to date contacts database including global health alumni
- Lead and participate in ongoing meetings and communication with Heads of State/country representatives at embassies and consulates including the High Commission of India, the Saudi Arabian Cultural Bureau, the European Commission (Ottawa), and the embassies of the Netherlands, Norway, and Japan.

### Partnerships for Action

With a focus on SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) and 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), McMaster University has more than 1900 partnerships with faculty, institutions, and communities in 247 countries and regions. The Global Health Office is working with many of these partners to find new and innovative solutions to critical global health problems.

### Symposium brings together international partners

Delegates from eight countries travelled to McMaster in fall 2018 to participate in meetings on global health and strengthen international co-operation in higher education.

Countries involved included the
Netherlands, India, Thailand, Sudan,
Norway, Colombia, South Africa, and
Japan, and state representatives
included the Consul General of the
Kingdom of the Netherlands, Anne Le

Guellec and the Norwegian Honorary Consul General, Marianne Koritzinsky.

dditional attendees included members of the international advisory board of the Master of Science in Global Health program, and representatives from the program's six partner institutions (Maastricht University in the Netherlands, Manipal Academy of Higher Education in India, Thammasat

University in Thailand, University of South-Eastern Norway (USN) in Norway, Universidad del Rosario in Colombia, and Ahfad University for Women in Sudan), plus Niigata University in Japan.

"We are moving closer to a multinational transdisciplinary educational model in higher education," said Andrea Baumann, Associate Vice-President, Global Health





Two of the meetings were open to the public: A lecture by Govindakarnavar Arunkumar of the Manipal Centre for Virus Research in India and a symposium hosted by McMaster and USN on global health issues specific to Arctic communities in Canada and Norway. The symposium, titled 'Global transition within local communities, small places, big changes', focused on how the populations in Canadian and Norwegian regions face similar threats to their natural resources, their health, and their rights.

Norwegian Honorary Consul General Marianne Koritzinsky opened the symposium, referencing the Norwegian government's ten-year strategic plan and the ways in which the plan aligns with the MSc Global Health program's focus on improving health, changing demographics, and issues including climate change, food security, and social challenges.

The symposium marked the four year partnership between McMaster and USN

# Primary health care and approaches to education in focus as Japanese delegations visit Mac

With Japan continuing to show leadership in the global health arena, McMaster University's Global Health Office has strengthened existing relationships and forged new ties with Japanese institutions.

This year brought two delegation visits and a meeting with the Consul-General of Japan in Toronto, Takato Iko. Andrea Baumann, Associate V-P Global Health and director of the MSc GH program, met with the Consul-General as part of a delegation visit from Japanese health care leaders interested in possible collaboration in the area of primary health care (PHC).

The Global Health Office also hosted students and faculty from Niigata University for the annual learning and cultural exchange. For the last 11 years, we have welcomed Niigata delegations to campus for a week of programming designed to foster collaboration and spark dialogue about innovative teaching and learning methodologies, health care systems, and approaches to global health issues.



### Funding a Brighter World

The Global Health Office supports departments in the Faculty of Health Sciences with grants and contract proposals to obtain funds for international research and educational projects.

# Additional funding for tackling global health issues facing northern communities

McMaster University and the
University of South-Eastern Norway (USN)
received funding from the Norwegian
Agency for International Cooperation and
Quality Enhancement in Higher Education
(Diku) to continue our collaborative work
in tackling global health issues impacting
Canada's and Norway's High North regions.

McMaster and USN have been partners since 2015 when we received four-year funding from the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education (SIU) to enhance education in global health policy, focusing on challenges including climate change and mental

health—issues facing Circumpolar populations in Canada and Norway.

Over the four years, we have developed a joint global health semester to complement McMaster's MSc Global Health program and USN's Health Promotion program. Titled 'Global transitions within local communities: Small places, big changes', the semester has been designed to give voice to global health issues that disproportionately affect northern and Indigenous communities in Canada and Norway.

Students and faculty have benefited from mobility opportunities that have included student exchanges to Norway and placements in Norway's High North, working with academics and the Indigenous Sami population, as well as practicums that have provided unique insights into the local and community aspects of health care. Funding has also increased faculty mobility, enabling faculty to go to Norway and come to McMaster.

Looking ahead, this funding will enable further student participation in the joint semester, as well as contribute to the preparation of a master's program in global health at USN and provide additional opportunities for faculty lectureships and supervision of students.



### Innovation in Higher Education

SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and 4 (Quality Education) are at the core of the work we do. And we realize that these goals rely on SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). That's why we continue to build and nurture higher education partnerships based on shared values and a commitment to creating next-generation learning environments.

## Master of Science in Global Health

The award-winning MSc Global Health program is a higher education consortium that spans five continents and seven countries. Members of the consortium include Manipal University (India), Thammasat University (Thailand), University College of Southeast Norway (Norway), Universidad del Rosario (Colombia) and Ahfad University for Women (Sudan).

"We recognize that the Sustainable Development Goals can only be achieved a with a strong commitment to collaboration and global partnership."

Andrea Baumann

Associate Vice-President, Global Health, McMaster University.

University College of Southeast Norway (HSN), Norway

Maastricht University,
The Netherlands

Manipal University,
India

Ahfad University,
Sudan
Thammasat University,
Thammasat University,
Thammasat University,
Thailand

### Internationalization matters

Participating in an exchange abroad provides students with international experience and is an opportunity for personal and professional development. Students become familiar with a new culture, develop language skills, gain new perspectives, create an international network, and hone skills that prepare them for living and working in a globalized world.

#### The Netherlands

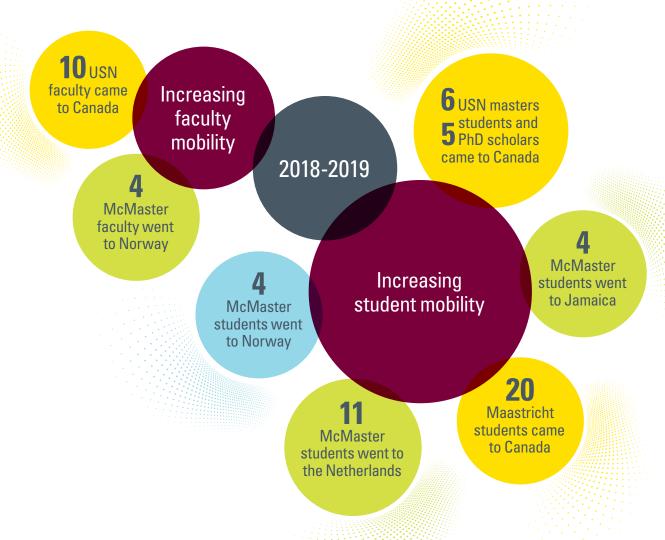
In the winter term, students can specialize in one of the program's three areas of concentration at McMaster or go on exchange to Maastricht to specialize in one of their two areas of concentration. All students continue to work collaboratively in transcontinental groups, but the exchange allows students to meet some of their peers face to face, before the summer term in Manipal, where all program students meet.

#### **Norway**

Since McMaster launched a joint Norwegian and Canadian global health course in 2017 to addresses health policy issues of the High North, the partnership has resulted in many exchanges.

#### **Jamaica**

The connection between McMaster University's PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre and the Collaborating Centre at the University of the West Indies (UWI) in Jamaica has enabled students to complete their field practicums there.



## Success of master's program drives launch of PhD in Global Health

Building on the success of the innovative, international and transdisciplinary Master of Science in Global Health program, McMaster University will launch a new PhD program in Global Health, slated to begin in January 2020.

Since launching in 2010, the awardwinning MSc Global Health program has seen tremendous growth, with enrolment tripling in the last decade.

The PhD program will strengthen McMaster's existing partnership with Maastricht University, utilizing McMaster' co-tutelle policy which allows for cosupervision and for a PhD to be jointly recognized by both universities. The program will also enable increased research collaboration and opportunities across McMaster and Maastricht and, like the MSc Global Health program, will prioritize experiential learning, internationalization and innovation in higher education.

This is an exciting step for McMaster as it will further establish the university's position as an international leader in global health higher education with a deep commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

# Global Health students work towards building capacity in health care in the Caribbean

According to projections from WHO and the World Bank, 40 million new health care jobs are needed to achieve the UN's SDGs related to health by 2030.

One of the main objectives of McMaster's PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre has been to investigate migration trends of health care workers in the Caribbean region, in order to address the significant impact of the shortage on health systems and services.

In 2018, MSc Global Health students completed ten weeks of field work at the Collaborating Centre at the University of the West Indies (UWI) in Jamaica. The project involved studying and documenting

the status of nurses and midwives in Jamaica, in a pilot project that will be rolled out to the rest of the region. The team discovered that migration of critical care nurses is a particular issue. This spring/summer 2019, the work will continue as field practicum opportunities will allow for a master's student from McMaster to go to Jamaica and continue this exciting work with support from faculty at McMaster and UWI.



# Exchange to Norway sheds light on Indigenous global health issues

For three months, MSc Global Health program student Carley Granger lived in the small coastal town of Tønsberg, just south of Oslo in Norway. The experience, which she calls a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," was possible thanks to McMaster's partnership with the University of South-Eastern Norway (USN).

For Granger, the exchange opened her eyes to the similar global health threats facing Indigenous people in Canada and Norway. "They've dealt with many of the same issues with respect to assimilation and erosion of their culture and rights,"

says Granger. "Add to that
the impacts of
climate change
on their
food

"The Norway semester has reinforced the critical importance of health promotion activities in improving the health and well-being of Indigenous people and migrants."

Carley Granger

security and way of life—as a result, they share similar health challenges."

Both countries are now working to address health disparities facing marginalized communities by prioritizing the need for culturally competent health care and targeted services, but there is still work to be done. "While Canada has a longer history of establishing policy that celebrates multiculturalism, Norway is more recent in this endeavour and the challenge involves balancing integration policies that recognize the unique needs of migrants, refugees, and the Indigenous Samí people, with the country's deeply-rooted culture of egalitarianism," says Granger.

At the same time, we can learn from Norway and its well-established welfare state, she says. "If we look to Norway as an example, it's clear that democratic socialist policies that support income security, universal health care

and public services—including child care and higher education—correlate with optimal health and wellness."

After learning about the integration challenges of migrant populations, Granger had the opportunity to put theory into practice and complete a short-term community placement at a migrant centre in Oslo. The field work component of the semester relies on experiential learning to prepare students for their future careers in the global health field.

Looking to the future, Granger hopes to work in the area of health promotion and education. "I want to play a role in developing a culture of integration and inclusion for minorities in Canada, at the policy level and within health care services, with a specific focus on maternal health and newborn/child health and development," she says. With this exchange under her belt, she says she will feel better equipped to meet that goal.



# Acting on Sustainable Development Goals at international symposium

MSc Global Health students acted on the UN's SDGs at the annual international symposium in India, which offers deep dives into pressing global issues including mental health, environmental health, reproductive and child health, and infectious disease surveillance.





Hosted at the Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), the 'Bridging Different Worlds' symposium is the culmination of the MSc Global Health program, bringing together students and faculty from McMaster's partner universities in the Netherlands, India, Colombia, Sudan, and Thailand.



The symposium in Manipal is uniquely designed to mirror the complex global work environments students will face in their future careers, while providing an opportunity to meet face to face with the peers they have been working with in virtual teams using digital learning spaces.

Students spend an intense two weeks working in teams, presenting their thesis research and scholarly paper abstracts, receiving critical feedback from peers and global health experts, and gaining hands-on experience in primary health care facilities, government agencies, and other stakeholder settings.



"The Global Health
Annual Review
provides yet another
medium for McMaster
to demonstrate our
ongoing commitment
to sustainability and
societal health."

Judah Batist

**GHAR** senior editor

"The work we do is driven by a commitment to the SDGs, and we recognize the role we can play in achieving these goals through our teaching and learning activities involving developing countries like Thailand."

Andrea Baumann

Associate Vice-President, Global Health, McMaster University

# Open-access journal showcases student research influenced by UN goals

From neonatal malaria in the Democratic Republic of Congo to mental health care access among Indigenous communities across Canada, the 2019 issue of the Global Health Annual Review (GHAR) tackles important global health issues.

The open-access, student-run journal contributes to the growing body of global health scholarship. It showcases new research that is carried out by students and alumni from the MSc Global Health program and is influenced by the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

This latest issue covers four overarching themes—mental health, social services, health systems and communicable diseases—and takes the form of research articles and opinion editorials, spanning multiple disciplines and intellectual frameworks.

### International Interdisciplinary Summer Institute supports experiential learning

Held in June 2019, the 13th annual IISI welcomed fifteen health professionals from Thailand's Praboromarajchanok Institute for Health Workforce Development (PIHWD) at the Ministry of Public Health (MPH) and five PhD scholars from the University of South-Eastern Norway (USN).

Centred on SDGs 3 (Good Health and Well Being) and 4 (Quality Education), the 2019 program was designed to provide health care educators and administrators

with an overview of McMaster's innovative health sciences curriculum and facilitate the sharing of best practices in experiential learning and innovation in higher education.



### Global Health Targeted Networks

With SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) as our focus, McMaster University is involved in targeted initiatives, establishing research centres and creating task forces and coalitions.

# International activity compendium highlights McMaster's global impact

The latest edition of McMaster University's International Activity Compendium is now online on the McMaster Global Engagement Hub, a portal for accessing information about the university's global engagement model, supports, services, opportunities, news and events.



Spearheaded by the Global Health Office, the compendium showcases McMaster's research and scholarly activities with global involvement and impact and is among a wide range of resources, activities, and opportunities for global engagement that have been developed in support of McMaster's global engagement strategy.

The compendium contains snapshots of the more than 1900 partnerships

taking place in 247 countries worldwide, representing a 41% increase in global activities reported since 2014 when the compendium was last published.

The International Activity
Compendium was first conceived
and delivered by McMaster's Global
Health Office in 2008, and after
multiple print editions has been
reworked as an online resource.

### McMaster re-designated PAHO/ WHO Collaborating Centre

McMaster School of Nursing has been re-designated a PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre for the next four years. For the

Global Health Office and MSc Global Health program, the re-designation means continued collaboration with partner institutions in support of PAHO/WHO's strategic plans related to the critical health workforce shortage in the Caribbean region.





# MacGIObAS Joint Department Chair Rounds focus on harnessing limited resources with big impact

Dr. Eve Nakabembe, senior lecturer, consultant obstetrician-gynecologist and global health advocate, visited McMaster in May 2019 for the third annual MacGlObAS Joint Department Chair Rounds.

The recipient of several awards, including Uganda's National Heroes Medal: Golden Jubilee Medal and the Rising Star Award Grand Challenges,

> Nakabembe is director of the Mother Baby Friendly Hospital

Initiative of Save the Mothers East
Africa. The program aims to train local
leaders in the developing world to reduce
maternal mortality in their own countries.

Nakabembe spoke about addressing health inequities in Uganda and harnessing low-resource innovations. She has called for social and business reforms to provide women with better access to medical care and transportation, with one

solution using toll free hotlines and mobile phone technology to link mothers in rural areas with trained health care workers.

The event was sponsored by MacGlObAS—a new collaboration between McMaster University's Global Health Office and departments of Obstetrics/Gynecology, Anesthesia and Surgery—and St. Joseph's International Outreach program.



### **Events as Tools for Change**

The Global Health Office works to amplify the global health dialogue through events that speak to critical sustainability issues and create awareness about the SDGs.

# The impacts of racism on health explored in Chanchlani lecture

Each year, the Global Health Office and the Chanchlani Research Centre at McMaster honours an individual who has made a significant and positive impact in the field of global health. Dr. Camara Phyllis Jones was this year's recipient.

Dr. Camara Phyllis Jones delivered a powerful lecture to McMaster's global health community after receiving the Chanchlani Global Health Research Award. Her talk aimed to empower people to take action to reduce racism and its negative impact on health, targeting SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and SDG 10 (Reduce Inequalities).

Sharing allegories on race and racism, Jones' lecture called for a need to understand our common humanity, to realize that race is a social classification, and that we need to combat inaction and become actively anti-racist.

"It's important that we understand that racism contributes to poorer health outcomes and that we take steps to address it," said Andrea Baumann.

Jones is senior fellow at the Satcher Health Leadership Institute, an adjunct professor at the Rollins School of Public Health, and an adjunct associate professor at the Morehouse School of Medicine.



#### The Chanchlani Family

The late philanthropist
Vasu Chanchlani and
his wife Dr. Jayshree
Chanchlani co-founded the
Chanchlani Global Health
Research Award with
McMaster University in
2012 to honour outstanding
individuals dedicated to
improving global health.



# Speaker Series offers unique perspectives on global health



In fall 2018, Govindakarnavar Arunkumar of the Manipal Centre for Virus Research in India and Stuart

Each year, the Global Health Speaker Series welcomes global health experts to speak on a range of topics from their own perspectives working in the field.

MacLeod, professor of pediatrics at the University of British Columbia addressed the global health community at McMaster. Arunkumar delivered a lecture on the Nipah Virus, with a presentation that shed light on detection and response to India's third Nipah outbreak in May 2018. MacLeod spoke about new approaches to improving therapeutic choices for children to improve survival and health outcomes.



# Lecture series prioritizes Indigenous health and access to care in northern communities

"Climate change is one of the biggest threats of the 21st century and Indigenous people are among the most directly affected by it. We need to open the dialogue."

Andrea Baumann

Associate Vice-President, Global Health, McMaster University Pressing global issues affecting the health and well-being of Northern communities, specifically Indigenous and displaced populations living in Canada's High North region, were the focus of a WebEx lecture series developed by the Global Health Office. The aim was to call attention to critical global health issues by looking at the populations most impacted by them.

The lecture series—'Displaced Populations and Northern Communities: Highlighting the Research, Policies, and Politics of Access to Care'—was part of the MSc Global Health program's High North course, jointly offered by McMaster and the University of South-Eastern Norway. Titled 'Global transitions within local communities: Small places, big changes', the course explores the similar threats faced by Northern communities in Canada and Norway, with respect to their natural

resources, their health, and their rights, in an increasingly globalized world. The series focused on SDGs 13 (Climate Action), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), and 3 (Good Health and Well-Being).

Speakers included Nancy Doubleday, HOPE Chair in Peace and Health, Department of Philosophy and Peace Studies program and Taha Tabish, health innovations research coordinator at the Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre, as well as McMaster's Associate V-P Global Health Andrea Baumann and Global Health professor Christy Gombay.

### **Awards & Recognition**

The Global Health Office is proud to celebrate the achievements of the faculty and students involved with both the Office and the Master of Science in Global Health program.

Three Faculty of Health Sciences professors, including **Andrea Baumann** and **Mohit Bhandari**, became members of the prestigious Order of Canada in 2018-2019.

Baumann has been honoured for her significant contributions and leadership in the field of health human resources and transdisciplinary collaboration, both in Canada and around the world. Bhandari, a professor of surgery for the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, was named for his contributions to the field of orthopaedic

trauma and for his pioneering research in the area of intimate partner violence.

MSc Global Health program graduate **Sherry Nisbett** won the 2019 National Collaborating Centres for Public Health (NCCPH) Knowledge Translation Award, which recognizes graduate students in Canada for outstanding work in knowledge translation (KT).

Serena Tejpar, MSc Global
Health program student, was named
2019's YMCA Young Woman of
Excellence, recognized by the YMCA

of Southwestern Ontario for her contribution to the community.

Student **Aloka Wijesooriya's** vision for a future working world placed runner-up in the annual U21/ PwC Innovation Challenge.

Program graduate and pharmacist **Eustace Orleans-Lindsay** received the McMaster Alumni Association Global Community Impact award for his dedication to removing systemic barriers facing migrant farm workers in his community of Norfolk County.

### **Looking Forward**

Global Health Office will continue to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and improve international collaboration at McMaster by working with the Faculty of Health Sciences, the broader university, and the community.

#### Our strategy for global engagement involves:

- Strategic partnerships:
   Collaborating with the Faculty of Health Sciences, working across campus and engaging institutions locally, nationally and internationally to target the SDGs
- Research: Highlighting international achievements campus-wide and supporting research in emerging areas of global health
- Alumni: Seeking opportunities to work with alumni in an international context
- Students: Enhancing exposure to international perspectives in all learning environments and promoting reciprocal exchanges to enable global citizenship



#### Dr. Andrea Baumann

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