



Global
Priorities,
Local Impact

Global Health Office
Annual Report
2021-22



Message from the Global Health Office



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 and global partnership.

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.

In the face of multiple crises – the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the changing climate, and complex conflicts – finding innovative global health solutions in communities around the world continues to be a priority. Working with local and global partners, we have

been shifting the way we work with international offices with a push to create inclusive environments that enable more equitable partnerships.

Pressing global health challenges continue to reveal historical and current health inequities, which have 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 and programming.

This past year has been an eventful one where we have heard from expert speakers including Ky'okusinga Kirugna, Executive Director of AMREF Health Africa in Canada, Dr. Dean Karlan, President of Innovations for Poverty Action, Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana, Director of the Thailand Air Pollution Center of Excellence and Bryan May, Canadian Parliamentary Secretary Office of the Minister of National Defence.



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We hosted several events including a Healthcare in Challenging Times: *Military & Civilian Provider Health Forum*, *Perspectives of Health Care: A Cross Cultural Comparison*, and the *Annual Chanchlani Global Health Research Award*. These events offered diverse insights and creative ideas to address existing and emerging global health challenges.

I am pleased to introduce the Global Health Office's 2021-2022 Annual Report – Global Priorities, Local Impact – that 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)
Faculty of Health Sciences

Land Acknowledgement

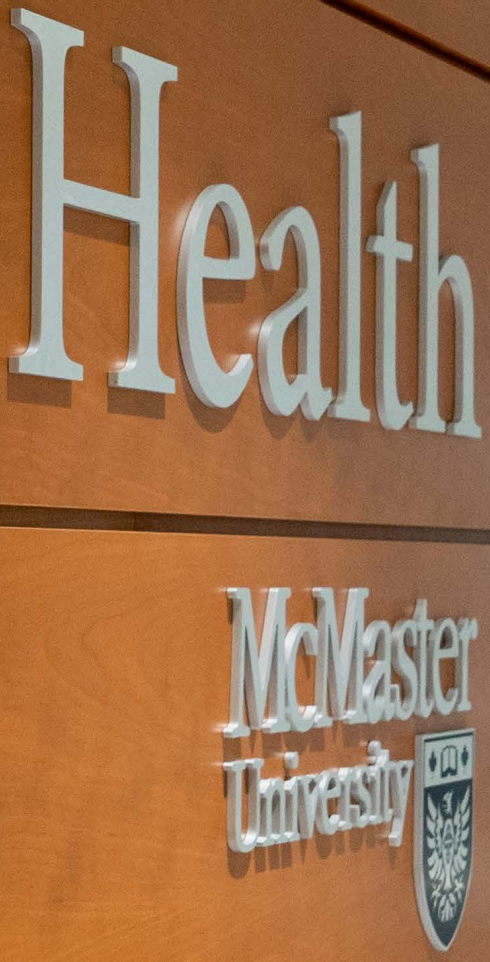
McMaster University recognizes and acknowledges that it is located on the traditional territories of the Mississauga and Haudenosaunee nations, and within the lands protected by the Dish With One Spoon wampum agreement.

Global

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 locally and globally
- Host international delegations and scholars
- Offer global health education events with a focus on emerging issues
- Support 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 United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals. 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 within the FHS and 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.



Making a global impact: Targeting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Based on its deep commitment to the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in 2021, McMaster University placed first in Canada in The Times Higher Education Impact ranking for SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being).



THE GLOBAL GOALS

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. These goals are interconnected and call for integrated solutions to “leave no one behind”. The Global Goals are fundamental to the work we are doing in the GHO.



The GHO, in alignment with McMaster University’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 SDGs.

Recognized for McMaster University’s commitments to achieving many of the SDGs including SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 11 (building sustainable cities and communities), SDG 5 (achieving gender equity), and SDG 17 (revitalizing global partnerships), it has earned the rank of 14th in the world in The Times Higher Education 2021 Impact Rankings.



An example of McMaster University’s commitment, we are a member of the Universitas 21 Health Sciences Group (U21 HSG), which is an initiative and network of institutions that aims to promote knowledge and understanding of the SDGs within the health science curriculum.

TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION IMPACT RANKINGS 2021

#4 in the world for Good Health and Well-Being and **#1** in Canada.

#12 in the world for Reduced Inequalities and **#1** in Canada.

#14 in the world for Partnerships for the Goals and **#1** in Canada.

#18 in the world for Decent Work and Economic Growth and **#1** in Canada.

#14 in the world for Clean Water and Sanitation and **#2** in Canada.

Strategic Priorities: A Call to Action

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

In response to on-going conflicts around the world, the Faculty of Health Sciences are committed to partnering with the wider community to advocate for rights, safety, and wellbeing of students and scholars at risk.

In close collaboration and consultation with McMaster faculty, staff, students, alumni and community, McMaster University's six Faculties, Office of the Provost, Office of International Affairs, and the GHO, secured formal commitments from faculties and research

centres for student and staff placements for those that are in imminent risk.

McMaster University collectively pledged \$800,000 that will go toward funding students and scholars at risk around the world, as a humanitarian response to address the growing forcible displacement of students and scholars globally.

This builds on McMaster University's commitment to global citizenship, increasing access to education for all and complements the university's existing global engagement programs.



Healthcare in Challenging Times: Military & Civilian Provider Perspectives

The GHO, in partnership with the Canadian Armed Forces Medical Reserve, held a forum titled, *“Healthcare in Challenging Times: Military & Civilian Provider Perspectives”*, with members of the United Kingdom Medical Reserve.

Global solidarity and collaboration were a recurring theme throughout the day’s events and presentations included expert perspectives on health and the health system in different Canadian contexts. Dynamic discussions centered around and covered topics such as the long-term care crisis, disaster and rescue medicine, Arctic health and climate change – some of the most pressing issues of our time.



Perspectives of Health Care: A Cross Cultural Comparison

This year, in partnership with Kitasato University in Japan, the GHO hosted a virtual summer program titled, *“Perspectives of Health Care: A Cross Cultural Comparison.”*

Throughout two weeks of programming, Japan’s Kitasato University joined the GHO for an innovative experiential learning exchange that was designed to share knowledge, cultural approaches, and best practices in health sciences education.

With SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) in mind, we organized a series of virtual lectures for senior undergraduate nursing students and faculty members from Kitasato University.

The program fostered collaboration and sparked dialogue about innovative teaching and learning methodologies, health care systems, and approaches to global health issues.

“As global engagement is a response to the complex ways in which globalization has changed the world in which we live, we see the many challenges of the contemporary and future world as requiring a form of global commitment for international security and health equity for all.”

– Paul O’Byrne, Dean of Health Sciences, McMaster University



“The success of the SDGs depends on collaboration and partnerships with local and global universities and networks and the annual international summer program with Kitasato University provides an opportunity to explore pressing issues from different cultural contexts.”

– Andrea Baumann, Associate Vice-President, Global Health

Our Partnerships and Targeted Networks

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

Connecting through Innovation and Education

Our partnerships with the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH), the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE), Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), 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.

This year, the GHO participated in activities, events, and conferences including the annual CUGH Conference, the SDSN SDG Awareness Week, and the XVII Pan American Research Colloquium, among other local and global events.



21 UNIVESITAS

PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE SDGS

Partnering with global institutions such as is the U21 HSG, which is an initiative and network of institutions that aims to promote knowledge of the SDGs within the health science curriculum. Earlier this year, the GHO represented the FHS at the U21 HSG SDG Annual General Meeting.

The theme of this year's meeting was *Health Equity* and offered keynote presentations on health equity and women in academia, and an SDG forum that highlighted various ways the development goals re-aligned with higher education and global health curriculum.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK

As a member of SDSN Canada, hosted by the University of Waterloo, the GHO is an active member of the Teaching the SDG's Community of Practice and participates in the annual SDG Awareness Week.

SDSN Canada is a part of a global SDSN movement to build a network of universities and knowledge institutions to promote practical solutions for sustainable development.

The mission of the Teaching the SDG's Community of Practice is to mobilize Canadian universities and colleges to facilitate learning and accelerate problem solving for the SDGs.

Teaching the SDG's Community of Practice initiative aims to convene faculty to share their SDGs teaching innovations, approaches, and resources, as well as to create collaborative opportunities to work together to accelerate SDGs education across Canada and globally.

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 collaboration to explore and enhance teaching and learning experiences in partnerships with local and global 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 titled *“Research Methods: A Global Health Perspective.”*



Global Health Sim

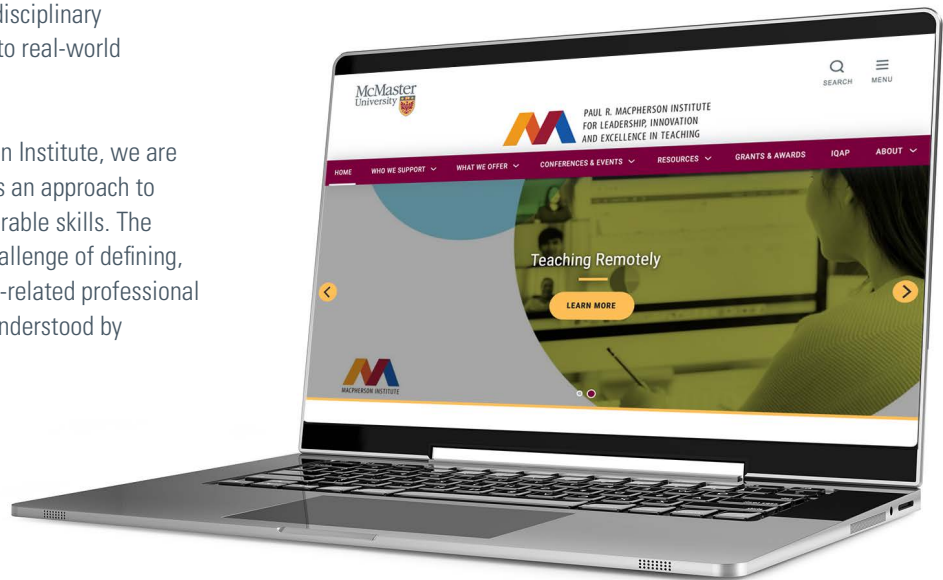
Innovative Education by Simulation

These interactive learning opportunities support 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.

“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



STUDENT PARTNERS PROGRAM

The MacPherson Institute Student Partners Program (SPP) provides undergraduate and graduate students with opportunities to participate as partners with faculty, instructors, and staff on projects that contribute to the enhancement of teaching and learning at McMaster University.

This year, the GHO worked with two Student Partners on projects related to the annual Global Health MSc Program Alumni Survey and an evaluation of a new course titled *"Circumpolar Health: A Global Perspective."*

With establishing meaningful partnerships as a goal, students interested in pedagogical research and innovation worked on teaching and learning projects that provide opportunities for engagement and generated learning opportunities for everyone involved.

"Reviewing the alumni experiences through the Alumni Survey Project broadened my perspective on teaching and learning objectives and its impact on students. The SPP was an engaging learning opportunity that fostered my appreciation and understanding of pedagogical research and innovation so that students can achieve their personal and professional goals."

– Kelly Anne Dela-Cueva, Global Health program alumni, Student Partner

MacGIObAS



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.

MacGIObAS Director, Carolyn 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.

The 2022 MacGIObAS annual fall seminar was titled, *"Recharging Global Surgical Partnerships post COVID."* Chaired by Jean Chamberlain, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the FHS at McMaster University, the seminar welcomed attendees from clinical departments, undergraduate medicine, and global health. The participants included 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) programs 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.

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.



Innovative Solutions to meet the SDGs – No Poverty

The 10th Annual Chanchlani Global Health Research Award & Lecture focused on innovative and effective solutions to global poverty.



Distinguished Professor of Economics and Finance at Northwestern University, Dean Karlan, received this year's award and delivered his talk titled, *"When Wonky Works: Success, failures, and learning gaps in implementation science for public policy."*

As the founder of Innovations for Poverty Action and Co-Director of the Global Poverty Research Lab at Northwestern University in Illinois, USA, Dr. Karlan explored the efficacy of micro-finance, health-care initiatives, and agriculture as global poverty solutions.

In alignment with the GHO, the talk inspired discussion to create high-quality evidence and then to share evidence strategically to influence local and global debates, and ultimately improve policies that fight poverty.



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.

As the GHO has continued interest in this region, a new graduate course titled “*Circumpolar Health: Global Health Perspectives*,” explores interdisciplinary perspectives on global health issues in the circumpolar north. The course, in partnership with northern institutions, centres around a diverse lineup of guest lecturers from across Canada and other Arctic nations.

Through a series of guest lectures from a range of experts, the course provides students with diverse perspectives and knowledge relevant to the region. Topics include climate change in the north,

social determinants of health in circumpolar communities, and Arctic governance and development will be explored.

The course builds on *The Arctic: A Global Health Perspective* speaker series, hosted by the GHO Office in 2021, which brought together professionals from Norwegian and Canadian universities, the Arctic Council’s Sustainable Development Working Group, and the Canadian Northern Development Agency.

“The course offers 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 Vice-President, Global Health

**UNIVERSITY
OF THE
ARCTIC**



UArctic

Continuously building on our engagement in the region, the Faculty of Health Sciences has become a member of the University of the Arctic (UArctic), which is a network of universities, colleges, research institutes, and other organizations concerned with education, research, and outreach activities in the region. Providing a framework for knowledge generation and sharing across the North, UArctic institutes are empowered by local knowledge and international expertise, facilitating the development of multidisciplinary solutions for challenges in the Arctic.

Global Health Speaker Series

The GHO 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 COVID-19 pandemic.

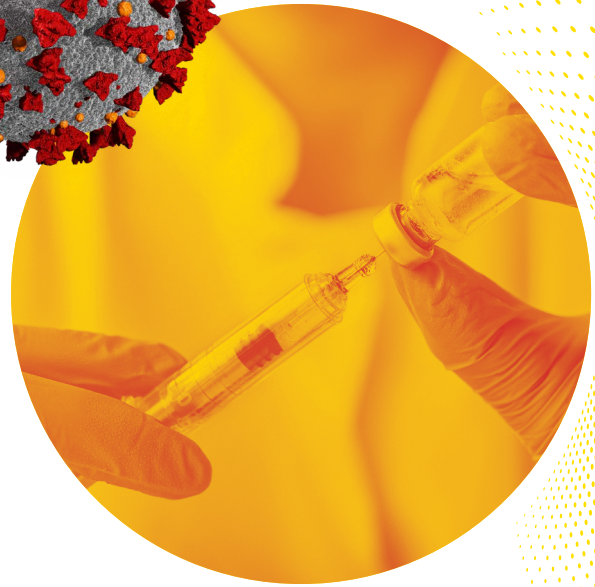
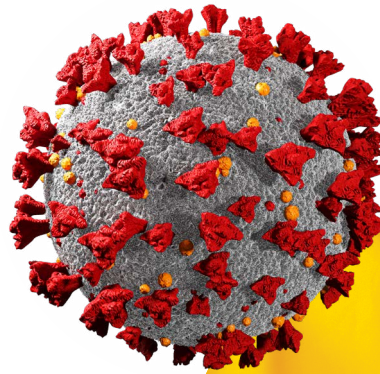
The series featured experts such as Ky'okusinga Kirugna, Executive Director of Amref Health Africa in Canada and Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana, Director of the Thailand Air Pollution Center of Excellence presenting leading-edge topics that included COVID-19 and vaccine equity, gender representation in research, and climate change and health.

Community-Based Health Approaches

As part of McMaster Global, an annual university wide showcase of global engagement activities, the GHO hosted a panel discussion with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) titled "*Climate Change and Humanitarian Aid.*"

Joined by Carol Devine, Head of Climate Smart and Tricia Khan, Patients and Populations as Partners Implementer at MSF, the discussion centered around sustainability within the humanitarian field, mitigating the effects of climate change, and community-based health approaches. With climate change headlining the news, the conversation kicked off by learning about how MSF is adapting its humanitarian response and working to reduce their environmental footprint.

Eager to work in collaboration with other organizations to allow for greater impact and reduced redundancy, MSF recognizes that advocacy is becoming as important as the local work in the fight for access and health equity.



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 GHO 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 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.

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. The COVID-19 pandemic amplified the need to adapt and increase accessibility to online technologies.

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

SUCCESSFUL PILOT PROJECT WITH PARTNER INSTITUTION UNIVERSIDAD DEL ROSARIO IN COLOMBIA

Using Microsoft Translator’s live transcription and translation tools, groups of students met online weekly and mobilized translation software that enabled them to speak in both English and Spanish. This is an initiative developed in consultation with and supported by the MacPherson Institute, University Technical Services, and representatives from Microsoft Canada.



“Interdisciplinary collaborations humble us. We may be knowledgeable in one field but completely adrift in many others. Listening to others is great. But hearing what they say is even better!”

– Christy Gombay, Assistant Director, Global Health



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

To effectively address local and global challenges, in addition to socially impactful research and employable graduates, there is a need to focus on gaining diverse perspectives and engaging 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 University, there is a collective of scholars focusing on global health issues in local and global contexts. The GHO supports faculty connections with international partner institutions and stakeholders to facilitate the integration of perspectives.

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 a global perspective is the Global Health Learning Symposium, which normally takes place at the Manipal Academy of Higher Education in Manipal, India.

This year the two-week *“Bridging Different Worlds”* Learning Symposium, supported by the GHO was held virtually with the goal of bringing together over 350 students and 37 faculty from partner universities in 22 countries and 13 time zones.

The annual symposium offers an experiential learning opportunity to explore various pressing global health issues alongside researchers from around the world. It further highlights the university’s commitment to the SDGs and is an example of an innovative international event that is a key part of McMaster University’s priorities.



BRIDGING
DIFFERENT WORLDS



Community-Engaged initiatives

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

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



THE GLOBAL GOALS

COMMUNITY HEALTH IN MOVING POPULATIONS

The mobility exchange opportunity with our partner institution, the Universidad del Rosario in Bogota Colombia, titled *“Community Health in Moving Populations,”* utilizes learning strategies to provide local and international students the possibility to learn about the context of health and well-being in Colombian communities.

The goal of the exchange is for students to learn about the dynamics of vulnerable communities, understand the strengths and weaknesses of health systems, and to gain global health research experience.

Global Health graduate student, Jessica Williams Vergara, took part in the exchange at the Universidad del Rosario, and was inspired by the unique experience and opportunity to work alongside a multidisciplinary team.

This collaboration promotes student mobility and aligns with the university's commitment to global citizenship, internationalization, and prioritization of the SDGs.

Strategies for Student Mobility

The GHO has been developing an internationalization strategy in collaboration with the Office of International Affairs.

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 – to support undergraduate and graduate student exchanges.

With this in mind, the GHO continues to develop a comprehensive list of international in-person and 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 to assist students in gaining international experiences and increase accessibility for those who cannot or chose not to travel.



Photo: Jessica Varga Williams, MSc Global Health student

“Collaborating with students from various professions such as medicine, physiotherapy, speech therapy, and biomedical engineering, I learned about working within a multidisciplinary team and the value of building trust and partnership while working in a community setting conducting global health research.”

— Jessica Williams Vergara,
MSc Global Health student

Building Skills for a Globalized World

The GHO initiates global health practicums that allow students to 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 working environments.

Examples of Global Health graduate students bringing a global lens to local issues include assessing the needs of the immigrant and refugee population in Hamilton (Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council), developing nutrition programs for vulnerable populations (Second Harvest), and the impact of COVID-19 locally (Canadian Red Cross).



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.

Collaborative Journal

The Global Health Annual Review (GHAR) was created in collaboration with the GHO by graduates from McMaster University's 2014-2015 Master of Science in Global Health. The 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.

The global health field is diverse and encompasses numerous realms, and this year's edition is reflective of this very reality. The issue focuses mainly on seven key areas: Colonialism in Global Health, COVID-19, Environmental Health, Globalization & Governance, Health Equity, Health Policy & Systems, and Social Justice & Human Rights.

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 student-led podcast series to explore some of these issues, research, and work being done in response at McMaster University and in the wider community.

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.

Emory Case Competition

Based on student interest, the GHO provides support to interdisciplinary teams to participate in the Morningside Emory Global Health Case Competition. Made up of students from the Global Health program and others across McMaster University 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 COVID-19 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 Master of Science in Global Health program had two student teams submit unique project ideas.

BANANA FIBRE BAG PROJECT AND REFUGROW

The Banana Fibre Bag Project and RefuGrow teams were nominated by McMaster University to compete in the WCC alongside of their competitors from local and international universities. With a focus on the SDGs, their innovative and sustainable projects highlighted the collaboration and vision necessary to turn ideas into reality.

Taking 2nd place in the final competition was the Banana Fibre Bag Project developed by Marwah Sadat and Batul Presswala. In partnership with the Yarya-Si Youth Foundation, this project aims to address plastic pollution as well as job insecurity among women and youth in a rural underserved community in Ghana called Doryumu.



Research for Impact

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



A Website that Focuses on the UN Goals

The GHO received a grant from the Government of Canada for a project focused on McMaster University'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 website 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 features the transdisciplinary work taking place across the University. The website also has a report that pulls together the many ways McMaster University 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).



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

“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 Vice-President, Global Health

A Healthcare System in Crisis: the Impact of COVID-19

The GHO, alongside of a consortium of researchers from McMaster University, 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 includes 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.

CANADIAN HEALTH WORKFORCE NETWORK

This summer, as part of the *Canadian Health Workforce Network Seminar series*, the GHO showcased finding from a series of studies conducted on the impact of COVID-19 on the LTC sector. International and national perspectives illustrated the poor working conditions for staff and ongoing issues of resident care. The analysis of exemplary homes offer a way forward in repairing a broken system and has provided insight into the reforms needed to improve LTC for residents and their families.

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

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.

SGD 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

SGD 10 (Reduced Inequalities) recognizes that migration is a powerful driver of sustainable development for migrants and their communities.

With global migration on the rise and the ever-increasing need for labour, it is critical that policies target rapid uptake of new immigrants into the Canadian labour market.



Canada's Global Nexus for Pandemics and Biological Threats

Leveraging McMaster University's collective strength and international networks, Global Nexus brings together interdisciplinary and global partners, and builds an environment for the world's top experts across disciplines and sectors.

The Global Nexus will establish Canada as a leader among leaders within the international pandemic preparedness ecosystem with the goal of enhancing society's response to effectively deal with local and global health challenges.

Collaborative efforts will ensure the world is better prepared to meet the challenges of future biological threats and will bolster the international recovery from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Global Nexus is designed to foster collaboration among connected experts across scientific, medical, social, economic, and political dimensions.

Experts from Global Nexus are currently working across fields to focus on not only the biomedical and health aspects of this pandemic and other potential public health threats, but also their social, economic and political ramifications.

"This initiative will recruit global talent, boost global health security, train graduate students, provide jobs and economic growth and make Canada a global destination for investment and innovation."

– Gerry Wright, Canada Research Chair, Lead for The Global Nexus for Pandemics and Biological Threats and global expert on antibiotic resistance research





Conclusion

Innovation and collaboration has been, and will continue to be, critical to our success as an institution as we move forward in an environment that is constantly changing. The COVID-19 pandemic put significant pressure on higher education institutions and has been the opportunity to evaluate and find ways to enhance our internationalization efforts. We understand the importance of diverse perspectives on current and emerging global health challenges and will seek new opportunities to work together,

support, and highlight research for a more sustainable world. We will strengthen our communications strategy to collaborate more effectively and purposefully with faculties and across campus. With McMaster University's commitment to address existing inequities and advancing human and societal health and well-being in our local and global community, we will continue to explore opportunities for international partnerships that transcend boundaries.

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