



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**June 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009**



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## **I) Introduction**

Established from the International Health Office in 2006, the Global Health Programs (GHP) of the McGill Faculty of Medicine is committed to improving the health of people and populations worldwide through educational, clinical, developmental and research programs that link McGill faculty and students with colleagues throughout Canada and the world in collaborative projects. Our mission is to:

- Establish and facilitate international research collaborations to address leading health challenges
- Support the training of health care workers and researchers to combat global health disparities
- Support students and faculty to work with underserved populations and in underserved regions
- Promote long-term capacity building in health and health related sciences in low-resource areas
- Attract outstanding individuals into global health related fields

We strive to achieve these goals working in the local, national and international context. This report details the activities undertaken by GHP from June 2008 to June 2009, McGill's fiscal year 2009.

## **II) Raising McGill's Profile in Global Health**

Global Health Programs has worked diligently to raise McGill University's profile as a leading academic institution in the realm of global health, through the creation of networks with relevant global health organizations and partnerships with key institutions, in addition to publishing numerous articles regarding global health education<sup>1-3</sup>.

### **A) Liaising with National and International Global Health Organizations**

From chairing the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC) Global Health Resource Group (GHRG), to serving on the boards of leading academic organizations for global health such as the Global Health Education Consortium (GHEC) and the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH), Dr. Brewer has established McGill University's Global Health Programs as a leading stakeholder within academic networks for global health within North America. During his time as Chair of the AFMC GHRG, Dr. Brewer contributed to several publications released by this committee<sup>4-6</sup>.

### **B) Building partnerships for global health**

Beyond the borders of North America, Global Health Programs has established partnerships with educational institutions in Peru and Ethiopia. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia in May 2009. This agreement establishes the terms and conditions for a no-fee exchange program between the two medical schools.

As well, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed in July 2009 between McGill University and Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia based on long-standing cooperation between the two institutions due to a previous partnership. McGill University aims to contribute to capacity-building through an Infectious Disease Training Program for this nation of over 80 million people, which had only 2 Infectious Disease specialists at the time of print.

In addition to these activities, GHP has worked to connect McGill faculty with partners to address health problems around the world. For example, GHP was involved in linking the Conseiller en affaires internationales, Direction des collaborations internationales for the Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation of Québec, Dr. Pierre Cenerelli with faculty at the McGill University Health Centre to support cardiovascular surgical training at the Shandong Provincial Hospital in China. Dr. Brewer met with visiting university representatives looking to partner with McGill including Dr. Mark Clarfield of Ben Gurion University in Israel and Prof. Claire de Burbure, International Relations coordinator for Université Catholique de Louvain of Belgium.

### **III) Cultivating a Global Health Community at McGill**

McGill University features a rich diversity of global health research and education opportunities. GHP aims to create links among the many diverse individuals, institutes, initiatives, student organizations and research groups involved in global health. Some examples of these activities are described below.

#### **A) Global Health Projects Database**



For the past two years, GHP has maintained a database of research, educational, clinical and other projects related to global health involving McGill University faculty. Projects are organized and displayed in an interactive and searchable database. McGill faculty and students, as well as members of the public, may freely access this

comprehensive repository to find project descriptions and information about McGill health projects around the world. The aim of the Projects database is to highlight and raise awareness of global health activities at McGill, as well as to provide opportunities for global health collaborations among McGill faculty, researchers and students. It is an essential component in GHP's overall aim of fostering interest and activity in global health at McGill University.

This database is continually expanding and currently contains over 100 faculty members involved in over 170 projects in more than 30 countries. To explore the broad range of global health projects currently in existence at McGill, please visit the database via our website at [www.mcgill.ca/globalhealth](http://www.mcgill.ca/globalhealth).

#### **B) Supporting Faculty and Administration**

##### **Humanitarian Studies Initiative for Residents**

With support from Global Health Programs, Drs. Kirsten Johnson and Alison Doucet of the Department of Family Medicine have established a multidisciplinary training program for resident-physicians and fellows in the area of humanitarian responses to disaster and refugee crises.

Through consulting with the program organizers, providing feedback on draft proposals, and facilitating meetings with key university personnel, Dr. Brewer supported Drs. Johnson's and Doucet's efforts to launch this exciting initiative. GHP continues to support the HSIR with yearly financial support. For more

information about the program, please visit their website at:  
<http://www.mcgill.ca/familymed/international/hsir/>.

Within GHP's broader mission to cultivate and support global health initiatives at McGill University, Dr. Brewer has met with faculty members from a wide variety of backgrounds in order to explore partnerships and establish networks throughout the university. Examples include:

- Collaborating with Dr. Makeda Semret and others to establish the Infectious Diseases Training Program with Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia
- Meeting with Dr. Tarek Razek, Department of Surgery, to discuss his work to improve trauma and maternal care in Eastern Africa
- Working with Dr. Franco Carli, from the Department of Anesthesia, to explore opportunities to improve anesthesia training in Rwanda and to create chances for McGill residents and Canadian anesthetists to work in low-resource settings
- Participating in the Pediatrics Department planning meeting on international opportunities
- Meeting with Drs. Gaston Harnois and Marc Laporta of the Department of Psychiatry to explore opportunities for projects between the Faculty and the WHO Collaborating Centre on Mental Health at Douglas Hospital
- Encouraging developments in Anesthesia training in the Middle East by drawing links between Dr. Franco Carli and Dr. Jim Torczyner of the McGill Middle East Program in Civil Society and Peace-Building (MMEP)
- Participating in discussion with Laurette Dube at the Desautels Faculty of Management and others around support medical education in Bangladesh

At the Central Administration level Dr. Brewer participated in a meeting held at McGill in September, 2008 with Dean Levin, Associate Deans Meterissian (Post-graduate education) and Rosengarten (Continuing Medical Education) and the leadership of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada to advise the College on its international certification programs. In February 2009, Dr. Brewer met with Deputy Provost Philip Smith to discuss building relationships with the University of Haifa.

## **IV) Promoting Global Health Education**

In the past year, GHP continued to play a leadership role in advancing global health educational activities nationally and locally. These activities have ranged from the development of core competencies in global health for medical students to GHP's annual conference and guest lectureships. In addition to direct GHP activities, GHP provided intellectual, financial and/or staff support for a number of faculty and student-led global health educational initiatives. These efforts are described in more detail in the following section.

### **National Initiatives**

#### **A) Core Competencies in Global Health for Medical Education**

As Chair of the AFMC's Resource Group on Global Health, Dr. Brewer has worked with student and faculty representatives from other Canadian medical schools to improve global health educational efforts nationally. Previously, the Group conducted a thorough inventory of global health resources in Canadian medical schools. The findings from this work were published in *Academic Medicine*. Based on these findings, the Resource Group highlighted the need for uniform guidelines to define minimum core competencies for global health undergraduate medical education.

Working with colleagues from the Global Health Education Consortium (GHEC), a leading organization in the global health education, the AFMC, and the Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS), Dr. Brewer is currently putting together a document outlining the core competencies that all U.S. and Canadian medical students should master in global health before graduating, regardless of their ultimate career choice. This project is slated for completion by the spring of 2010. The long-term goal of these efforts is to establish and integrate standardized global health education criteria into undergraduate medical school curricula.

### **Local Initiatives**

#### **B) Annual Global Health Conference**

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009, GHP hosted its third annual conference, entitled *Building and Maintaining Sustainable Global Health Partnerships*. This conference, which was open to the McGill community as well as individuals from across North America attending the AFMC annual meeting, addressed challenges and opportunities for training students and healthcare professionals interested in global health medical careers.

Keynote presentations were given by Dr. Gerald Keusch, Professor of Medicine and of International Health at Boston University, Dr. Michael Johnson, Deputy Director of Fogarty International Center at the NIH, and Dr. Patricia Garcia, Director of the STI and HIV Unit in the School of Public Health at Universidad Peruano Cayetano Heredia in Lima, Peru.



Dr. Keusch is an internationally recognized global health medical educator, with a particular focus on links between health and absolute poverty. At the conference, he presented “*Building Health Partnerships: Lessons for Universities*”.



Dr. Patricia Garcia presented on “*Challenges and Opportunities in International Partnerships: View of the South*”. She has an ongoing role in developing international health-related policy and is committed to human rights and the well-being of people globally.



Dr. Michael Johnson is an infectious disease specialist with experience in health promotion for under-served populations. In 2002, Dr. Johnson joined the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s Global AIDS Program as Director of its Caribbean Regional Office. He developed many projects involving the accessibility and quality of disease treatment. In 2007, Dr. Johnson joined the Fogarty International Center at the NIH as Deputy Director. There, he provides leadership to programs pertaining to the sustainability of global health interventions. He spoke at the conference about “Fogarty’s Experiences in Supporting Academic Partnerships between High- and Low-Income Academic Institutions”.

There were three panels at this year’s conference, each addressing a crucial topic in global health education. The panel topics were:

- Research
- Local Training and Capacity Building
- Education

In addition to thought-provoking presentations on such issues as Canadians’ roles as global citizens, technology assisted teaching and global health ethics in practice, speakers and attendees from across Canada and the US participated in

lively discussions about opportunities and barriers to developing global health medical education programs. Approximately 160 individuals participated in this year's meeting. The conference may be viewed by visiting the GHP web site at: <https://home.mcgill.ca/globalhealth/conference/archive/2009/>.

### **C) McGill Inter-Professional Global Health Course**

The second annual McGill Inter-Professional Global Health Course took place in the winter session of 2009. Inspired and initiated by McGill medical and nursing students, course organizers collaborated with fellow students and faculty including GHP to explore topics such as: Global Nutrition, Aboriginal Health, Demographic and Epidemiological Transitions, International Law and Global Public Health, Ethics of Humanitarian Work, Maternal and Child Health, and the Impact of Urbanization on Health. The framework for the course was based on guidelines developed by GHP for the AFMC for undergraduate medical education in global health. GHP provided financial support and advice throughout the development of the course. Dr. Brewer also delivered the course's opening lecture.

### **D) Lectures and Teaching**

As one of the leading experts on global health at McGill University, Dr. Brewer provides guest lectures on global health in a variety of courses and disciplines, as well as for numerous student-organized initiatives and outside organizations. In 2008-2009, Dr. Brewer provided two integrated guest lectures on global health as part of the Basis of Medicine core curriculum. Presentations to other groups included to the McGill Osler Medical Society and a visiting delegation of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce.

### **E) E-learning Tools**

Through its e-learning tools project, Global Health Programs, along with the McGill Molson Medical Informatics (MMI) team, has developed an electronic-based medical education tool modeling an interactive case series of fever in returning travelers. This tool is designed to be used as a teaching instrument for medical students and physicians throughout different stages of their training. Using data from an actual case history, an anonymous case of a patient presenting with Dengue fever has been developed. This pilot project will be used to highlight ways that advances in information technology may be used to enhance medical learning. Electronic learning tools also have the important advantage of being adaptable for use both at McGill as well as for medical study anywhere in the world.

## **V) Supporting Student Initiatives in Global Health**

Dr. Brewer frequently advises students on their career objectives, educational paths and elective opportunities. Besides these individual sessions and the educational activities described above, GHP provides faculty, staff and financial support for a growing number of student-based global health activities including:

### **A) Global Health Programs Student Projects Funding**

McGill Global Health Programs offers a Student Initiatives Fund for student-run activities at McGill University through a competitive process. Applications are biannual, due October 1st and April 1st of each academic year. To be considered for funding, the event or activity must be open or available to all eligible McGill medical students. There is no limit to the number of student-run organizations or activities that can apply, however funds are limited. In 2009, the Student Initiatives Fund supported the McGill International Health Initiative (MIHI) and the Montreal World Health Organization simulation (MonWHO). More information is available at <http://www.mcgill.ca/globalhealth/funding/students/>.

### **B) McGill International Health Initiative (MIHI)**

The McGill International Health Initiative is a student group that strives for global health equality through lectures, discussions, conferences and activism. GHP provides a majority of MIHI's funding support. Some of MIHI's activities include:

- Managing the OMAF Scholarship
- Running the Health on Earth Radio Show
- Coordinating the Inter-professional Course on Global Health
- Organizing a Global Health Lecture Series
- Coordinating Pre-Departure Training for students travelling overseas for electives
- Book Donation Program
- Assist in planning and coordinating the annual McGill Global Health Night
- Campaigning for access to antiretroviral drugs
- Working towards patent law amendment for export of generic medications
- Cooperating with NGOs and student groups for hands-on work in developing countries
- Advocating for global health in the McGill medical curriculum
- Attending conferences and lectures on global health for personal education

### **C) Montreal World Health Organization (MonWHO) Simulation**

The Montréal World Health Organization Simulation (MonWHO) is an annual global health conference that brings together over a hundred health-minded students from universities across Canada. MonWHO is supported by GHP, and is organized in cooperation with the Quebec Chapter of the International Federation of Medical Students (IFMSA-Qc), the Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS) and the McGill International Health Initiative (MIHI). Delegates have the opportunity to enter into the role of an Ambassador to the World Health Organization and work with other nations to develop resolution papers that advocate solutions to specific global health problems. The goals of MonWHO are to:

- Raise student awareness about global health issues
- Provide a means for students to play a proactive role in global health policy
- Acquaint students with the WHO and its role
- Develop inter-professional relationships between students from a variety of backgrounds interested in global health

Resolutions drafted by delegates at the conference are brought to the World Health Organization in Geneva and, in the past, have been adopted by global health-minded student organizations such as the IFMSA.



From March 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the third annual Montreal World Health Organization (MonWHO) was held, co-sponsored by Global Health Programs. Organized and hosted by the International Federation of Medical Students Association (Quebec Chapter) and the International Relations Students' Association of McGill, this student-led program brought together

more than 100 cross-disciplinary students from around North America to raise political awareness and involvement in global health issues and to promote interdisciplinary collaboration among future global health professionals. Students from healthcare, political science, and international development represented WHO member nations. Together they debated and worked toward a sustainable plan addressing this year's topic: Environmental Health. The product of the simulation, a Declaration of Principles, was formulated and forwarded to the World Health Organization. GHP provided financial support, program advice and help with identifying and inviting speakers.

## **D) Student Reports Database**

GHP hosts a searchable database of student reports on individual international elective experiences. Students participating in international electives are encouraged to enter the relevant information and their experiences in this database. This database is a useful source of information for students researching international elective options. They may filter their search based on region of interest, type of organization, and type of desired elective, in order to learn about the international health activities of other students.

## **E) The Dr. Yuk Chan Ma and Dr Yuen Kok Chan Prize in Multicultural and International Medicine**

The Dr. Yuk Chan Ma and Dr. Yuen Kok Chan Award in Multicultural and International Medicine, in the amount of \$1000, is awarded annually by the faculty of Medicine Scholarship Committee to a medical student who participates in an elective, research project or community service program for at least four weeks in the previous year and who best demonstrates an understanding of the contribution of social and cultural factors to health.

Dr. Alice Chan-Yip, MDCM is a graduate of the McGill Faculty of Medicine whose career has been marked by a strong commitment to multicultural and international medicine. Having recognized the importance of cultural factors influencing the practice of medicine, she developed community research and health promotional projects in the Montreal Chinese Community, and collaborated with colleagues to develop the Multicultural Program at the Montreal Children's Hospital which was established in 1986. She was the 2005 recipient of the inaugural Noni MacDonald Award by the Canadian Paediatric Society for her review article: "Health Promotion and Research in the Chinese Community in Montreal: A Model of Culturally Appropriate Health Care." Through the endowment of the Chan Prize, is it Dr. Chan-Yip's wish to promote the teaching of cross-cultural medicine among medical students at McGill University.

In the fall of 2008, six students presented their projects at the annual Global Health Student Presentation Night, where the award winner was announced. GHP coordinates the award application and selection processes, as well as the annual Global Health Night. More information is available at <http://www.mcgill.ca/globalhealth/funding/students/> and in the next section.

## F) Global Health Student Presentation Night



On November 5th, GHP co-hosted the annual Global Health Student Presentation Night. The evening was a great success, with presentations by the Osler Medical Aid Foundation Scholars as well as other medical students who had applied for the *Dr. Yuk Chan Ma and Dr. Yuen Kok Chan Prize in Multicultural and International Medicine*. Dr. Alice Chan-Yip was among the attendees along with an awards committee led by Dr. Brewer.

The 2008 *Dr. Yuk Chan Ma and Dr. Yuen Kok Chan Prize in Multicultural and International Medicine* was awarded to Rasa Izadnegahdar for his elective in Mumbai, India. GHP provided financial support for the evening, developed the criteria for selecting the *Dr. Yuk Chan Ma and Dr. Yuen Kok Chan Prize in Multicultural and International Medicine*, organized the awards committee and coordinated the Global Health Student Presentation Night.

## G) Osler Medical Aid Foundation (OMAF) Scholarships

GHP provides faculty oversight for this scholarship program including meeting with student leaders to improve the quality of the program, reviewing and, when possible interviewing all student applicants to assist the student committee in the selection of the scholarship winners. GHP also has provided financial assistance for this program. OMAF applications are considered twice a year. In the spring of 2009, two candidates were funded.

## H) *Images that Inspire* Photography Competition



The second annual *Images that Inspire* Photography Competition took place in the spring of 2009, with Andrea Evans bringing home first place with her photo *Girl, Ecuador*. The competition invites students who participated in international electives in the previous year to submit photographs taken while participating in their electives. Each student may enter up to three photos for consideration in the competition. The winner receives a monetary prize of \$75. The other excellent submissions may be seen on the GHP home page at <http://www.mcgill.ca/globalhealth/>.

## **VI) McGill Global Health Programs: Building a Healthier World**

Through the commitment of time, staff, funds and other resources, Global Health Programs continues to contribute to the development of global health at McGill, as well as McGill's profile as a centre of excellence for global health. These efforts are aimed at promoting better health globally by educating future practitioners; promoting research relevant to global health; building capacity locally, nationally and internationally; and fostering links between global health researchers, educators, students and advocates at organizational and individual levels.

Over the next year, Global Health Programs intends to continue providing a leadership role in global health at McGill and abroad, as well as continue to build partnerships for global health locally, nationally and internationally. These efforts will continue to serve as an important foundation in global health to strengthen the McGill Faculty of Medicine's international position as a leading medical school addressing the most pressing national and global health issues of our time.

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