Global Health Office  •  Faculty of Health Sciences

Welcome from the Associate Vice President

Faculty of Health Sciences, Global Health

Global engagement is integral to the Global Health Office’s (GHO) mission, which supports President Deane’s Forward with Integrity (FWI) initiative. The GHO seeks to advance McMaster’s visibility worldwide, pursuing educational collaborations and new opportunities for faculty, researchers and students across all departments and schools within the Faculty of Health Sciences and across campus. Forming strategic partnerships and alliances within our global community, we have developed interconnected relationships with researchers, educators, clinicians, learners and funding agencies. Through strong leadership and an unwavering commitment to improving health, both locally and globally, we have successfully extended our reach to partners and communities all over the world.

For the last decade, the GHO has been involved in capacity-building activities that are research-focused and student-centred, and has hosted more than 500 international delegates, from dignitaries and state officials to faculty and students. Most recently, the GHO welcomed Chanchlani Global Health Research Award recipients Dr. Hans Rosling (2014) from Sweden’s Karolinska Institutet, and Dr. Ab Osterhaus (2015), Head of the Department of Virology at Erasmus MC Rotterdam.

Key activities highlighted from the past year include our participation in the Dutch Higher Education Mission and state visit to Canada by Their Majesties King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima of the Netherlands. During this event, the MSc Global Health, McMaster’s joint program with Maastricht University in the Netherlands, was recognized as a best practice model of collaboration in higher education – one which His Excellency James Lambert, Ambassador of Canada to the Netherlands, has described as a “big story” in the context of successful bilateral Canadian-Dutch relationships.

Our two institutions have expanded our partnership to include universities in India, Thailand, Colombia, and Norway. We have also strengthened relationships with embassies, meeting with state officials from the Netherlands, including His Excellency Ambassador Cees Kole, as well as from India and Saudi Arabia.

International delegations have visited the GHO from Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia, the United States and countries across South and Central America. In April 2015, McMaster partnered with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to host a summit to discuss capacity-building opportunities in advanced practice nursing in Latin and Central America.

Central to our strategy is forging global partnerships – alliances in both research and education – based on reciprocity, knowledge transfer, engagement with communities, and a commitment to collaboration. Globalization has created a demand for innovation in education and research, and we are continuing to seek opportunities in what President Deane refers to as “educating for capability”. I invite you to read more about our activities over the past year, from 2014 – 2015.

Sincerely,

Andrea Baumann, PhD
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Mission & Vision

To build a partnership between 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.

As well as within President Deane’s *Forward with Integrity*, the GHO’s guiding principles are reflected in the *Internationalization Task Force Paper*, advisory group paper *The Emerging Landscape* and the document *Global and Community Engagement at McMaster: Where FWI has brought us and where we are going.*
FWI is at the forefront of the GHO’s efforts towards global engagement, and we remain focused on McMaster’s priority areas: the student experience, community engagement and research capacity as a globally connected entity.

The GHO provides support for global activities at McMaster and aims to enhance the university’s visibility worldwide by promoting McMaster’s internationalization strategy. This plan is aligned with the Canadian Bureau of International Education’s (CBIE) global engagement strategy to increase student participation in international education.

Over the past year, we have revamped our communication strategy to include a revised website for both the GHO and Global Health program, highlighting recent activities on our news page. We communicate regularly with our global community in a monthly e-newsletter and via social media. We have advanced our representation on university-wide committees, including the International Strategy Advisory Group (ISAG), and have partnered with various departments to advance global engagement.
Strategy and Activities for 2014-2015

- Liaise with University Office of International Affairs – joint symposium and ambassador series
- Increase capacity building in higher education
- Strengthen university affiliations & innovative partnerships
- Host international delegations & visiting scholars
- Coordinate student international learning opportunities
- Prepare and negotiate international grants & contract submissions
- Create a compendium and maintain a data base of international contacts
- Develop further interactive communication strategies (i.e. website, Twitter, Facebook)
- Expand the global health graduate program
- Work with faculty development to integrate international contribution to promotion and tenure
- Establish a faculty-wide student ambassador program
- Complete interdisciplinary student placement database across health science programs
- Review and consolidate pre-departure preparation and risk assessment protocols in health science
- Design interdisciplinary student team international placements
- Ensure representation on university-wide internationalization committees
Capacity Building in Higher Education: “Educating for Capability”

The GHO works with universities around the world to strengthen capacity in healthcare research, education and delivery.

Bhutan: Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan, Thimphu

Dr. Tashi Tobgay, Director of Human Resource, Planning and International Relations, contacted McMaster University’s School of Rehabilitation Science regarding a partnership that supports institutional development in Bhutan through student and faculty exchanges for rehabilitation science. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been drafted and circulated.

India: King George Medical University (KGMU)

An MOU was drafted between McMaster and KGMU for a collaborative Professional Competencies program. The McMaster Department of Medicine hosted a workshop in the spring of 2015.

India: Dehradun Sri Guru Ram Rai Medical College (SGRRMC)

The McMaster Department of Medicine collaborated with SGRRMC to provide an interdisciplinary workshop for global health, medical and health science students in India during summer 2015.

Kuwait: Medical Education

On October 29th, 2014, a meeting was held with interested medical faculty from Kuwait. The meeting focused on medical exchanges and possible fellowship placements for 2015. Discussions focused on health system needs and continued capacity developments. A plan and timeline for activities was identified for future placements. Specialties and sub-specialties were of high interest and were reviewed and contextualized into present programming.
Mongolia: Emergency Radiation

Mongolian physician Dr. Uranchimeg Tsegmed was invited to participate in an Emergency Radiation Services Symposium hosted by GHO at McMaster. Dr. Tsegmed is a second year PhD student in radiation oncology at Hiroshima University, Japan, and in her second year of the Radiation Disaster Medicine Course in the Phoenix Leader Education Program (PLEP) for Renaissance from Radiation Disaster. After completing the PLEP, Dr. Tsegmed will specialize in radiation disaster medicine. In communication with the Mongolian Embassy, there is no support from their government for visiting scholars. The GHO will investigate further.

Saudi Arabia: Al-Hanouf Group

Dr. Andrea Baumann and Dr. Patty Solomon, Associate Dean of Rehabilitation Sciences, met with delegates from the Al-Hanouf Group, Saudi Arabia on September 23, 2014 to discuss Rehabilitation Sciences at McMaster. Members of the Bay Area Health Trust also attended the meetings at McMaster. The GHO communicated with Trade Commissioner Gabriel Jabbour from the Canadian Embassy in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia: InterHealth Canada Limited (ICL) & Ministry of Health (MOH) Hospitals

Dr. Andrea Baumann attended meetings on October 20, 2014, to discuss Post-Graduate Medical Education (PGME) training programs with MOH hospitals in Saudi Arabia. ICL is leading the initiative for collaboration with universities in Canada and Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Training programs will be offered in the following specialty areas: medicine, pediatrics, OBGYN, general surgery, pathology and laboratory medicine, radiology, emergency medicine, and psychiatry.

Saudi Arabia: Sulaiman Al Rajhi Colleges (SRC)

A delegation from Sulaiman Al Rajhi Colleges visited McMaster University in October 2014. The meeting included implementation of the PBL undergraduate nursing curriculum at SRC. A budget for a five-year contract was drafted and forwarded to the University’s Board of Trustees. The GHO is in communication regarding next steps, which will include a site visit to Saudi Arabia to finalize contract details when the physical plant of the female section of the college is complete. Once this happens, the SRC Board of Trustees will notify the GHO.

Saudi Arabia: King Saud University (KSU)

Three meetings have taken place over the past academic year between GHO and KSU to finalize an MOU and memorandum of agreement regarding enrollment of KSU medical graduates in McMaster’s Health Research Methodology program in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, in addition to possible admission to the Residency program. Preliminary discussions have begun regarding enrollment of students in the MSc Global Health.

United Arab Emirates: Zayed Military Hospital, Abu Dhabi

Dr. Farah S. Al Zaabi, Medical Education Director at the Zayed Military Hospital, contacted McMaster University’s School of Medicine regarding the MOU with McMaster for training health care providers (nursing subspecialty, technician training, residencies/fellowship possibilities) within the United Arab Emirates. An MOU has been drafted and circulated for feedback.
University Affiliations & Innovative Partnerships

McMaster University fosters relationships with universities worldwide to share advances in knowledge, develop new programs and initiatives and respond to the shifting global context.

Maastricht University, The Netherlands

Since 2010, McMaster University and Maastricht University in the Netherlands have offered a joint Master of Science in Global Health (MSc GH) to prepare graduates for careers in a globalized world. This multidisciplinary program brings together faculties of business, health sciences and social sciences, and features online collaboration in transcontinental learning pods, face-to-face classroom and real-world experiences, and exchanges to Maastricht. Graduates have received numerous awards including the Mitacs Globalink Research Award.

The program culminates in an international summit in India where students from partner universities present their research, receiving critical feedback from health policy-makers, activists, and expert researchers in the global health field. Following the summit, students complete global health practicums within local communities as far away as Bolivia, Guatemala, and Tanzania.
Hosting International Delegations & Visiting Scholars

The GHO fosters international relationships by engaging healthcare researchers, educators and professionals in ongoing dialogue. We welcome visitors from around the world to share their expertise and exchange ideas.

Americas

USA: University of Drexel, April 20 – 23, 2015

For the second consecutive year, Drexel University doctor of nursing practice students visited McMaster for an educational workshop to compare and contrast nursing from an international perspective. Discussion topics included the Canadian healthcare system, nursing graduate curricula, as well as health service research, advanced practice nursing and healthcare reform.

Asia

Japan: Private Medical University Association, September 25, 2014

The GHO held meetings with a delegation of 21 health professionals representing 29 private medical universities across Japan. In a collaborative presentation, Dr. Andrea Baumann; Dr. David Koff, Chair of Radiology; Dr. John Mernagh, President of the Medical Staff Association; and Dr. Anne Wong, Assistant Dean of Education Services, focused largely on Canadian Medical school administration, trends and statistics, using specific examples such as McMaster’s Radiology Department. General themes of interest included costs of medical training in Canada, comparison of computerization (medical records and documentation/charting) as well as the use of PBL in the medical curricula. The GHO partnered with SickKids International to provide a tour of their facilities and meet with faculty on September 26. McMaster has a history of strong collaboration with the Japanese Universities and Colleges and continues to foster this relationship.

Europe

Italy: Visiting Scholar Erika Bassi from the University of Ferrara

Erika Bassi, a Master of Science in Nursing student from the University of Ferrara, Italy, worked with the research team in the...
Nursing Health Services Research Unit (NHSRU) during September 2014. Her research examined the impact of economic changes in the nursing workforce in Italy. After completing her internship at McMaster, Erika returned to Italy to complete her thesis in a Ferrara hospital currently undergoing “care-focused” restructuring to improve inefficiencies within the system.


McMaster and Maastricht universities’ departments of engineering held a video conference on August 29, 2014. Discussions focused on the opportunities for mutual synergy of an Industrial PhD program. The proposed program, developed and offered together at both universities, will seek accreditation. Formalizing lists of potential industrial partners in both countries and preparation for a policy document to share with university administration was discussed. A follow-up conference call was completed in September, 2014 regarding McMaster and Maastricht University’s joint Industrial PhD Program. McMaster engineering faculty are keen to formalize the partnership with Maastricht.

Netherlands: VU University Medical Center Amsterdam (VUmc)

The GHO hosted a delegation from Amsterdam on December 2, 2014 to discuss and compare medical and nursing education between Canada and the Netherlands at the national level. The group consisted of 18 health officials from two Academic Hospitals – the VU University Medical Center Amsterdam (VUmc) and the Academic Medical Center (AMC-University of Amsterdam) – along with the Chief of the Dutch National Committee Innovation Health Care Professions & Education and faculty from nursing colleges across Amsterdam. Dr. Andrea Baumann, Dr. Alan Neville, Dr. Carolyn Byrne and Dr. Eileen Hutton delivered presentations. Dr. Bruce Wainman provided a tour of the Anatomy & Surgical Skills Lab. The delegation also visited the Boris Clinic with Dr. Akbar Panju to learn about McMaster’s “gold standard” patient-centred healthcare.

As a follow up to this visit, a second delegation of medical and midwifery faculty from VUmc visited McMaster on June 25, 2015 to discuss and compare complex care and medical education in Canada. Meetings were held with Dr. Andrea Baumann, Dr. Alan Neville, Dr. Bill Evans and Dr. Bruce Wainman.

Norway: Buskerud and Vestfold (HBV) University College, May 6, 2015

In coordination with McMaster School of Nursing, the GHO hosted two HBV faculty members. Discussions focused on advanced practice nursing, problem-based learning and simulation, as well as clinical practice issues and assignments.

Scotland, United Kingdom: University of Edinburgh, Fall 2015

Planning is underway for the visit of a University of Edinburgh medical faculty member. The objective is to compare and contrast British/Canadian problem-based learning methodologies in medical education. Meetings are being coordinated with McMaster faculty involved in education planning and design, assessment, facilitation and research.
For the last 9 years, McMaster has hosted students and faculty from Niigata University for their Canada Study Tour – offering a unique opportunity for all parties involved, while fostering ongoing academic exchange between our two institutions.

“The Canada Study Tour to McMaster was an incredible learning experience,” said third year undergraduate student Akane Funazaki from Japan, after visiting McMaster in 2015.

On March 15, a delegation of seven health sciences students – six undergraduate and one graduate – arrived from Niigata University to spend a week at McMaster for their Canada Study Tour. The GHO has hosted delegations from Niigata each year since 2006.

Funded by the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO), the Tour provides an opportunity for students to learn about health sciences and problem-based learning (PBL) at McMaster and – at a more macro level – to explore similarities and differences between Canadian and Japanese approaches to teaching and learning in this field.

The Niigata students’ packed itinerary from Monday to Friday involved several presentations from Health Sciences faculty, along with tours of the campus, health sciences labs, HSc library, and Simulation Centre.

Presentations covered a range of topics and included an interactive demonstration of Problem Based Learning (PBL), delivered by Dr. Yvonne Lawler, as well as an overview of the nursing curriculum at McMaster from Dr. Olive Wahoush, and a tour of the Anatomy Laboratory by Dr. Bruce Wainman.

At the end of the visit, Niigata students prepared a presentation in English, which they delivered to their peers and professors and participants from McMaster’s GHO. The presentation allows students to share what they have learned on the Tour, as well as the opportunity to practice their English skills.
International Grants & Contract Submissions

The GHO assists departments within the FHS with the development of various grants and contract proposals to obtain funds for international research and educational projects.

Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (DFATD):

Scaling Up Maternal Health in Guatemala Proposal to DFATD

The Tula Foundation, Partnership with McMaster University - proposal focus is on education and training - was selected for Partnerships for Strengthening Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PSMNCH) funding, receiving $7.6 million.

Improving Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) through Water Quality and Food Safety Monitoring in Kenya, Nepal and Peru

Ryerson University, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations and McMaster University Consortium - project focus is on water safety.

Improving MNCH in Kenya and Nigeria

DeGroote School of Business, Faculty of Engineering & Health Sciences focus on water supply, community health workers and computer supported monitoring.

International Development Research Council (IDRC):

All the IDRC national submissions on Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa were reviewed during the annual implementation and review evaluation meeting in Ottawa.

Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education (SIU)

Buskerud and Vestfold (HBV) University College in Norway and McMaster Health Sciences have received funding from the High North Fund Program grant for four-years. The grant will provide the universities with an opportunity to create new courses and advance existing courses for distance learning between Maastricht and Manipal universities. The fund will facilitate student and faculty exchanges. McMaster and HBV are working on plans for the first faculty exchange and program administration visit.
Master of Science in Global Health

Preparing to Change the World

The graduate program in Global Health is innovative and interdisciplinary, leveraging key university partnerships to address complex global health issues and educate future leaders in a digital era.
Since McMaster and Maastricht universities launched the collaborative program in 2010, enrolment has tripled, and 150 students have graduated. Partnerships have expanded to include universities in India (Manipal), Norway (Buskerud and Vestfold), Thailand (Thammasat) and Colombia (Rosario). In 2014, Manipal University officially joined as an Associate member.

Strategic direction is provided by the program’s Global Health Advisory Board, comprised of high-profile leaders from the business world, NGOs and healthcare consultancies as far-spread as Africa, Europe and North America. Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet of the Netherlands serves as Honorary Chair.

The program’s success can be attributed to our dedicated faculty; expert international advisory board members; committed alumni who still mentor and work with program faculty and students; and the intake of exceptional students.

Admissions

McMaster’s MSc Global Health program corresponded with over 500 applicants for the 2014-2015 admission cycle. 64 students (including three international students) enrolled at McMaster University. Across all three universities – McMaster, Maastricht and Manipal – a total of 199 students enrolled (75 at Maastricht University, the Netherlands, and 60 at Manipal University, India). Manipal University shares courses with the program at McMaster and Maastricht.

With over 500 applications received for 2015–2016, 51 domestic and 4 international applicants have accepted an offer of admission for September 2015. Acceptance offers will continue to be issued over the summer with 70 students expected to start this fall. The Admissions Committee withdrew the pre-requisite of an undergraduate statistics course for the 2014-2015 admissions cycle.

Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP)

The MSc Global Health program IQAP review was successful. IQAP is a cyclical academic review required to assess undergraduate and graduate programs in order to facilitate development and improvement of programs. The Global Health program’s IQAP took place from October 23-24. Reviewers included Dr. Joseph Rhatigan MD, Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health; Dr. Margaret Walton-Roberts, Associate Professor and Associate Dean in the School of International Policy and Governance at Wilfrid Laurier University; and Dr. Jennifer Skelly, Assistant Dean in the School of Nursing at McMaster University. Faculty, students and alumni involved in the program met with the review team. The IQAP incorporates input from all principal stakeholders, as well as the opinion and advice from other institutions.

McMaster/Maastricht Exchange Students

During the winter term, students have the opportunity to specialize in one of the program’s three fields of interest at McMaster or go on exchange to Maastricht to specialize in one of their two fields of interest. All students continue to work collaboratively in transcontinental groups, but the exchange makes it possible for students to meet some of their peers face-to-face, before the summer term in Manipal, where all program students meet in person.

In 2014, McMaster hosted 9 exchange students from Maastricht University, while 14 McMaster students went on exchange to Maastricht University.

“The Global Health Masters program at McMaster is a unique educational program that has succeeded in preparing its graduates for careers in global health.”

Excerpt from 2014 IQAP External Review Report
On Exchange: Pearl Vyas & Lonneke Taks

Pearl Vyas, a McMaster student who spent her winter term in Maastricht, believed the Innovations stream would provide her with a better understanding of “how science and technology influence health care delivery, and the processes involved in implementing innovations that influence health globally.”

Vyas comments on her initial experience: “My Maastricht peers have been extremely welcoming and helpful in guiding me through the program’s problem-based learning style and life in the Netherlands in general.”

During her medical school clerkship, Vyas was often asked about her views of the current health care system, how she felt about health policies, and what she thought was the role of physicians, in terms of global health. As a Health Science Instructor at Trillium College who is educated in medicine, and a student pursuing her MSc Global Health, she is now working to answer these questions for future patients.

Vyas recognizes that “with the increased emergence of infectious diseases, natural disasters, and war across the globe, there is a current shift in viewing healthcare on a more global scale.” And, with a Master of Science in Global Health, she will be equipped with the skills required to navigate the dynamic nature of the various health care challenges faced by a given community.

Lonneke Taks, originally from Prinsenbeek, the Netherlands, joined 8 other exchange students from Maastricht University for the winter term. Last year, she completed a Bachelor in Health Sciences degree, with a major in Prevention & Health. During her undergraduate studies, she had the opportunity to do a minor at the University of Adelaide, Australia. “This was an eye-opening experience,” she explains, “as I’m particularly interested in how health issues are dealt with in other parts of the world.”

Upon finishing her Bachelor’s degree, Taks volunteered at a women’s health centre in Maastricht, before completing a 3 month-project on HIV/AIDS awareness in Malaysia, and then working as an intern at a Dutch company specializing in occupational health and lifestyle/vitality.

Last September, she began the MSc Global Health and has since learned about various aspects of global health, and the specific areas in which she would like to focus. “I’m especially interested in global governance and the global actors in the field of health,” she says. “McMaster offered courses that were greatly linked to this field, so I decided to come to Hamilton.”

During her term at McMaster, Taks learned different perspectives from the professors and students, and was able to explore a bit of Canada. “Everyone has been very welcoming and helpful. The campus is larger than Maastricht but the student life is comparable,” she notes. She believes the experience provided a “refreshing contrast” to her studies in Maastricht, and enjoyed her stay in Canada.

“I’m especially interested in global governance and the global actors in the field of health.”

Lonneke Taks, Maastricht University Student

“With the increased emergence of infectious diseases, natural disasters, and war across the globe, there is a current shift in viewing healthcare on a more global scale.”

Pearl Vyas, McMaster student
Three Minute Thesis (3MT)

Three MSc Global Health students participated in McMaster’s third annual Three Minute Thesis (3MT®), a university-wide competition for graduate students, which ran from February 10-12, 2015. The challenge is to present complex research in an engaging, accessible, and compelling way – in just three short minutes. Participants present to a panel of non-specialist judges using only one static presentation slide. Global Health student Osman Raza presented on Health System Strengthening for Primary Health Care, while colleague Samantha Cheuk spoke about Exploring Disability Experiences of Older Adults Living with HIV in Zambia. GH student Jessica Yu made it through to the finals on February 12, with her thesis on The Normalization of Disasters. She was among 14 finalists from across McMaster, chosen from 33 competitors in four preliminary heats over two intense days.

Global Health Learning Series: For Students, By Students

Over 120 Global Health alumni and students attended the inaugural Global Health Learning Series on January 23, 2015. Event organizers

Emily Kocsis and Jessica Yu are graduates of the program. “We wanted to create an event for students, by students,” says Kocsis, “to provide an opportunity to share our experiences in an open, constructive, and non-judgemental forum.” The goal was to engage Global Health alumni and professionals, with current and future students for networking while offering a photo exhibit of student experiences. Alumni experiences of global health issues in Canada and abroad were highlighted. Topics included disaster management and the urban poor in Ahmedabad, India; slum health in Freetown, Sierra Leone; and harm reduction and aboriginal health in the Yukon. Proceeds from the event were donated to Médecins Sans Frontières’ efforts to fight Ebola. See the GHO website for more.

Championing the Program: Global Health Student Ambassador Committee

The Ambassador Committee, formed at McMaster in 2013, was implemented to provide the opportunity for Global Health students to advance their personal, professional and leadership skills. The committee is comprised of current global health student volunteers who represent the program at public events including the Global Health Speaker Series, Chanchlani Global Health Lecture, and recruitment fairs. Students were also invited to attend the Advisory Board meeting, held at McMaster in October 2014, during which Board member Dr. Luis Barreto delivered a presentation on vaccination and infectious diseases. Students also assisted in meetings for the program’s
Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP). A Professionalism Workshop was hosted October 8, 2014 to prepare class representatives for involvement with activities over the year.

Global Health Program Website

The MSc GH website was revised in October 2014 to include resources for students, additional program information, Advisory Board member participation and alumni updates.

BRIDGING DIFFERENT WORLDS SYMPOSIUM: India Global Health Symposium 2015, Manipal University, April 19 – May 2, 2015

The program culminates in a two-week international summit in Manipal where students from partner universities present their research, receiving critical feedback from health policy-makers, activists, and expert researchers in the global health field. The experience simulates the ambiguity and uncertainty professionals face in the global health fields, as students are required to rapidly adapt and make decisions under stressful conditions.

A total of 214 students (63 McMaster students, 74 Maastricht & 77 Manipal) in the class of 2015 participated in the symposium. Students presented their abstracts on selected research topics, and participated in field visits to sites in southern India. For the first time, all McMaster students were able to obtain visas and attend the symposium.

Read student perspectives from Manipal in GHO news.

MSc GH Graduate and Professor Published in Australia’s AlterNative journal

Global Health program graduate Dan Korpali (’13) and GH faculty member Dr. Anne Wong, Professor in the Department of Anesthesia, have been published in the latest issue of Australia’s AlterNative, Volume 11, Issue 2. The article, which went live on June 1, 2015, is entitled Education and the Health of the First Nations People of Canada. It explores education as a social determinant of health, as it has been shown to be a robust predictor of health outcomes.

An Expert Global Health Advisory Board

Global Health Advisory Board Meeting October 24, 2014

McMaster hosted the annual Global Health Advisory Board meeting October 24th. Advisory Board members traveled from South Africa, the Netherlands, the United States, and across Canada to explore key issues and questions: What are the imminent issues in the working field of global health today? What is the educational skill set required to work within this context? Is our course offering currently and adequately meeting these needs?
President Deane presented on “Overarching Initiatives in Internationalization of Higher Education” followed by an address from Advisory Board members Dr. Luis Barreto and Mrs. Mary Heersink on the threat of emerging infectious diseases. Special guest, His Excellency Ambassador Kole of the Netherlands, acknowledged the need for the program’s transdisciplinary approach, with the connection between research, industry and policy.

The board meets annually at either Maastricht or McMaster to discuss imminent global health issues. The governance structure of the MSc program is an innovative framework, designed to increase and support global citizenship. The board provides representation from across the globe and across disciplines (Social Sciences, Health Sciences and Business).

Dr. Luis Barreto Receives Awards from Life Sciences Ontario and March of Dimes

Global Health Advisory Board member Dr. Luis Barreto has received recognition for his work in the area of vaccinology and immunization. His professional and volunteer involvements have spanned all facets of the global health landscape.

Welcoming New Members

Two new members – K. Srinath Reddy, President of the Public Health Foundation of India and Jeff Mainland, Executive Vice-President at SickKids in Canada – have joined the Global Health Advisory Board. Their first meeting with fellow members will be at the next Advisory Board meeting in November 2015 at Maastricht University.

Global Health Newsletter

The Master of Science in Global Health Newsletter represents the program at Maastricht, McMaster and Manipal universities. It is published twice a year to communicate with the Global Health community and members of the Advisory Board. Two issues have been published in the past year.

Global Health Newsletter Summer/Fall 2014 Issue

In this Issue, Dr. Abbas Gullet, Advisory Board member and Secretary General of the Kenya Red Cross is highlighted for his humanitarian work and disaster relief in Kenya’s devastating terrorist attack of September 2013. A snapshot of two alumni profiles, Maastricht’s Global and European Symposium and student award winners with attendance from HRH Princess Margriet of the Netherlands are also highlighted.

New Global Health Advisory Board Members

K. Srinath Reddy, President, Public Health Foundation of India

Jeff Mainland, Executive Vice-President, SickKids, Toronto
Over the past year the GHO has worked diligently to engage with embassies and country officials to meet the needs of global engagement and advance McMaster’s internationalization strategy.

Several key meetings have taken place between the Embassy of Canada in the Netherlands and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Meeting with Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands & President of McMaster University

McMaster President Dr. Patrick Deane and Associate Vice-President of Global Health, Dr. Andrea Baumann, welcomed newly appointed Ambassador Cees Kole and Toronto Consul General Anne van Leeuwen of the Kingdom of the Netherlands on August 26, 2014. With the McMaster/Maastricht five-year partnership agreement renewed in 2013 for the Master of Science in Global Health program, the meeting focused primarily on the integral educational union. Additional highlights: Ambassador Kole agreed to be a speaker in the Global Health Speaker Series and attend the Advisory Board meeting October 23-24, 2014 at McMaster University. Discussions also focused on delegations from the Netherlands, potential scholarship opportunities, and the recent partnership between McMaster and Maastricht engineering faculties.

Meeting with Ambassador of Canada to the Netherlands, November 25, 2014

His Excellency James Lambert, Ambassador of Canada to the Netherlands, visited McMaster to meet with faculty and students involved in the MSc GH program. The visit was part of a larger initiative focused on creating innovative partnerships and strengthening bilateral relations between Canada and the Netherlands. Ambassador Lambert attended meetings with Director, Dr. Andrea Baumann, Academic Coordinator Dr. Christy Gombay, and Global Health students and alumni. In addition, he met with President Patrick Deane, Dr. John Kelton, Dean and Vice
President, and Dr. Peter Mascher, Associate Vice-President (AVP) of International Affairs. Faculty from engineering, including Dean Puri and Department Chair, Dr. Carlos Filipe were invited to join the meetings due to the recent partnership between Engineering faculties at McMaster and Maastricht universities (August 2014).

The visit of Ambassador Lambert to McMaster in November was highlighted in the Dutch-Canadian newspaper Nederlandse Courant in the December 2014 Issue. The GHO maintained regular communication with both Ambassadors leading up to the Royal visit.

Meeting with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, February 3, 2015

A follow-up meeting took place at the Embassy with the Senior Officer of Political Affairs. Discussions focused on the Scholarship Program to celebrate 70 years of Liberation of the Netherlands and the visit of Their Highnesses King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima of the Netherlands in spring 2015.

Meetings with High Commission of India, Ottawa & Consulate General of India – June 17, 2014 and throughout the year

The GHO consulted with both offices in preparation for students’ attendance at the MSc program’s Global Health Symposium in India. For the first time in five years, all students from McMaster were able to attend the symposium.

State visit to Canada of Their Highnesses King Willem-Alexander & Queen Máxima, Kingdom of the Netherlands, May 27-29, 2015

During their state visit to Canada, Their Highnesses announced a scholarships program to celebrate 70 years of Liberation of the Netherlands and honour the sacrifices Canadian soldiers made during WWII. The Liberation Scholarship Program will award 70 Canadian students the opportunity to study at a university or college in the Netherlands.

McMaster’s Global Health program was acknowledged as a best practice model of Dutch-Canadian collaboration in higher education at the Dutch Higher Education Mission on May 28. Co-directors Andrea Baumann and Anja Krumeich (Maastricht) delivered a presentation on the program, which was introduced by President Deane and Maastricht’s Rector Magnificus, Luc Soete. President Deane and Peter Mascher, AVP International Affairs, both represented McMaster at the matchmaking event with Dutch institutions at Wilfrid Laurier and Waterloo universities. Andrea Baumann, along with two Advisory Board members – Elizabeth Witmer and Luis Barreto – also attended special events with the Royal couple.

For more information on the Royal couple’s visit in May 2015 visit GHO news.
Engagement in International Meetings & Initiatives

McMaster University participates in global health care dialogue and education and develops targeted initiatives, hosting international events, establishing research centres and creating task forces and coalitions.

**Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research, February 7, 2015**

The 2nd Undergraduate Brock-McMaster-Waterloo Undergraduate Global Health Forum entitled *Beyond Discovering: Defining “Glocal” Health Sustainability*, was held at McMaster University. The well-attended event included a keynote address from Richard Heinzl, founder of the first North American Doctors Without Borders Chapter. For more information please visit the GHO website.

**Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH), March 26-28, 2015**

The sixth annual CUGH Conference focused on *Mobilizing Research for Global Health* took place in Boston, MA. Student representatives supported by the GHO attended the conference.

**International Global Health Advisory Board Chair, June 15, 2015**

Andrea Baumann and Viola Duff, Secretary of the Global Health Advisory Board, met with Elizabeth Witmer, Chair, to discuss outcomes from the State visit of Their Highnesses in May, 2015 and agenda items for the Advisory Board meeting to be held at Maastricht University from November 12 – 13, 2015.

**International Interdisciplinary Summer Institute (IISI) 2014**

The 8th IISI was held from May through June 2014. The delegation consisted of ninety-four academics and included educational administrators, pharmacists, nurses, midwives and public health professionals from North West University (NWU) in South Africa and Praboromarajchanok Institute of Health Workforce Development, Ministry of Public Health in Thailand. The Institute also commemorated closure of the five-year partnership between McMaster and NWU. The 9th International Institute is being planned for the first time ever in fall of 2015.

**International Women’s and Children’s Health Conference (IWCH)**

GHO sponsored the 17th Annual IWCH, which took place on October 18, 2014. The conference, “Caught in Conflict: Issues Facing Victims of Strife,” focused on the health challenges faced by children and women in war-ridden regions around the globe. Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta and Carolyn Beukeboom were the keynote speakers. The conference was well attended.

**International Council of Nurses (ICN) President Honoured at McMaster Convocation**

Judith Shamian, President of ICN received an honorary degree at McMaster’s Convocation ceremony on June 9, 2015. A meeting with Andrea Baumann, Carolyn Byrne, and School of Nursing faculty followed the ceremony.
Faculty of Health Sciences Review: GHO/MSc Program Submission

An overview of both the Global Health program and GHO was submitted for inclusion in the ten-year FHS Review document.

International Strategy Advisory Group (ISAG)

President Deane commissioned ISAG as a pan-University initiative to oversee and coordinate international activities at McMaster. The formation of ISAG is part of President Deane’s Forward with Integrity internationalization strategy. Membership from 2014-2015 includes Dr. Peter Mascher, AVP (International Affairs) and ISAG Chair; Dr. Andrea Baumann, AVP (Global Health); Bonny Ibhawoh, Associate Dean (Graduate Studies & Research), Faculty of Humanities; Kalai Saravanamuttu, Associate Professor, Chemistry and Chemical Biology; Susan Searls Giroux, Associate Vice-President (Facility); Allison Sekuler, Associate Vice-President and Dean of Graduate Studies; Lehana Thabane, Professor/Associate Chair, Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics; Sean Van Koughnett, Associate Vice-President (Students and Learning) and Dean of Students; Gary Warner, Professor Emeritus, co-leader of the Global Justice Initiative; Mary Williams, Vice-President, University Advancement; Y. Rachel Zhou, Associate Professor, School of Social Work and Institute on Globalization and the Human Condition.

The Committee has met three times since its inception (October, 2014) to plan and coordinate campus-wide initiatives and build on national and international strategies. McMaster’s focus on internationalization of higher education is a primary goal of the committee, focusing on activities such as internationalizing the curriculum, the introduction of a global justice initiative, the harmonization of student pre-departure procedures, and McMaster’s exchange program. The committee has also discussed reinstatement of the International Initiatives Micro Fund and establishment of the International Research Investment Fund. ISAG is using the survey for the International Compendium completed and published by the GHO (2014) to engage in a third campus-wide initiative to evaluate McMaster’s global reach.

Toronto Addis Ababa Psychiatry Partnership (TAAPP)

A meeting with Dr. Clare Pain on April 1, 2015 focused on international global mental health partnerships and the department’s involvement in Uganda and Guyana. Correspondence continues regarding Dr. Pain’s participation in the upcoming GH Speaker Series in the fall of 2015.

McMaster University International Compendium 2014

The GHO’s International Compendium 2014, titled Expanding our Reach: Working Together to Internationalize Higher Education, was published and circulated in December 2014. The campus-wide contributions highlight McMaster’s widespread impact across the globe with over 1250 partnerships in 139 countries. The McMaster Daily News published an article January 14, 2015.

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/ World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre (CC) In Primary Care Nursing And Health Human Resources

The GHO hosts one of the two WHOCCs at McMaster University. The School of Nursing is one of 44 satellite offices worldwide in the Global Network of WHOCCs for Nursing and Midwifery development.

Dr. Ruta Valaitis, Deputy Director of the McMaster site collaborating centre, attended the annual PAHO meeting in Cartagena, Colombia from September 10-11, 2014. A preliminary meeting took place following the annual PAHO meeting in October 2014 with PAHO regional nursing officer Professor Silvia Cassiani and McMaster faculty to discuss the Canadian Centre for Advanced Practice Nursing Research (CCAPNR) at McMaster. The purpose was to discuss opportunities for capacity
building in advanced practice nursing across Pan-America.

Dr. Andrea Baumann, Director of the McMaster site WHOCC in Primary Care Nursing & Health Human Resources, participated in an interview discussing expertise and partnerships of the McMaster site for establishment of a database across the Nursing & Midwifery Collaborating Centres worldwide. She also attended the annual Pan American Nursing and Midwifery Collaborating Centre member meeting.

**Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage: Advanced Practice Nursing Summit**

April 15–17, 2015

McMaster hosted 30 health professionals from across Latin and Central America to share perspectives on the role of the advanced practice nurse (APN) in Canada and the United States to support universal access to health and health coverage. The aim was to broaden the scope of nursing practice in Primary Health Care (PHC) in this region to include APNs. Currently, unlike in the US and Canada, there is little evidence of APN education, practice and regulation in Central and South American countries.

Speakers’ presentations ranged from an exploration of nursing practice, regulation and education in specific regions, to a look at advanced practice nursing in the United States and Canada, where there is an established regulatory framework. The summit was hosted in collaboration with McMaster’s WHOCC, PAHO, the Office of the Chair in Primary Care Nursing, and the Canadian Centre for Advanced Practice Nursing. See the FHS website for the news release.

“At the Heart of It All: Nurses & Midwives for Universal Health Coverage”

As an outcome from the summit, McMaster’s School of Nursing faculty will host webinars to recognize APN capacity building strategy across Pan-America. The webinars are scheduled to begin in summer 2015.

Andrea Baumann and Ruta Valaitis are exploring opportunities to support evaluation of nursing human resources in Barbados with Barbados’ Chief Nursing Officer and Regional Advisor at PAHO Washington DC. The first meeting took place June 17, 2015. Next steps include a draft work plan of activities to begin in August 2015 with a completion date of February 2016.

**PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre Re-designation & Annual Report Submission**

McMaster University School of Nursing PAHO/WHO CC was re-designated as a Collaborating Centre for the next cycle from 2015-2019.

**Honorary Doctor of Science for Dr.Silvina María Malvárez**

Dr. Malvárez received an Honorary Doctor of Science at the 2014 Spring Nursing/Medical Radiation Sciences Convocation. She has been an exemplary leader in nursing and allied health internationally in her role as Regional Advisor on Human Resources in Nursing and Allied Health Personnel Development for the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO).
Global Health Education Events

The GHO hosts events to promote discussion about the latest issues in global health, and to recognize the important contributions of the people who are driving change.

Chanchlani Global Health Research Award & Lecture

February 23–25, 2015.

Each year, the Global Health Office and the Chanchlani Research Centre at McMaster honours an outstanding individual who has made an impact in global health. An internal committee selects a recipient based on their scholarly contributions to global health research.

Recognizing Dr. Ab Osterhaus – 2015 Chanchlani Global Health Research Award Recipient

Dr. Ab Osterhaus, Professor of Virology in the Netherlands at Utrecht, Rotterdam and Hannover, was the 2015 recipient of the Chanchlani Global Health Research Award. Osterhaus is an award-winning virologist who explores pandemic threats from the animal world. On February 25, Dr. Osterhaus delivered his dynamic lecture From Zoonosis to pandemic in a changing world to students and faculty at McMaster. Highlighting viruses like measles, Ebola, and chikungunya, Osterhaus emphasized the importance of vaccines – and the dangers of the anti-vaccine movement – in controlling outbreaks of infectious diseases. His presentation explored the threat of interspecies transmissions and the possibilities of mutations in new and existing viruses – a very timely topic.

Mourning the loss of Mr. Vasu Chanchlani

In September 2014, we were deeply saddened by the death of Mr. Vasu Chanchlani, who will be missed by many friends at McMaster. Mr. Chanchlani and his wife, Dr. Jayshree Chanchlani, co-founded the Chanchlani Global Health Research award with McMaster in 2012 to honour outstanding individuals dedicated to improving global health. Mr. Chanchlani was a philanthropist and businessman, funding research to understand the genetic and environmental causes of cardiovascular diseases common among South Asians and those of South Asian origin living in Canada. He is also co-founder of the Sigma Group of Companies and a founding member of the Canada India Foundation, which aims to strengthen ties between Canada and India.
given reports that the measles virus circulating in Ontario at that time was a variant previously unknown to the WHO.

During the course of his career, Dr. Osterhaus has discovered over 50 new viruses in humans and animals, and his influential work has enabled health authorities including the WHO to combat outbreaks like SARS, MERS, and avian influenza.

The lecture was attended internationally via web conference at Maastricht University in the Netherlands, and in Canada, by representatives at the Public Health Agency of Canada; National Research Council of Canada; Public Health Ontario and health units; and Pan- Provincial Vaccine Enterprise Inc. (PREVENT); and the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization-International Vaccine Centre (VIDO-InterVac).

Special guests at the McMaster lecture included His Excellency Cees Kole, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Canada, Mr. Anne van Leeuwen, Consul General of Toronto and Ms. Regine Aalders, Counselor of Health, Welfare and Sport at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Washington D.C., along with faculty and students. His Excellency James Lambert, Ambassador of Canada to the Netherlands, provided exposure on social media in the Netherlands.

Global Health Speaker Series 2014–2015

This year’s Speaker Series hosted experts working in the field from across the world, with topics ranging from the health workforce to Ebola. Here is a summary of the seminars:

Globalization in Health Sciences Education: The Cultural Complexity of PBL Across the World (October 14, 2014) with Dr. Janneke Frambach, assistant professor and international project manager at the School of Health Professions Education at Maastricht University, the Netherlands.

Canada’s support to Bangladesh’s Human Resources for Health (HRH) Project (November 14, 2014) with Dr. Lubana Ahmed and Mr. Stephen Collins from Cowater International Inc., focused on HRH’s history, structure, current achievements and constraints.

Ethics and Ebola: How do we address complex health issues in an evolving humanitarian emergency? (January 14, 2015) with Dr. Lisa Schwartz, the Arnold L. Johnson Chair in Health Care Ethics from the Faculty of Health Sciences at McMaster, and Dr. Ross Upshur from the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. GHO and CHEPA co-hosted this lecture. Lecture available on You Tube.
Pursuing Global Engagement

Aligned with the FWI initiative, the GHO’s mission is to support and improve international collaboration at McMaster by working with the FHS, the University, and the community.

Our strategy for global engagement involves:

- **Alumni:** Seeking opportunities to work with alumni in an international context
- **Strategic Partnerships:** Collaborating with the FHS, working within faculties and across campus and engaging institutions locally, nationally and internationally
- **Research:** Highlighting international achievements campus-wide
- **Students:** Enhancing exposure to international perspectives in all learning environments and promoting reciprocal exchanges to enable global citizenship

Our 2015-2016 activities will align with the GHO’s mission, strategy and goals:

- Engage in international relationships, increasingly defined by interconnectivity rather than traditional bilateral relationships
- Complete an interdisciplinary student placement database across health science programs
- Coordinate international learning opportunities for students
- Create a compendium and maintain a database of international contacts
- Continue to refine our interactive communication strategy (involving our website, Twitter and Facebook)
- Expand the global health graduate program
- Host international delegations and visiting scholars
- Increase capacity building in higher education
- Liaise with McMaster’s Office of International Affairs (e.g., joint symposium and ambassador series)
- Prepare and negotiate international grants and contract submissions
- Ensure representation on university-wide internationalization committees
- Review and consolidate pre-departure preparation and risk assessment protocols in health science
- Strengthen university affiliations and innovative partnerships
- Work with faculty development to recognize international contributions in promotion and tenure