

Agility through change



Impact Report

2019 - 2020

BRIGHTER WORLD



Global Health



“The Global Health Office plays an important role in our institution’s vision to aspire to a culture of innovation, exploration and collaboration.”

Message from the Dean

Despite the significant challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, McMaster University’s Global Health Office continues to have a far-reaching impact on the health and safety of our community, our country and the international community as a whole.

The Global Health Office plays an important role in our institution’s vision to aspire to a culture of innovation, exploration and collaboration. Indeed, your remarkable efforts are a key contributor in our placement among the top universities in the world for health and medicine. Our reputation for excellence was most recently validated when the Times Higher Education University Rankings 2020 named McMaster among the top 70 universities in the world.

My deepest gratitude extends to all members of McMaster’s Global Health Office for the continued and extraordinary efforts shown during this time of great uncertainty. The global activities at McMaster play a substantial role in our institution’s ability to address the pandemic in ways that have the greatest impact, while safeguarding our world, enhancing knowledge creation and translation capacity, and promoting health equity and well-being for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul O'Byrne".

Paul O'Byrne

Dean & Vice-President, Faculty of Health Sciences

Message from the AVP

This year, we're experiencing a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic—a global health crisis that has brought with it a transformation in how we live, work, and learn. COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of swift action, co-ordinated efforts, and communication. At the same time, it has revealed health inequities: As with most infectious diseases, the current pandemic is disproportionately affecting vulnerable people and marginalized communities, in our country and globally.

As an international office, we have more work to do in advancing health equity, which involves tackling injustices that include the anti-Black racism and violence which continue to persist in our communities.

The United Nations' [Sustainable Development Goals](#) put forward an imperative to “leave no one behind” in their call for action to address the most serious challenges of our time. These goals drive the work we do in the Global Health Office.

We recognize that achieving the development goals by 2030 will require strong partnerships and a clear vision. We must also continue to embrace virtual internationalization as we find new ways—agile ways—of extending access to international experiences and enabling global collaboration as we work towards achieving a more sustainable, brighter world.

With this in mind, I am pleased to introduce the Global Health Office's 2019-2020 Annual Report—*Agility through change*—which highlights our activities, impact and dedication to improving global health.



Andrea Baumann

Associate Vice-President
Global Health



“To effectively address health inequities, we must find solutions together, and be agile in our response to a shifting global health environment.”

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McMaster University recognizes and acknowledges that it is located on the traditional territories of the Mississauga and Haudenosaunee nations, and within the lands protected by the Dish With One Spoon wampum agreement.







About the Global Health Office

Established in 2004, the Global Health Office (GHO) collaborates with the University, and schools and departments within the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) to support internationalization at McMaster.



Our internationalization strategy

Our mission is to support innovation and build partnerships between researchers, educators and clinicians, funding agencies and global development initiatives to commit university research and education to the service of people’s health worldwide.

Partnerships

We collaborate with the FHS, working across campus with other Faculties and beyond to engage institutions locally, nationally and internationally to target the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We work with global health networks and targeted initiatives including the United Nations (UN), World Health Organization (WHO), Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) to ensure our activities are aligned with global agendas.

Innovation

We are committed to creating next-generation digital and experiential learning environments that align with McMaster’s commitment to internationalization and global citizenship. This work includes innovation in global health education and research, and enhancing exposure to international perspectives as we prioritize virtual internationalization to facilitate student and faculty mobility opportunities.

Communication

We make communication critical to our strategy and activities—locally, nationally, and globally. This work includes raising awareness across campus about the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and engaging in ongoing work with embassies and heads of state to facilitate university-government collaboration.

Mapping our activities to the development goals

With an unwavering dedication to achieving health equity, we are inspired by the SDGs. These goals recognize “that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth—all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.”

All of these goals are interrelated, and they all relate to and impact global health.



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Making a global impact

In 2020, McMaster University was recognized for its deep commitment to the SDGs, placing among the world's top 20 in the Times Higher Education Impact Ranking.



COVID-19 and our community



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COVID-19 defines global health in action. It has affected every country in the world and has had a profound impact on all sectors, including higher education. In the Global Health Office, we had to make rapid decisions about our activities and programming, and we will continue to adapt.

The global health community at McMaster is involved in a range of research initiatives dedicated to combating COVID-19 and we are proud to support this research and the transdisciplinary collaboration required as we move forward through this pandemic.

A top-down view of a person's hands typing on a silver laptop. The laptop screen shows a video conference with several participants. A white earphone cable is plugged into the laptop. A spiral notebook is partially visible on the desk. The background is a plain white surface.

Making virtual internationalization our priority

In the Global Health Office, our internationalization strategy is about creating experiences that are both global and collaborative. Increasingly, we have been focusing our efforts on virtualizing these experiences.

Virtual internationalization can be defined as the process of introducing an international, intercultural, or global dimension into the delivery, purpose or functions of higher education with the help of information and communications technology (ICT). (Knight, 2003)



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The COVID-19 pandemic has put significant pressure on higher education institutions to change their methods of teaching and learning, moving experiences online. For us, it has been an opportunity to evaluate many of the actions we have been taking for the last decade, and to find ways to enhance our internationalization efforts and ensure we are educating for sustainable development.

This work is aligned with SDG 4, which is to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all” and, critically, SDG 17, which is to “strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.”

The COVID pivot has necessitated a transition from working together physically to co-operating in virtual transcontinental learning. Through our global partnerships, coupled with a commitment to removing barriers to collaboration, we have enabled internationalization experiences that have been entirely virtual.

The Office is presently creating a compendium of organizations offering students a virtual international experience. The plan is for this database, which will initially be used by colleagues in Health Sciences, to migrate to a central university database with many more possible placements.

A committee is in the process of exploring potential software vendors. The aim of this initiative is to centralize all international opportunities throughout the university into one platform, with the focus being on partnership agreements management and mobility opportunities, including work-integrated learning, risk management, and international students.

We must equip students with the skills required for sustainable development and global citizenship. These are necessary skills as we move forward and prepare for how internationalization and student and faculty mobility will look in the future.



Our partnerships and targeted networks

Inspired by SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) and 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), we have developed strong partnerships with institutions and governments that share our commitment to health equity.

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Experiential learning exchange explores best practices in health sciences education

The success of the UN's SDGs depends on collaboration and partnerships with other universities and networks. With Sustainable Development Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) and 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) in mind, the Global Health Office organized a series of collaboration sessions with delegations from Japan's Kitasato and Niigata universities.

Topics explored included access to mental health care in Indigenous communities across Canada, palliative care in a global health context, and the Canadian health care system's policy response to migration.

As support for experiential learning is core to the Global Health Office's strategy, the learning exchange invited participants to experience problem-based learning and offered a tour of the [Centre for Simulation Based Learning \(CSBL\)](#).

"We can share expertise in critical areas of global health, from palliative care to infectious diseases, and the experience provides an opportunity to explore pressing issues from different cultural contexts."

Andrea Baumann
Associate V-P, Global Health

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Advancing global surgical care

The Global Health Office supports initiatives related to improving knowledge and understanding in the emerging field of global surgical care

MacGloBAS, for example, is a partnership with the GHO and the departments of Anesthesia, Obstetrics & Gynecology and Surgery. Another example of a recent initiative is the Branch for International Surgical Care (BISC) at the University of British Columbia (UBC).

The 2019 MacGloBAS annual fall seminar—titled ‘Global Surgery in Context’—welcomed more than 40 attendees from clinical departments, undergraduate medicine, and global health, as well as presenters from Angola and INMED, and McMaster faculty and international fellows.

Over the academic year, MacGloBAS hosted five international fellows and visitors with St. Joseph’s International Outreach Program: two from Guyana, two from Uganda and one South Sudan. The team has collaborated on a number of other initiatives including a grant proposal to the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons and a [video on global surgery](#).

MacGloBAS communicates regularly with students, residents and faculty in the global surgery community via social media, monthly newsletters and an annual report, posted on the Global Health website. A new funding agreement between partners will support MacGloBAS for next three years.

At the University of British Columbia, the Master of Global Surgical Care (MGSC) and Graduate Certificate in Global Surgical Care (GCGSC) have opened up for applications for January 2021, which will be available to students in Health Sciences. Courses are online and the curriculum covers topics including surgical care in rural and remote Indigenous communities, program planning and evaluation, and surgical care in humanitarian disaster response.

“We’re looking forward to continuing this collaboration, which brings together faculty and residents to enable transdisciplinary research, inspire volunteer service, and develop educational resources for those interested in global surgical care.”

Dr. Brian Cameron
Director, MacGloBAS

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Connecting through education and advocacy

Our partnerships with the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH), the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE), and Academics Without Borders (AWB) are examples of our ongoing commitment to connecting and collaborating with organizations engaged in addressing global health challenges.

GHO regularly participates in events and conferences including the CUGH annual conference in New York, which we sponsor students to attend, and CBIE events including a recent panel on internationalization and the SDGs.

We are also working with AWB's executive director on co-sponsored upcoming events to strengthen global engagement at McMaster.

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Corporate partnership fo virtual and multi-language collaboration

Multiple language offerings can add to the depth of any educational program. From a technology perspective, our vision is for teaching and learning experiences that provide seamless multi-lingual and multi-national online programming that overcomes language barriers and encourages knowledge sharing and networking on a global scale. Achieving these objectives requires partnerships with, and support from, technology providers and corporations like Microsoft.

The Global Health Office has been pursuing a collaboration with Microsoft to use Microsoft Translator as the premier package in the graduate Global Health program.

To demonstrate proof of concept, McMaster has been working with partner institution Universidad del Rosario in Colombia on a successful pilot project using Microsoft Translator's live transcription and translation tools—an initiative developed in consultation with, and supported by, the MacPherson Institute, University Technical Services, and representatives from Microsoft Canada.

Discussions are ongoing with key stakeholders, including Canada's Ambassador in Colombia and the Consul General of Canada in Seattle, to garner support for multi-lingual programming.

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Sharing SDG-aligned curricular innovations

The Universitas 21 (U21) SDG Initiative is a network of partner institutions that aims to promote knowledge and understanding of the development goals within the health science curriculum. This year, the Global Health Office represented the Faculty of Health Sciences at the U21 SDG Forum at the Annual General Meeting, highlighting various ways the development goals are aligned with the curriculum:

- **Family Medicine:** A core session called ‘the Poverty Workshop’ focused on addressing poverty in clinical care and targeting SDGs 1 and 3
- **Rehabilitation Science:** A proposal to work in partnership with the University of Rwanda, focusing on exchanges open to students and faculty in occupational therapy and physiotherapy, targeting goals 3 and 17. The Global Health Office will review the MOU.
- **Global Health:** A transdisciplinary program involving a partnership with seven global institutions, targeting SDGs 3, SDG 4 and SDG 17.

Town hall highlights ongoing commitment to internationalization

The second annual McMaster Global Engagement Town Hall took place in fall 2019 as part of McMaster Global, a university-wide showcase of global engagement activities across campus—research, panel discussions, events and activities—targeting one or more SDGs.

McMaster is taking action to build an international reputation, attract international students, and support the development of a global mindset. One example is the [Future International Students website](#), which targets international students.

The town hall addressed issues including the university’s increasing focus on promoting and supporting student mobility for McMaster students, making global experiences more accessible, and integrating experiential learning into study and work abroad.

McMaster currently has nearly 2,000 partnerships worldwide, demonstrating a significant commitment to research and scholarly activities with global involvement.

This work supports the [McMaster Global Engagement Strategic framework](#), which centres on making global engagement in education and knowledge generation an integral part of the university’s identity and presence in Canada and the world.

Only 3% of Canadian university students study abroad. Canadian universities need to grow partnerships internationally to address student mobility issues and ensure our graduates have the skills they need for success in a global economy.

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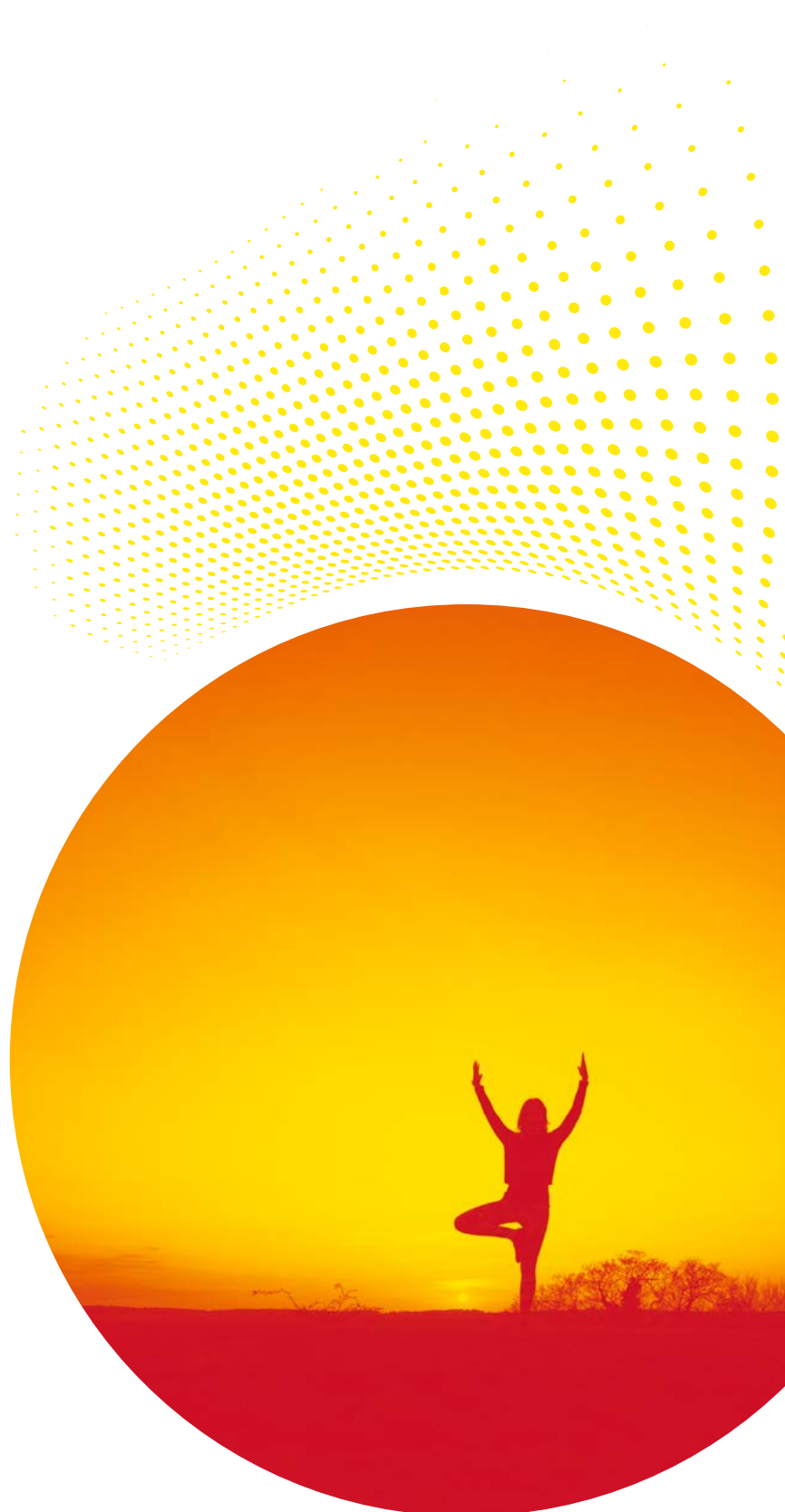
Interest in student mobility grows as China delegation visits


The Global Health Office has been responding to the requirement for global fluency for Canadian students by seeking partners in key global markets. Each year, we host several international delegations as part of McMaster's increasing focus on student mobility and global citizenship education.

One example is a delegation visit in December from the Ningxia Region in China to explore opportunities for exchange and collaboration.

The vice-president of the Education Commission of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region was joined by the dean of the medical school at Ningxia Medical University, and five delegates from other Ningxia Region post-secondary institutions. The group consisted of professionals and academics from fields including medicine and chemical engineering.

Representatives from the Office of International Affairs, Chemical Engineering and the Faculty of Science met with the delegates, who were keen to learn about McMaster's programs in health sciences.



A photograph of Jonathan Patz, a man with a grey beard and balding head, wearing a brown suit jacket, a blue patterned tie, and a light blue checkered shirt. He is speaking at a podium with a microphone. The background is a dark, textured wall. Two large circular graphic elements are overlaid on the image: a maroon one on the left and a light blue one on the right.

Events that spark SDG-centred dialogue

We aim to create awareness about the development goals and critical issues in global health, welcoming experts from a range of fields and disciplines.

“We need to understand that combating climate change could be cost free—or even a net gain.”

Jonathan Patz
Chanchlani Award recipient 2020



The climate crisis is a health emergency, but it's also an opportunity

The WHO states that climate change poses the biggest threat to global health in the 21st century. But according to Jonathan Patz, recipient of this year's Chanchlani Global Health Research Award, the actions we take to mitigate climate change could, in fact, have enormous opportunities for health. And not just for health, but for the economy, too.

Patz visited campus in February 2020 to deliver a lecture and accept the award for his pioneering work on the link between climate change and human health. A medical doctor and director of the Global Health Institute at the University of Madison-Wisconsin, Patz has spent nearly two decades as lead author for the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the organization that shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore.

Addressing a packed audience, Patz ran off troubling statistics, drawing on his own research and turning the findings into opportunities for positive change in the energy, food, and transportation industries.

- Air pollution kills approximately 7 million people every year and costs the world's economy over \$5 trillion. But renewable energy could create 1 million jobs in the US alone, and every \$1 invested in clean energy could yield \$30 in benefits.

- 19-29% of greenhouse gas emissions come from meat and dairy production. But eating lower on the food chain offers both environmental and health benefits.
- An overdependence on motorized vehicles is linked to physical inactivity, which is estimated to kill more than 5.3 million people every year. But swapping cars for bikes could save lives—and billions of dollars—annually.

Patz's lecture, which identified the need for climate action at the policy level, included introductory remarks by local Members of Parliament, The Honourable Filomena Tassi (Hamilton West) and The Honourable Anita Anand (Oakville).

"Effectively addressing SDG 13, which is focused on climate action, requires involvement from the scientific community, academia, governments—everyone."

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Global experts talk pandemics in online series

The Global Health Office explored COVID-19 from multiple perspectives in an online speaker series—Expert Perspectives on Pandemics—in April 2020. The webinar series was part of the Global Health program’s annual two-week international symposium in India, which was moved online because of the pandemic.

The series featured international renowned experts on topics that included flattening the curve, forecasting the new coronavirus, cultural histories and reactions to past pandemics, and the search for a magic bullet.

As many students’ focus for their scholarly papers and theses shifted to COVID-19, organizers brought in speakers who could offer pandemic-related insights and answer their questions.

They included infectious disease expert Gerry Wright, director of the Michael C. DeGroote Institute for Infectious Disease Research; Charu Kaushic, scientific director of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research; and evolutionary anthropologist Hendrik Poinar.

The response from students at the reinvented symposium was so positive, that Global Health Office opened up the second half of the webinar series to a wider audience, reaching 1300 participants.





A photograph showing a person's hands holding several blue Canadian passports. The passports are fanned out, showing the gold-embossed text 'CANADA' and the coat of arms. The background is a bicycle parked on a paved surface. A large, semi-transparent purple circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the main title and a short paragraph.

Innovation in Education for a Brighter World

We prepare Health Sciences graduates for a changing world. The Sustainable Development Goals depend on global partnerships.

Strengthening collaboration in Health Sciences

The current pandemic has taught us that organizations have to be flexible to address internationalization, while also considering the local context. To effectively address local and global challenges, while producing socially impactful research and employable graduates, there is a need to facilitate greater collaboration across disciplines and institutions.

The Global Health Office aims to address the issue of compartmentalized specialization of education and research—all too often siloed within departments and faculties—which can inhibit the scope and incentive to develop co-operation across academic disciplines.

At McMaster, there is a collective of scholars focusing on global health issues in a local and global context. The Global Health Office supports faculty connections with international partner institutions and stakeholders to facilitate the integration of diverse perspectives. We are currently beta-testing several educational innovations that support increased collaboration:

- **PhD cotutelle initiative with Maastricht University**, the Netherlands, providing students access to renowned interdisciplinary faculty and the opportunity for an exchange placement during their PhD studies
- **Expanded joint programming across departments and faculties** to enable educational approaches and course topics that evolve and respond to learner and market demands
- **Transcontinental and translingual online learning pods** using artificial intelligence translation tools to facilitate a truly global immersive environment where students, speaking multiple languages and from multiple countries, can connect in real-time
- **Micro-credit course offerings** (i.e., 1 credit courses) that use digital learning environments to engage a greater number and diversity of students and increase access to quality education through non-traditional course load structures

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Student mobility: Pivoting in a pandemic

Responding to travel restrictions, the Global Health Office has been developing an internationalization strategy in collaboration with the Office of International Affairs with virtualization in mind.

We have been communicating with the federal government regarding the Outbound Student Mobility Program—funded by Employment and Social Development Canada and jointly administered by Universities Canada and Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan)—to support undergraduate and graduate student exchanges. Currently, the initiative has been suspended until the Canadian government pares a new strategy concerning international education.

With this in mind, Global Health Office is developing a comprehensive list of international, remote work-integrated learning opportunities for university graduate students, with an aim to sharing the list on a campus-wide central platform. This platform will include Canadian and international organizations that work in a global environment that will assist students in gaining international experiences. In the short run, this will replace travel but will still offer important aspects of working in global environments.



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The graduate Global Health program

The award-winning graduate Global Health program is an example of a higher education consortium involving institutions in multiple countries.

Global Health partners



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Rethinking our strategy as work-integrated learning goes virtual

Work-integrated learning is a core component of McMaster's graduate Global Health program, which requires students to complete a ten-week practicum to gain hands-on experience in the global health field. Students work with organizations, both locally and internationally, that put into practice the theory, concepts, and methods taught in the program, with activities targeted to the UN's SDGs.

As a prototype of virtual internationalization in work-integrated learning, students were able to gain international experience with various organizations, including CARE Canada, AMREF, and Health4theWorld. Most of these organizations are located in Canada, while others are based in countries including the UK, US, Pakistan, Uganda, Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, India, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, and South Africa.



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Focusing on Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)

The Global Health program is determined to build on its leadership in offering collaborative online international learning opportunities with existing partners to ensure students are equipped with the intercultural, communication, and technical skills that today's world demands.

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Symposium Plus: Capstone experience moves online

The capstone experience of the graduate Global Health program is an intense two-week international symposium in India, which brings together 300+ students and faculty from McMaster and partner universities in the Netherlands, India and Thailand. This year, the evolving situation with COVID-19 meant the symposium had to move to a completely online format. The pivot worked—and the team pulled together a successful virtual conference.

Online learning and collaboration are core to the program's curriculum, with students working in virtual transcontinental teams from the get-go.

The symposium experience is driven by educational innovation and uses multiple modalities such as learning pods, cluster interaction and transcontinental faculty.

Symposium highlights this year included a webinar series offering diverse global perspectives on pandemics; group work to create system maps; expert lectures, panel discussions and research forums; and optional student activities that provided cultural immersion in a virtual environment.

“When it became clear that the symposium had to be moved online, we were well positioned, but we wanted to mirror that experiential learning and cultural immersion piece.”

Andrea Baumann
Associate V-P, Global Health

“It was an ‘all-hands-on-deck’ approach that involved participants as collaborators, and this meant that students helped shape the event and contribute to its success.”

Sue Barclay
Global Health faculty

“I appreciated the extraordinary opportunity to share my research and received valuable feedback from faculty and fellow students from around the globe.”

Anish Jammu
McMaster Global Health student

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Pilot project targets sustainability goals and strengthens Colombia partnership

McMaster has been increasing collaboration with partner institution Universidad del Rosario in Colombia.

In September 2019, the Global Health program launched a multi-lingual, transnational pilot project with Rosario, using machine learning technology to overcome language and communication barriers and facilitate teamwork between students. Inspired by working with Rosario students in the first term, and their ability to communicate in Spanish, five McMaster students chose to study abroad at Rosario in the winter term.

The term stresses experiential learning in peri-urban areas of Bogota dealing with an influx of Venezuelan migrants and working in slums in Bogota. In spite of their limited knowledge of Spanish, the McMaster students excelled during their term abroad in Colombia.

Targeting SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), the collaboration has

involved the use of various Microsoft tools for instant messaging, video conferencing and file sharing.

With Spanish being Rosario students' primary language of communication, [Microsoft Translator's](#) live transcription and translation tools have facilitated cross-institutional group work in innovative ways that have previously not been possible.

This initiative was developed in consultation with, and supported by, McMaster University's MacPherson Institute and University Technical Services, as well as representatives from Microsoft Canada, who are monitoring and evaluating the project on an ongoing basis.

On the basis of these strengthened contacts between faculty at Rosario and McMaster, a number of new research initiatives have been developed including exploring the use of artificial intelligence in health services for marginalized people in Bogota.

“One aspect of being a global health expert is talking to people in their own language and trying to understand their frame of reference; their way of seeing the world”

Christy Gombay
Assistant Director, Global Health program



Revamped course reading list enhances Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

With funding from the MacPherson Institute's Student Partners Program Equity Stream Pilot, funded by SSHRC, a Department of Medicine faculty member has been working to increase representation of marginalized and historically underrepresented groups in academic curricula. This initiative has involved assessing her course reading list for factors such as gender, race, geography and LGBTQ+ identity.

As an outcome, a master reading list and creating a toolkit that will assist university faculty to enhance diversity and inclusion in learning experiences.

The Student Partners Program Equity Stream Pilot contributes to the university's emerging Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy and recent efforts and initiatives to advance Accessible Education. Faculty and students are paired up to collaborate on enhancing equity in the classroom/curriculum.

"I was motivated to pursue this project to expand students' exposure to ideas beyond the most visible voices of global health primarily drawn from small, closely connected network of mostly Western male perspectives."

Deborah DiLiberto
Assistant Professor, Global Health

"Decolonizing and increasing representation in course reading lists introduces students to ideas we may have not encountered before, making our learning more diverse and dynamic."

Yimeng Wang
3rd year Bachelor of Arts and Science student

International case competition challenges students to control an outbreak

Due to COVID-19, the Emory Global Health Institute hosted its annual International Emory Global Health Case Competition virtually this year. On March 14, 2020, multidisciplinary teams from 28 universities—including McMaster—participated via Zoom. Students from Health Sciences and across the university took on the challenge: Develop a detailed nationwide policy and program to control the spread of the country's measles outbreak, provide supportive care for those infected, and prevent future outbreaks.

“Working in transdisciplinary teams with people from various backgrounds, and conducting virtual meetings and presentations is par for the course in the Global Health program, so our students were well prepared for this type of competition.”

David Oldenburger
MacGIObAS co-ordinator

Although the McMaster team didn't place this year, the competition offered a positive learning and skill-building experience that will benefit students in their future course assignments and careers.

The case, set in the year 2030, prompted teams to serve as a World Health Organization country representative from one of the following countries: India, Madagascar, Nigeria, Syria, or Ukraine.

Two universities participated from Canada (McMaster and U of T), one from Australia, one from Denmark, and the remainder from the USA.

Global Health students will participate in the 2021 competition in March, which will be held virtually again.

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A new doctoral program in Global Health

McMaster University has launched Canada's first standalone cotutelle PhD program in global health. It builds on the success of the award-winning international and transdisciplinary MSc Global Health program, which is jointly offered with Maastricht University in The Netherlands. The doctoral program aims to strengthen McMaster's existing partnership with Maastricht with a unique cotutelle agreement that provides an option for the PhD to be jointly recognized by both universities.

The program will enable increased research collaboration and opportunities across McMaster and Maastricht and, like the master's program, will prioritize experiential learning, virtual internationalization and innovation in higher education.

McMaster and Maastricht have been collaborating for more than a decade, launching the graduate Global Health program in 2010. Since then, enrolment has tripled, and institutional partnerships have expanded to include seven partner universities. Together, these institutions form a higher education consortium working in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



“This year we have faced an unprecedented global health crisis with COVID-19, and we recognize that global health education is critical as we move forward in these times.”

Andrea Baumann
Associate V-P Global Health



EXIT

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Research for Impact

Collaborative research is critical to global health. We support the research activities of the faculty and students involved with the office.

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COVID-19 rapid research

McMaster is active in COVID research as the global health community responds to the pandemic. Researchers from Health Sciences and Engineering have collectively received \$20 million in funding for projects from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and their funding partners.

McMaster had the second most funded grants through the COVID-19 Rapid Research Funding Opportunity which supported 139 projects across the country for a total of \$109M.

The CIHR grants for McMaster are in addition to the \$9M in COVID-19-related research **announced earlier this month.**

Support for those projects came from all sectors of tri-council agencies, federal and provincial governments, foundations, private companies, and philanthropists, including Charles and Margaret Juravinski.

The research spans a broad range of themes, from development of diagnostics and therapeutics to questions regarding patient management to investigating long-term care in crisis.

“These significant grants are remarkable but also unsurprising as the excellence of McMaster’s health researchers spans so many fields. We have a tradition of excellence in infectious disease expertise particularly because of our Michael G. DeGroot Institute for Infectious Disease Research.”

Paul O’Byrne
Dean and Vice-President, Faculty of Health Sciences

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SDG-targeted research helps create health care jobs for Canadian newcomers

A McMaster research team has been working to accelerate the employment of internationally educated nurses (IENs) in an effort to diversify the health workforce, reduce health inequities for immigrants and refugees across Ontario, and promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

The successful employment strategy has involved partnering with health care employers and non-governmental organizations to match highly skilled newcomer women to available positions.

The strategy includes an analysis of real-time job postings, community profiles, in-person meetings with senior executives and final job matching. Early results indicate that the strategy has resulted in immediate employment of more than 90% of applicants.

According to the federal government's review of [Canada's Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), newcomers to Canada face unique barriers to participating fully in their new country, including their ability to enter the workforce.

As a result of unemployment and underemployment, newcomers and their families struggle financially and socially—and the economy loses out.

The employment strategy for IENs directly targets SDG 8 which aims to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

To combat and help remove barriers to employment in general for new Canadians, the Canadian government is working with provinces and territories to support newcomers' employability, assist employers to benefit from the contribution of newcomers, and streamline and improve recognition of foreign qualifications. These are all actions the McMaster project team has taken to increase employment of IENs.

“Our work is well aligned with SDG 8 in that we are working towards economic growth that sustainable and inclusive and, in the area of health care, will hopefully result in reduced inequities.”

Andrea Baumann
Associate V-P Global Health

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Sharing sustainability: A how-to for higher ed

The Global Health Office has received federal government funding for a project focused on McMaster's contributions to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

The project will showcase research activities across the Faculty of Health Sciences and the wider University that align with and support the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The team is developing a website, case studies, and a toolkit that can be used as a university-wide guide in targeting the SDGs.

Titled 'Sharing sustainability: A how-to for higher education', the project aims to highlight McMaster's deep commitment to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Funding for the project was awarded by the Sustainable Development Goals Funding Program from Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC).





Staying focused. Staying agile

For more than a decade, the Global Health Office's mission has been to support internationalization at McMaster. In the context of the current pandemic, and what it means for higher education, this focus on internationalization is more important than ever.



Partnerships have been, and will continue to be, critical to our success as an institution as we move forward in an environment that is constantly changing and becoming increasingly virtualized.

Our strategy moving forward will focus on prioritizing virtual internationalization so we can continue to facilitate student and faculty mobility opportunities and build global citizenship. We will strengthen our communications strategy to collaborate more effectively and purposefully with faculties and across campus. Drawing on our partnerships with institutions locally and globally—including institutional partnerships and leaders in internationalization including CBIE, AWB and CUGH—we will seek new opportunities to work together and support and highlight research for a more sustainable world.

We have much work to do to advance global health and achieve health equity, and we understand we must be agile to get there.



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