



Global Goals, Local Action

Global Health Office
Annual Report
2020-21

BRIGHTER WORLD

globalhealthoffice.mcmaster.ca

HEALTH SCIENCES
Global Health Office





Land Acknowledgement

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.

Message from the Director



Tackling today's critical global health challenges requires innovative solutions, a collaborative effort, and prepared global citizens who are equipped with the knowledge and skills to make positive change happen.

With this in mind, McMaster University continues to prioritize global engagement and foster global citizenship while recognizing the importance of local action.

The role of the Global Health Office (GHO) is to support internationalization and enhance the visibility of the Faculty of Health Sciences worldwide. We recognize that this requires strong partnerships and innovation to develop solutions to achieve health equity locally and globally.

This year, as the pandemic is still in our midst, it continues to reveal historical and current health inequities, as it has

disproportionately affected vulnerable people and marginalized communities, in our country and globally. As an international office, we have more work to do in advancing health equity, and have prioritized issues including racism, migration, climate change, and Indigenous health through our activities, events, and programming.

McMaster University has placed second in the world in The Times Higher Education Impact ranking, based on its deep commitment to the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals are interconnected and call for integrated solutions to "leave no one behind" – and they are fundamental to the work we are doing in the GHO.

This past year has been an eventful one, and we have heard from expert speakers including surgeon and Indigenous health researcher, Dr. Nadine Caron and Special Advisor to the Director General of the World Health Organization, Dr. Peter Singer.



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We hosted several virtual events including a UN75 Dialogue and The Arctic: A Global Health Perspective speaker series. These events offered diverse insights and creative ideas to address emerging global health challenges and opportunities to navigate the future.

To set the stage for these events, we were delighted to host distinguished guests and dignitaries which included the Norwegian Ambassador to Canada, Patrick Parisot and Canadian Ambassador to Norway, Jon Elvedal Fredriksen.

The award-winning Master of Science in Global Health – our collaborative program with Maastricht University in the Netherlands – has a growing network which includes partner institutions across multiple continents. These partnerships include Manipal University in India, Thammasat University in Thailand, University College of Southeast Norway (USN) in Norway, Universidad del Rosario in Colombia, and Afhad University in Sudan.

The program offers a unique transcontinental and transdisciplinary approach to learning, which combines face to-face classroom experiences with online collaboration in virtual teams with peers across locations. In an effort to continue to grow and strengthen our offering in global health, we launched a PhD program which is now in its 2nd year.

I am pleased to introduce the Global Health Office’s 2020-2021 Annual Report – Global Goals, Local Action – which highlights our activities, impact, and dedication to improving global health. I would also like to thank our dedicated faculty, students, and global health community for making a Brighter World possible.

Andrea Baumann
Associate Vice-President, Global Health



About the Global Health Office

Established in 2004, the Global Health Office (GHO) supports the Faculty of Health Sciences commitment to local, national, and international communities and partnerships.

The GHO promotes strategic alliances within the University and with external partners – the broader global health community.



Our internationalization strategy

Our mission is to foster 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.

OUR OBJECTIVES:

- Increase capacity building in higher education
- Create long-term mobility opportunities in research and internships for Faculty and students
- Support Indigenous research and education initiatives
- Host international delegations and scholars
- Offer global health education events with a focus on emerging issues
- Create next-generation digital and experiential learning environments
- Encourage innovation and inclusion in educational programming that reinforces internationalization



Partnerships

We collaborate with faculty within the FHS, working across campus with other Faculties and beyond to engage institutions locally, nationally, and internationally to target the SDG's. We work with global health networks and targeted initiatives including the United Nations (UN), World Health Organization (WHO), and 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 ambassadors, embassies, and heads of state to facilitate university-government collaboration.

Targeting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The GHO, in alignment with McMaster's dedication to achieving health equity, is committed to developing solutions and preparing future innovators with the skills that will enable them to contribute to achieving the 17 SDGs.

The SDGs, also known as Global Goals, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.



THE GLOBAL GOALS

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to amplify existing weaknesses and injustice in our system, which is an opportunity to proactively engage in positive change and take an active role in solving global health challenges.

TOP 20

MAKING A GLOBAL IMPACT

In 2021, McMaster University was placed among the world's top 20 in the *Times Higher Education Ranking*. This recognizes commitments to achieving many of the SDGs including good health and well-being, decent work an economic growth, building sustainable cities and communities, achieving gender equity, and revitalizing global partnerships.



A new website focuses on the UN goals

The GHO received a grant from the Government of Canada for a project focused on McMaster's contributions to the SDGs. The website showcases research activity across the FHS and the wider university that align with and support the global goals.

Sharing sustainability: A how-to for higher education, showcases interdisciplinary commitment to meet the goals.

The site includes profiles of McMaster researchers and their work — each connected to one of the 17 SDGs — and offers a leading practices toolkit for aligning research with the SDGs.

This website, created in collaboration with Communications and Public Affairs at McMaster University, and features the transdisciplinary work taking place across the University. The website also has a report that pulls together the many ways McMaster is driving change through initiatives targeting the SDGs in research, teaching, governance, and community engagement.

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



“Our aim with this project was to showcase the work that is happening across disciplines, to serve as a resource for other institutions and researchers interested in a global framework to tackle the most pressing challenges the world is facing.”

— Andrea Baumann, Associate V-P, Global Health



Strategic Response – A Call to Action

In the GHO, our global engagement includes being informed and responsive to pressing humanitarian emergencies.

In response to the crisis in Afghanistan, we are committed to partnering with McMaster University and the wider community to advocate for rights, safety, and wellbeing of Afghan nationals – currently, with a focus on students in the Women and Gender Studies Program at the Kabul University.

The School of Social Work, Office of International Affairs, Office of the Provost, and the GHO, are working towards securing formal commitments from faculties and research centres at McMaster University for student and staff placements for those that are in imminent risk.

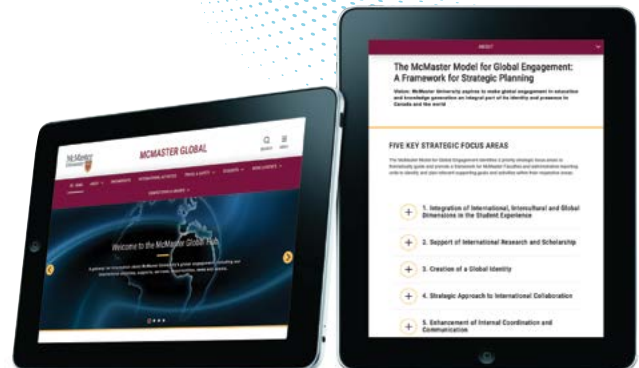


Engaging in ongoing dialogue for an Equitable Future



As part of the United Nations 75th anniversary, the UN Secretary General António Guterres called upon the international community to unite and discuss ways to build a better future for the youth of tomorrow through unity and solidarity.

In response to this call, the GHO, in collaboration with the Office of International Affairs and the McMaster Model for United Nations, we hosted a UN75 Dialogue “Investing in Health for an Equitable Future” based on SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being).



The dialogue was one of several global engagement initiatives supporting the **McMaster global engagement strategy**, which fosters a culture of global awareness in our campus community and to actively engage in critical discussion about challenges facing our world.

In addition to Dr. Andrea Baumann, McMaster’s Associate V-P of Global Health and Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre in Primary Care and Health Human Resources, esteemed speakers included Dr. Peter Singer, Special Advisor to the Director General of the World Health Organization, and Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh, Chair of the United Nations Mechanism on the Right to Development and the Senator William McMaster Chair In Global Human Rights.

Our partnerships and targeted networks

The GHO promotes strategic alliances within the University and with external partners – the broader global health community.



Connecting through innovation and education

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

The GHO this year participated in activities, events, and conferences including the CUGH annual conference held virtually. This year's CBIE events included the 2021 Ontario Regional Meeting featuring discussions on innovation in higher education, the future of virtual mobility, and panel discussion on internationalization and the SDGs.



UNIVESITAS 21

OUR GLOBAL COMMITMENT

An example of McMaster University's commitment to partner with global institutions is the Universitas 21 (U21) SDG Initiative which is a network of institutions that aims to promote knowledge and understanding of the development goals within the health science curriculum.

Earlier this year, the GHO represented the FHS at the U21 SDG Forum at the Annual General Meeting.

The theme of the meeting was *'Prevention, Wellbeing, and Longevity in a Post-Covid World'* and included an SDG forum that highlighted various ways the development goals re-aligned with higher education and global health curriculum.

Virtual and multi-language collaboration

Multiple language offerings can add to the equity and diversity of any international program and allow for an increased ability to strengthen partnerships, collaborate across borders, and networking on a global scale. From a technology perspective, the GHO vision is to innovate teaching and learning experiences that provide seamless multi-lingual and multi-national online programming that overcome language and accessibility barriers.

Achieving these objectives requires partnerships with and support from technology providers and corporations like Microsoft. The GHO pursued collaboration with Microsoft to use Microsoft Translator as the premier package in the graduate Global Health program.

To demonstrate proof of concept, we have 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.

This year through digital collaboration and the use of translation tools, students from McMaster extended their engagement with students from Rosario. By using web-conferencing, they participated in virtual household visits to underprivileged neighbourhoods of Bogota.

Discussions are ongoing with key stakeholders, including the Canadian Embassy in Bogota, Rosario University, and Microsoft to garner support for multi-lingual programming to enhance inclusive collaboration and expand participant diversity.



“To date, the lingua franca of global health has been English. Being inclusive means listening to voices that do not have this privilege. If we can do that using new technologies, it is a step in the right direction for our students and the field of global health.”

– Christy Gombay, Assistant Director, Global Health





Partnerships that enhance learning environments

From an educational perspective, the GHO vision is to facilitate educational events with a focus on emerging global health issues and the SDGs. Achieving these objectives requires partnerships with local and global community-based organizations.

MAKING A GLOBAL IMPACT

Experiential learning opportunities provide students with hands-on learning to navigate and problem-solve global health challenges, which supports skill-development in an impactful way.

In collaboration with Global Health Sim (GH Sim), a non-profit community-based organization, the GHO with the support of the MacPherson Institute developed an experiential simulation as an instructional strategy for the graduate level course, *Research Methods: A Global Perspective*.



Global Health Sim
Innovative Education by Simulation

These interactive learning opportunities supports our objectives to developing students' interdisciplinary thinking while applying course learning to real-world global health contexts.

Also, in partnership with the MacPherson Institute, we are exploring the use of micro-credentials as an approach to consolidate, evaluate, and credit transferable skills. The proposed project aims to address the challenge of defining, evaluating and presenting global health-related professional and transferable skills in a way that is understood by students, institutions and employers.



“Through this project, we can enhance the learning experience by providing students with an opportunity to reflect, consolidate and be credited for the development of their transferable skills. Utilizing a micro-credential framework will provide an opportunity for students to orient their interdisciplinary learning journey and provide motivation and confidence as they transition into the world of work.”

—Deborah DiLiberto, Assistant Professor, Global Health

MacGIObAS



McMaster Global Health Office
Obstetrics & Gynecology | Anesthesia | Surgery

The GHO supports initiatives related to improving knowledge and understanding in the emerging field of global surgical care. MacGIObAS, for example, is a partnership with the GHO and the departments of Anesthesia, Obstetrics & Gynecology and Surgery at McMaster University.

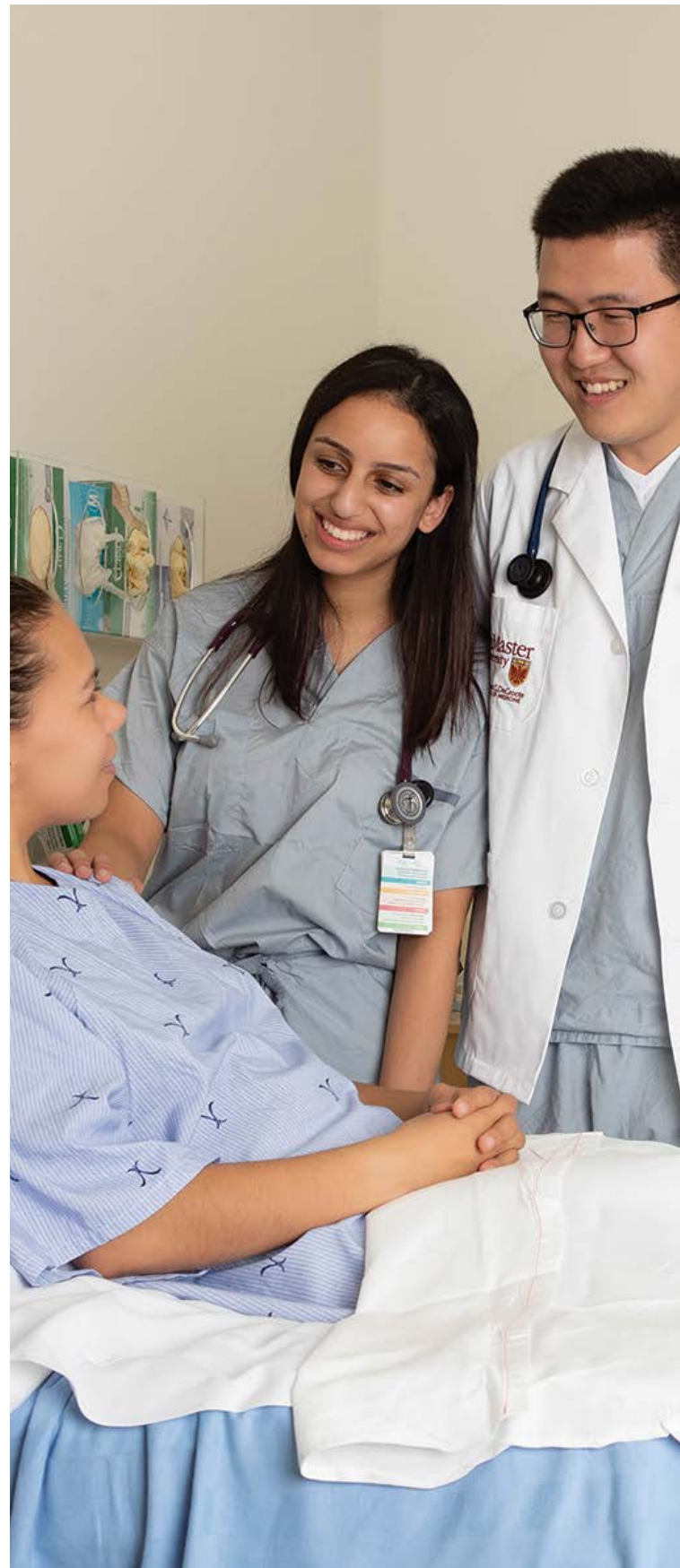
MAKING A GLOBAL IMPACT

The 2020 MacGIObAS annual fall seminar titled *'Constrained by COVID: Global Surgery with a Globe under Siege'* welcomed more than 40 attendees from clinical departments, undergraduate medicine, and global health. The seminar as well as welcomed international fellows and presenters from South Sudan, Uganda, and Guyana.

Another example of a continuing initiative is the Branch for International Surgical Care (BISC) at the University of British Columbia (UBC). At UBC, the Master of Global Surgical Care (MGSC) and Graduate Certificate in Global Surgical Care (GCGSC) have opened for applications intake for January 2022, which will be available to students in Health Sciences. The curriculum covers topics including surgical care in rural and remote Indigenous communities, program planning and evaluation, and surgical care in humanitarian disaster response.

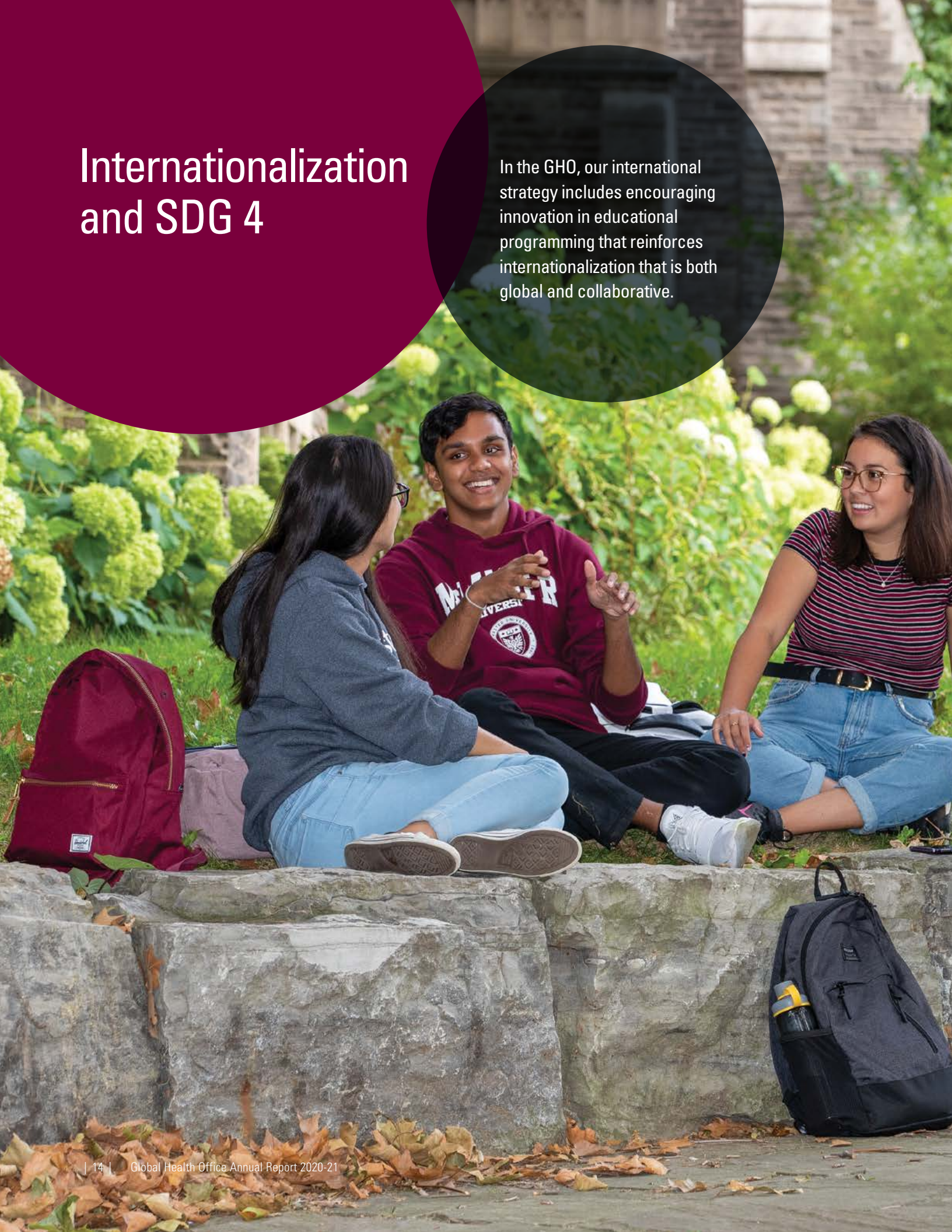
The GHO is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Carolyn Levis as the new MacGIObAS Director. Dr. Levis is a Plastic Surgeon and Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery at McMaster University. She has contributed to MacGIObAS as an Executive Committee member since its founding in 2018 and was recently appointed Director of McMaster's International Surgery Desk and President of the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons.

On behalf of the GHO, we would like to thank Dr. Cameron for his significant contributions in Global Surgery and founding of MacGIObAS, as well for his continued support on the Executive Committee.



Internationalization and SDG 4

In the GHO, our international strategy includes encouraging innovation in educational programming that reinforces internationalization that is both global and collaborative.





Preparing Future Innovators



The importance of SDG 4 (Quality Education), which is to 'enhance inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all', is a key enabler of all the other SDGs. In the context of internationalization in higher education, institutions can promote and advance SDG 4 to the benefit of all other SDG goals.

We continue to further our commitment to advancing the SDGs through developing solutions, prioritizing collaboration, and preparing future innovators with the skills that will enable them to contribute to achieving the global goals.

The office continues to create a compendium of organizations offering students a virtual education experience.

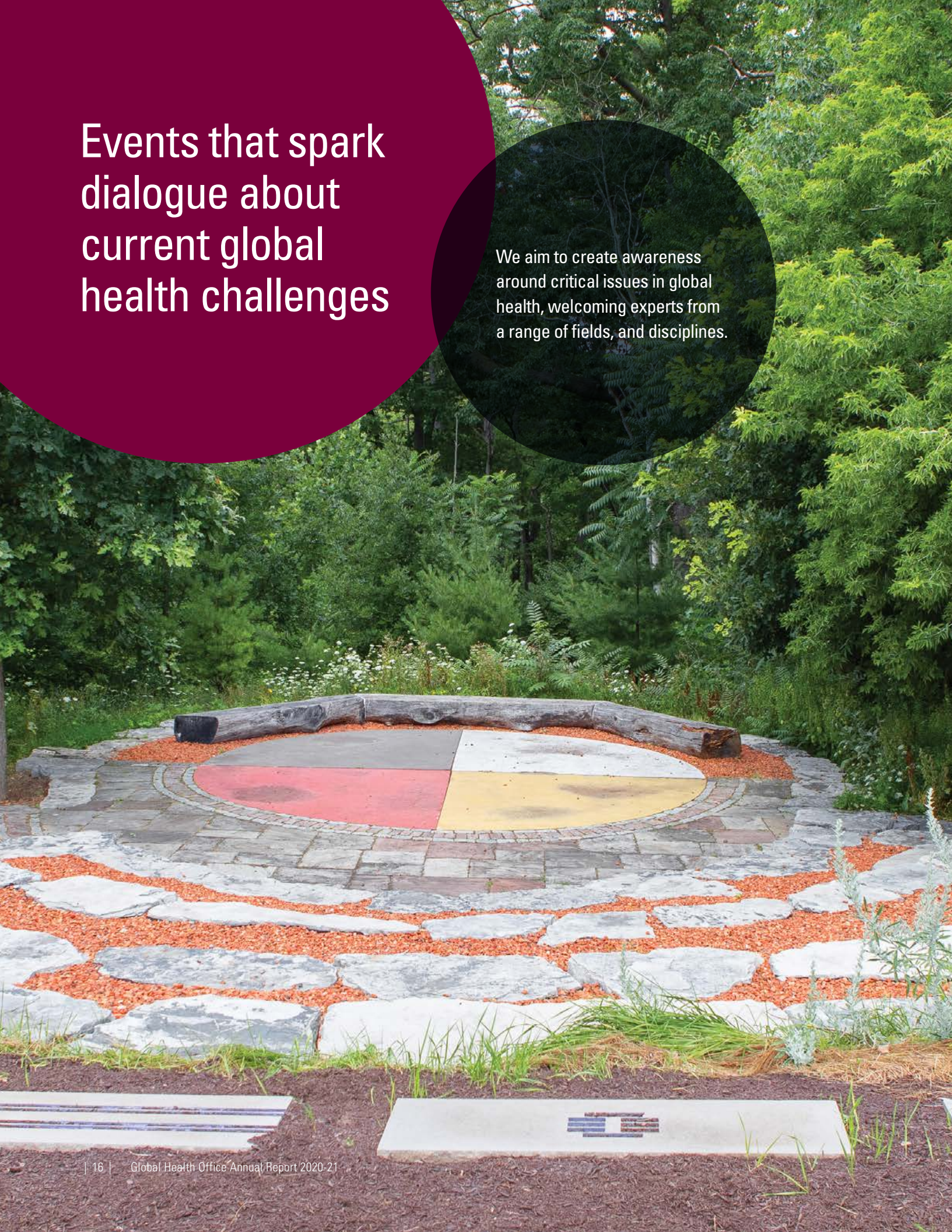
MAKING VIRTUAL INTERNATIONALIZATION A PRIORITY

To explore international mobility options and internationalization opportunities, the GHO and the Office of International Affairs are working in collaboration with the Student Success Centre to explore implementation of a mobility and international partnership management platform.

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

Events that spark dialogue about current global health challenges

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





Perspectives of a First Nations physician in Canada

As Canadian society continues to confront the historical and ongoing reality of racism and the challenges of reconciliation; governments, institutions and universities must reaffirm their commitments to changing policies, practices, and structures.

This year, the Chanchlani Global Health Research Award recipient, Dr. Nadine Caron, asked us to think more deeply about these commitments particularly as they relate to the health and well-being of Indigenous peoples in Canada.



GLOBAL GOALS, LOCAL ACTION

With over 300 online attendees, drawing on her research and advocacy work which has influenced Canadian health policy, Caron moved us with her first-hand experience and perspective as a First Nations physician. She provided us with evidence for opportunities in Canada to better meet the needs of marginalized populations including Indigenous, northern, and rural residents.

In addition to Caron's lecture, the event was in celebration of International Women's Day with a focus on SDG 5 (Gender Equity). Providing their expertise in global health related to mental health, intimate partner violence, and ethical barriers and enablers of women and girls in global health research, we were joined by esteemed McMaster Faculty, Dr. Zena Samaan, Dr. Harriet MacMillan, and Dr. Claudia Emerson.

Challenges and Opportunities in the High North

Despite documented health disparities between the circumpolar north and other regions, the Arctic remains an underrepresented area in global health research, which the GHO has been eager to explore.

The Arctic: A Global Health Perspective series offered a transdisciplinary look at key global health challenges and opportunities in the High North. The 10-part webinar series featuring academics and specialists covering topics such as Arctic governance, climate change, COVID-19, food security, migration, Indigenous rights, and more.

This series included a discussion with Dr. Nancy Doubleday, Director of Water Without Borders; Lars Hander, a Sami

specializing in adult psychiatry in Northern Norway; and introductory remarks by Ambassador Patrick Parisot, Canadian Ambassador to Norway and Ambassador Jon Elvedal Fredriksen, Norwegian Ambassador to Canada.

“The series offered us unique and meaningful perspectives on local issues and solutions in the High North providing us with insight and expert knowledge about an underrepresented area in global health.”

— Andrea Baumann, Associate V-P, Global Health

GLOBAL GOALS, LOCAL ACTION

As the Global Health Office has continued interest in this region, we are offering a new graduate course in January 2022, *Circumpolar Health: A Global Health Perspective*. The course will explore interdisciplinary perspectives on global health issues in the circumpolar north and examine key health issues relating to the Arctic through the lens of health equity and the social determinants of health.

Global Health Speaker Series

The Global Health Office continues to explore transdisciplinary perspectives on current and emerging aspects of global health. This webinar series was part of the Global Health program's annual two-week international symposium in India, held online for the second year due to the pandemic.

The series featured internationally renowned experts that presented leading-edge topics such as rethinking vaccine hesitancy, climate change and health, and epidemic illusions on the coloniality of global public health.

Opportunities to engage in sustainability and equity

The 2021 CBIE Ontario Regional meeting, *'Opportunities for International Higher Education: Keeping the Future Human'* focused on a variety of key topics including equity and inclusion in internationalization, and the role of SDGs in global engagement. The conference explored current challenges and future opportunities for internationalization in Ontario and across Canada.

The GHO participated in a panel discussion on internationalization and the SDGs, organized by Peter Mascher, Vice-Provost, International Affairs, McMaster University.

Throughout the discussion, panellists came back to the importance of SDG 4 (Quality Education) as key enabler of all the other SDGs. In the context of internationalization in higher education, the panel agreed that higher education institutions can promote and advance SDG 4 to the benefit of all other goals.

"The pandemic has amplified existing weaknesses and injustices in our systems. Universities are well positioned to develop roadmaps and frameworks to proactively engage in reducing inequities by taking an active role to solve global challenges."

— Andrea Baumann, Associate V-P, Global Health

"Through research, teaching, learning and international panel discussions like this one, McMaster is highlighting the importance of SDGs and Internationalization. Attendees from HEIs from across Canada and around the world shared diverse, innovative perspectives on how to progress sustainability and equity both locally and globally."

— Peter Mascher, Vice-Provost, International Affairs



A man in a light blue shirt is seen from behind, sitting at a desk in a modern office. The desk is equipped with several computer monitors. One monitor in the foreground shows a webpage with a blue header. Another monitor to the right shows a desktop with various icons. In the background, there are more monitors on a stand, some displaying data or code. The office has large glass windows and a clean, professional atmosphere.

Innovation in Education for a Brighter World

International and transdisciplinary programs designed to prepare graduates for careers in a globalized world.



Strengthening collaboration in Health Sciences

The current pandemic continues to teach us that organizations have to be flexible to address internationalization, while also considering the local context. To effectively address local and global challenges, as well as producing socially impactful research and employable graduates, there is a need to focus on gaining global perspectives and engage in ongoing dialogues to facilitate greater collaboration across disciplines and institutions.

The GHO 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 GHO 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.

OUR COLLABORATIONS:

- **PhD cotutelle initiative with Maastricht University** in 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
- **Global Mobility Software Project** to explore the implementation of a mobility and international partnership management platform

The Global Health Graduate Program

The award-winning graduate Global Health program that brings together faculties of social science, health science, and business at McMaster University and is an example of a higher education program involving institutions from multiple countries.

The Global Health program has grown from the two institutions to a diverse seven-member academic consortium internationally recognized as a best practice in higher education.

Recipient of the 2015 Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) Panorama Award for Outstanding International Education, the program prepares graduates for careers aimed at addressing current and future global health issues.

For the second time in nine years, it has been highlighted in the **2020-25 Strategic Mandate Agreement** as one of McMaster's initiatives equipping students to become global leaders and citizens.

Building on the successes of its first ten years, the program in 2020-2021 launched the PhD in Global Health amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

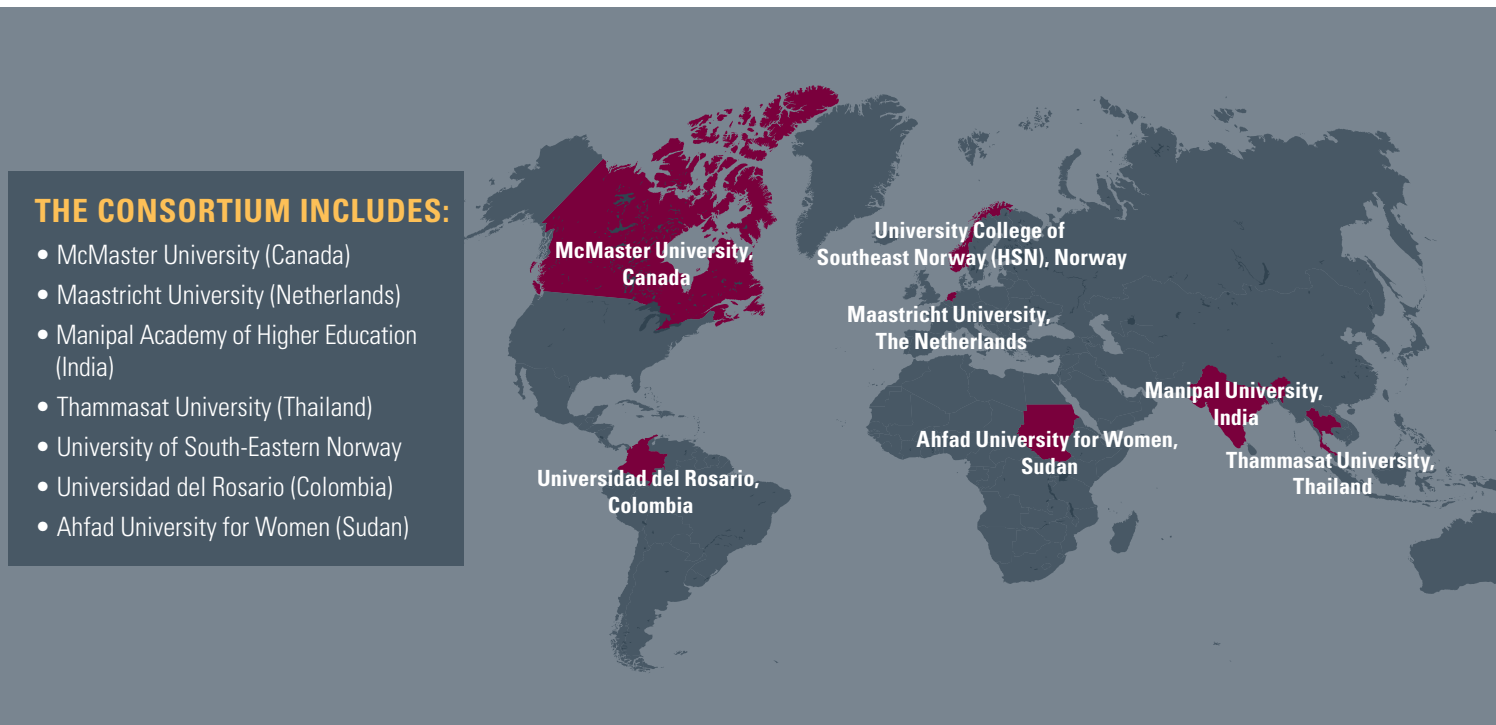
Doctoral Program in Global Health

Global health promotes equity in health and addresses current and future global health issues in innovative and multidisciplinary ways.

The new doctoral program in Global Health at McMaster University focuses on the ideas, concepts, and topics that are evolving in the field with an aim to propel innovative research and solutions to emerging challenges.

Building on the award-winning Master of Science in Global Health (2016 CBIE Panorama Award recipient for Outstanding International Education Program), the doctoral program encourages independent and original thought, and the application of rigorous methods to the creation of new scholarly research.

Students have the option to complete a cotutelle, which enables them to work towards a PhD that is jointly awarded by both McMaster University and Maastricht University, our partner institution in The Netherlands.



- THE CONSORTIUM INCLUDES:**
- McMaster University (Canada)
 - Maastricht University (Netherlands)
 - Manipal Academy of Higher Education (India)
 - Thammasat University (Thailand)
 - University of South-Eastern Norway
 - Universidad del Rosario (Colombia)
 - Ahfad University for Women (Sudan)

Bridging Different Worlds

Among the opportunities for growth from an global perspective is the capstone course, the Learning Symposium, which normally takes place in Manipal, India.

This year the two-week “Bridging Different Worlds” Learning Symposium was held virtually with the goal of bringing together over 300 students from partner universities in 22 countries and 13 time zones in which students could participate equally.

One of the highlights of the symposium is the opportunity for students to present their research in an academic conference-style event where they receive critical feedback from health policymakers, activists, and expert researchers in the global health field.



This year’s MSc Global Health students’ presentations ranged in research topics pertaining to the United Nations’ 17 SDG goals. The top three SDG goals that students focused on were: SDG 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities, and SDG 5 Gender Equality.



“Online collaboration has been part of the Global Health program since its inception so pivoting to a virtual environment for course delivery during the pandemic was seamless. The intensive curriculum of individual and group work allowed students to achieve the key learning outcomes of further developing their intercultural competency. Taking part in a rich international learning experience sets the stage for moving on to becoming well-connected program alumni.”

– Sue Barclay, Global Health Faculty

“The abstract presentation was an exciting opportunity to share the research I’ve been working on for months and receive constructive input from some of my colleagues. It’s a meaningful experience to have brilliant minds discuss the ways you can advance your research whilst also getting to hear about the amazing projects they’re working on.”

– Natasha Ross, McMaster Global Health student



Local and global community engagement

Recognizing internationalization as an experience that can be fostered at home and abroad, this University-identified priority area is a core dimension of the program and is firmly built into the structure of student experience.

The academic and networking opportunities presented within the program aligns with the university's commitment to global citizenship and prioritization of the SDGs.

Strategies for Student Mobility

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

We continue to communicate with the Canadian 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.

With this in mind, the GHO is developing a comprehensive list of international remote work-integrated learning opportunities for university graduate students with an aim of 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 – and increase accessibility for those who cannot or chose not to travel.

COMMUNITY HEALTH IN MOVING POPULATIONS

A virtual mobility exchange with our partner institution Universidad del Rosario, *Community Health in Moving Populations* used virtual learning strategies to provide local and international students the possibility to learn about the context of health and well-being in Colombian communities.

Virtual Mobility Options

The program's exchange opportunities with partner universities enable students to broaden their perspectives, benefit from rich intercultural learning and an atmosphere of mutual learning between international and local students.

This year, 25 students from Maastricht University spent the winter term on a virtual exchange at McMaster University. The Maastricht exchange students were located in various global locations such as Spain, Italy, Germany, and the U.K.

This unique opportunity supports McMaster's internationalization strategy and commitment to global health with its emphasis on programs and experiences that are collaborative and global in nature. The experience has diverse benefits that includes supporting students to broaden their knowledge base and develop intercultural communication skills within an international academic community.

"It is a very unique and engaging experience where I was able to witness first-hand (virtually) global health issues such as inequitable access to health services, that I will be faced with upon graduation while I am working in the global health field."

– Raya Semeniuk, McMaster Global Health student

"The pandemic accelerated the development of virtual mobility options that proved to be life-changing for students. Along with making lifelong connections, students also gained real-world insights into the global health inequities at an interpersonal level. These opportunities also enhanced accessibility to educational experiences that would otherwise have been limited to those able to travel. While in-person outbound mobility remains the priority, expanding virtual mobility options ensures no one is left behind."

– Sonya de Laat, Academic Advisor and Curriculum Coordinator



Work Integrated Learning – building career skills for a globalized world

Global health practicums allow students work with a local or international organization and tailor their learning to meet their specific educational needs. This provides the opportunity to link theory, concepts, and health research methods taught in the program to real life-practices.

Due to pandemic-related travel restrictions, the 2020-2021 work-integrated learning experiences, for the second year had to pivot to online and remote practicums.

While unable to travel internationally, students were still able to work with organizations around the world, including NGOs in Uganda, PAHO in Jamaica, and research institutes in the United Kingdom.”

Examples of global health students engaging locally through their practicums – bringing a global lens to local issues – include assessing the needs of the immigrant and refugee population in Hamilton (Neighbour2Neighbour), understanding food (in)security needs (Hungry Cities Partnership), and the impact of COVID-19 locally (Canadian Red Cross).

A GLOBAL LENS TO LOCAL ISSUES

Local engagement continues to be an area of growing interest among students in the program. Indigenous health and wellbeing have become focal point for many students over the last five years. The Indigenous Health Initiative at McMaster University has been a source of inspiration and support to students aiming to focus on Indigenous health.

The program has also had longstanding relations with healthcare providers working within the Hamilton community such as in refugee and newcomer health, pain relief and harm reduction related to the opioid crisis and mental health.



“Even in the midst of a global pandemic, students were able to gain valuable work-integrated learning through practicums with global health institutions in Canada and overseas. The transition to remote placements mobility meant that students gained vital cultural awareness and developed in-demand skills for the globalized workforce.”

– Adam Zvrlic, Student Placement Coordinator,
Global Health

“I am lucky to be working with an organization that is based in the UK as this has allowed me to be a part of an international team and liaise with experts in the field that are located in Japan, Italy, New Zealand, the United Kingdom.”

– Dea Sulaj, McMaster Global Health Student

Student Opportunities and Initiatives

With an emphasis on strengthening research and innovation, the GHO provides support for student-led initiatives and academic competitions. The academic and networking opportunities prepare students for careers aimed at addressing current and future global health issues.

We are inspired by innovative thinkers and change-makers working towards solutions to complex global health issues.

U21 Competition – Sustainability and Social Innovation

Being innovative requires an entrepreneurial mindset and the Global Health Office is dedicated to facilitating opportunities for student-led projects that address the SDGs.

As a U21 membership university, in partnership with the Office of International Affairs, McMaster invited students to submit proposals for a project based on one or more of the SDGs.

This year, one MSc Global Health student project, The Banana Fiber Bag Project, earned a place in the final round of Universitas 21's RISE (Real Impact on Society and Environment) competition, which showcased projects in sustainability and social innovation.

As a finalist, The Banana Fiber Bag project has access to U21's global network and is showcased on the [U21 Showcase and Awards page](#).

"These projects demonstrated both the concern that students have for the sustainable future of our planet and their ingenuity in approaching the challenge, McMaster's membership in Universitas 21 provides the opportunity for them to test their ideas in an international forum."

– Peter Mascher, Vice-Provost,
International Affairs

"It can be difficult to take a social enterprise or innovation idea beyond small-scale, local implementation, into something bigger. The RISE competition allowed us to focus on sustainability, social innovation and women's empowerment while helping to address plastic pollution in Ghana."

– Marwah Sadat,
McMaster Global Health student



“It was amazing to have the opportunity to apply my learning in the MSc Global Health program. In a fast-paced environment, we were able to create a multifaceted, sustainable solution that we are so proud of!”

– Taigan Randske, McMaster Global Health student

Emory Case Competition – A Chance to Change

Based on student interest, the GHO provides support to interdisciplinary teams to participate in the Emory Global Health Case Competition. Made up of students from the Global Health program and others from across McMaster including the School of Engineering and Medicine, student teams work together to present a case aimed at developing strategies to address pressing global health issues. Normally taking place in person at Emory University in Atlanta (Georgia, USA), the pandemic moved the competition online for the second year.

World Challenge Challenge

This year, Western University invited McMaster University and some of the world’s best universities to compete in the *2021 World Challenge Challenge (WCC)*.

The WCC offers students an opportunity to network with some of the best and brightest students from around the world, participate in virtual academic events, and create potential solutions to significant global issues identified in the UN SDGs.

Supported by the GHO and the Office of International Affairs, McMaster’s MSc in Global Health two student teams submitted unique project ideas.

With a focus on the SDGs, their projects, the *Banana Fiber Bag Project* and *RefuGrow* highlighted the collaboration and vision necessary to turn ideas into reality. Both teams presented their projects in the Global Final, moved into the finalist round, one of which won second place.

Collaborative Journal Run by Alumni

The Global Health Annual Review (GHAR) was created in collaboration with the Global Health Office by graduates from McMaster University’s 2014-2015 MSc Global Health class. GHAR is an open-access and peer-review journal that showcases research influenced by the SDGs. It is transdisciplinary by design, inviting submissions from global health students, academics, and professionals from the McMaster community and beyond.

This year’s edition, provides insight into global health issues near and far from how COVID-19 has changed the fabric of our health systems to how health innovations can contribute to the empowerment of communities.



Global Health Collective – With a Local Edge

Current global health challenges are multiple and complex. Challenges range from the rising burden of disease to the climate crisis to health disparities. The Global Health Collective is a podcast series created to explore some of these issues and the research and work being done in response.

With strategic support provided by the GHO and a focus on the SDGs, the podcast invites students, faculty, staff, and global health changemakers from the broader community to share their stories about the differences they are making towards a more sustainable and brighter world.



Research for Impact

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



McMaster COVID-19 Research

McMaster continues to be highly active in COVID-19 research as the global health community continues to respond to the pandemic by using evidence-based knowledge to support understanding, drive change, and ultimately, advance human and societal health and well-being.

A McMaster COVID-19 Research Fund was designed to support a broad range of research to support discoveries and advances led by McMaster researchers which will benefit society in dealing with pandemics in the immediate and longer term.

McMaster University, with additional support from its generous donors, has invested nearly \$3 million toward 36 projects through the McMaster COVID-19 Research Fund. In total, more than 150 researchers, including internal and external collaborators, will continue to benefit from the funds. The research fund, designed to support immediate and longer term pandemic-related research, attracted 160 applications from across all faculties.

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

Long Term Care in Crisis: The Reality of COVID-19

The GHO alongside of a consortium of researchers from McMaster, University of Toronto, McGill University, and an international team of collaborators are examining the Long-Term Care (LTC) system and its response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The findings from this research will include the establishment of a repository of existing high-quality research and grey literature, a clearer understanding of regulatory frameworks, a review of existing human resource capacity, and a description of national exemplars of care and epidemiological factors in LTC. The evidence will provide tangible solutions for multiple stakeholders including governments, service providers, and healthcare workers.

Creating a diverse workforce by helping newcomers navigate the Canadian job market

As helping newcomers getting into the job market faster is one of the Canadian government's key priorities relating to the SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), a McMaster research team has been working to accelerate the employment of internationally educated nurses (IENs).

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.

Leading in the development employment of an IEN employment strategy, directly targets SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth), which aims to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.

This effort is to diversify the health workforce, reduce health inequities for immigrants and refugees across Ontario, and promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

This work involved partnering with health care employers and non-governmental organizations to match highly skilled newcomer women to available positions in health care. This includes the 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. As part of this initiative a webinar series – include series – reached more than 800 health care executives, human resources professionals, and health care providers.

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.

"We are focused on removing roadblocks to help build a health care workforce that mirrors the diversity of its patients while giving employers the tools they need to make hiring newcomers a success."

– Andrea Baumann, Associate V-P, Global Health





Conclusion

Innovation and collaboration 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. Our strategy will focus on prioritizing local and global activities so we can continue to prepare global citizens. We will strengthen our communications strategy to collaborate more effectively and purposefully with faculties and across campus. We understand the importance of diverse perspectives on current and emerging global health

challenges and will seek new opportunities to work together and support and highlight research for a more sustainable world. Drawing on our partnerships with institutions locally and globally – including institutional partnerships and leaders in internationalization including CBIE, AWB and CUGH – we have much work to do to advance global health and achieve health equity locally and globally

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