Global Health Program Activity Report

2013 – 2014

263 McCaul St, 3rd Floor, Toronto, CANADA

T: 416-978-3763  E: dfcm.globalhealth@utoronto.ca
Executive Summary

This report describes the various activities of the Global Health Program from 2013 to 2014. Undeniably, the program has flourished in a number of areas including educational offerings, collaborative opportunities, events, scholarship, and communications. Moving forward, the program will prioritize the dissemination of our work in a scholarly fashion, internal and external collaborations with partners, and action on the care of local vulnerable populations.

CONTENTS

Message from the Director 3

Executive Summary 2

i. Canadian Learners in Canada 5

ii. Canadian Learners Abroad 8

iii. International Learners in Canada 9

iv. International Learners Abroad 11

Partnerships 12

Scholarship and Research 13

Communications: Increasing the visibility of the Global Health Program 17

Moving Forward 17
Message from the Director

Over the past three years, the Global Health Program of the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto has boldly leapt forward with a range of new educational offerings and stimulating collaborations. Firmly anchored in our Department’s commitment to the social accountability of academic medicine, the global health activities of these exciting past few years evolved in response to the educational and collaborative needs of those, both within our Department and outside, who share in our vision to achieve equity by championing primary health care.

Building on the outstanding foundational work of our former director, Dr. Yves Talbot, we have focused our work on the goals outlined in our 2010 strategic plan. On the home front, we have begun to weave the vast expertise of other DFCM programs into our Global Health activities and have reached out to colleagues in the DFCM, the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and the Faculty of Medicine to advance our goals. We have developed graduate and CE courses for Canadian health care providers interested in the role of family medicine and primary care in the global arena and are beginning to ramp up scholarship in the area of Global Health education. Our new Global Health Speaker Series serves to foster discussion of the role of family medicine and primary care in global health. Reaching beyond our local borders, through our locally delivered TIPS-FM (Toronto International Program in Strengthening Family Medicine) we have developed an educational and collaborative platform to help international leaders working to strengthen family medicine. We have renewed our partnerships with Ethiopia and Brazil and have developed strategies to ensure that the partnerships and collaborations we continue to form are aligned with our values of accountability, reciprocity, equity, solidarity, humility, responsiveness and respect.

None of our progress would have been possible without the rich contribution of our program staff Mr. Greg Nasmith, Dr. Paula Ruiz and Ms. Jamie Rodas whose dedication and intelligence have allowed our program to flourish. We also wish to acknowledge the unique and unwavering support of our Chair, Dr. Lynn Wilson and our DFCM colleagues in spurring on our collective efforts to build capacity in primary care and family medicine to address the needs of vulnerable and marginalized individuals and communities in Canada and abroad.

I am personally both humbled and awed by the work of so many colleagues and collaborators to bring health equity to those most in need through our rich discipline of family medicine. It is therefore with much gratitude and a deep commitment to continue our important work that I and our Global Health Program team share with you our activities and achievements.

Sincerely,

Dr. Katherine Rouleau, MDCM, CCFP, MHSc
Associate Professor and Director, Global Health Program
Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto
Background

Global Health has been defined as “an area for study, research and practice that places a priority on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide. Global health emphasizes transnational health issues, determinants, and solutions; involves many disciplines within and beyond the health sciences and promotes inter-disciplinary collaboration; and is a synthesis of population-based prevention with individual-level clinical care.”¹

In 2010, the Department of Family & Community Medicine (DFCM) identified the preparation of our students, faculty and trainees with knowledge, skills, and attitudes to effectively respond to global health issues as a goal for the Global Health Program. The DFCM Global Health (DFCM GH) program’s vision is to improve global health and equity by championing family medicine and primary health care. We do this through:

- innovative learner-centred education
- engaged and responsive practice
- collaborative research and scholarship
- knowledge support
- sustainable partnerships
- health system advancement

We are involved in research & scholarship activities, clinical practice & education in Canada and internationally. We offer programs for Canadian learners in Canada and abroad, and programs for international learners in Canada and abroad (Table 1).

Table 1. Matrix of Global Health Program Offerings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>IN CANADA</th>
<th>ABROAD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canadian Learners</td>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Continued Professional Development</td>
<td>Continued Professional Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Learners</td>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
<td>Postgraduate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Continued Professional Development</td>
<td>Continued Professional Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Interprofessional Teams</td>
<td>Interprofessional Teams</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Educational Offerings/ Programs

i. Canadian Learners in Canada

**PGY3 in Global Health & Vulnerable Populations**

The DFCM offers an Enhanced Skills program in Global Health & the Care of Vulnerable Populations. The objectives of the program are to enhance the skills and knowledge of Canadian family physicians in the areas relevant to global health to enable them to work more effectively with vulnerable individuals and in resource poor settings in Canada and abroad and to foster the development of collaborative relationships to support primary health care in resource-poor settings locally, nationally and internationally. Following six months of selectives in Canada, trainees complete a six month global health practicum in a resource-limited setting abroad. The PGY3 is co-coordinated by Drs. Praseedha Janakiram (Women's College Hospital), and Eileen Nicolle (Markham- Stouffville).

**Global Health in Family Medicine Summer Primer (GHSP)**

In 2013 the DFCM GH program launched the Global Health in Family Medicine Summer Primer (GHSP). This program is open to family medicine residents and faculty interested in enhancing their knowledge and skills in global health. Now in its third year the intensive 5-day course has received superb evaluations with some participants stating it was among the best course they had ever taken. In total ten residents, one internationally trained physician, one medical student and eleven practicing family physicians have participated in this program, with rich discussions among the participants.

Dr. Eileen Nicolle (Markham Stouffville), Dr. Praseedha Janakiram (Women’s College Hospital), Dr. Barry Pakes (DLSPH), Dr. Paula Ruiz and Dr. Katherine Rouleau have been key in developing this stellar course.

2013 GHSP class with Dr. Barry Pakes
Family Medicine and Primary Care in the Global Health Context (CHL5618H) Graduate Course

In January 2014, under the leadership of Dr. Katherine Rouleau and Dr. Curtis Handford, we delivered, for the first time, a graduate course titled: the Family Medicine and Primary Care in the Global Health Context (CHL5618H). This course is offered as part of the DFCM's Master's in Public Health Program. Twelve students with a varied professional background (MDs, nurses, dentists, visiting scholars and a midwife) registered for this course. The course provides an overview of key issues pertinent to the strengthening and delivery of primary care and family medicine around the world while highlighting, based on a review of the evidence, how family medicine can impact global health locally and globally. A key focus of the course is the history and evolution of primary care, within a broader social policy context as well as a comparative analysis of case studies from around the world, including the Americas, Africa, Asia, Gulf States & the Middle East. Invited guest faculty in 2014 included Dr. Onil Bhattacharyya, Dr. Risa Bordman, Dr. Ruth Wilson, and Dr. Samantha Franca (from Rio de Janeiro Brazil). We are now preparing to deliver the course for the second time in the winter of 2015.

Global Health Speaker Series

In September 2013 the DFCM GH program launched a monthly speaker series under the general theme: “Connections: Primary Care and Family Medicine in the Global Health Context“. As the title suggests the speaker series highlights the critical role of primary care in global health. Recognizing family medicine as a key component of primary health care, this speaker series serves as a forum for the examination and discussion of key issues pertinent to the delivery of primary care in various settings around the world. Invited speakers include leading experts in family medicine, primary care and global health. Our strong line-up of speakers for the 2013/2014 series included: Dr. Francois Couturier (Sherbrooke University), Dr. Sumeet Sodhi (DFCM), Dr. Onil Bhattacharyya (DFCM), Dr. Anika Amritanand (affiliation), Dr. Andrew Pinto (DFCM), Dr. Xiaolin Wei (Chinese University of Hong Kong), Dr. Ross Upshur (DFCM & Dalla Lana School of Public Health), and Dr. Lynda Redwood-Campbell (McMaster University).

Closing off the speaker series for the 2013-2014 year was Dr. Paul Farmer (Harvard University & Partners In Health). Co-organized with Partners in Health Canada, our event “In conversation with Dr. Paul Farmer: Social Justice and the Movement for Global Health Equity“ drew a crowd of 500 people while many others joined the webcast online. Footage of the evening and a one-on-one interview with Dr. Farmer is available on the global health website.
The Health of Vulnerable Populations

Our faculty is engaged in exciting scholarship and educational initiatives that aim to improve the health of vulnerable populations in Canada and abroad.

A Focus on Poverty & Health

Gary Bloch is a family physician with St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, and the Chair of the Ontario College of Family Physicians’ Committee on Poverty and Health. He played a central role in founding the Inner City Health Associates (ICHA) (a group of physicians working with the homeless) and the advocacy group Health Providers Against Poverty. He is engaged in the development of tools that explore effective interventions for health improvement through poverty reduction. He played a leadership role in the development of our 2013 Café Scientifique “Perspectives on Poverty and Health: How can the health sector respond?”

Social Determinants of Health

Drs. Praseedha Janakiram, Eileen Nicole, Emmanuelle Britton and Pierre-Marc Robichaud are actively involved in the development of educational tools for the identification of the social determinants of health in caring for patients and related interventions. Their innovative method includes using TEDTalks to generate discussion and their workshops relate specifically to primary care.
ii. Canadian Learners Abroad

Global Health Electives

An average of 10 residents per year undertake global health electives in different parts of the world including Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. All global health electives must be a minimum of four weeks in duration and must occur under adequate supervision. In 2013-2014 DFCM residents completed international electives in Dominica, Uganda, Ethiopia, Ecuador, Namibia, South Korea and Germany. In addition, two residents engaged in global health research electives in New York City & San Francisco.

PGY3 in Global Health & Vulnerable Populations

The PGY3 begins with six months of selectives in Canada, and is followed by a six month global health practicum in a resource-limited setting abroad. In 2013/2014 Dr. Stephen Pomedli conducted his practicum at Santa Marcelina Hospital in Sao Paolo Brazil. In July 2014 we were pleased to welcome the incoming PGY3 trainees, Drs. Vanessa Redditt, Edward Rooke, and Melanie Henry who will also spend six months at Santa Marcelina, Sao Paolo in 2015.

PREPRD Course: Pre-Experience Preparation and Post Return Debrief

The Pre-Experience Preparation and Post-Return Debrief (PrEPPRD) course was developed in 2011 by Dr. Andrew Pinto, St. Michael’s Hospital, and was adapted in 2013 by Dr. Praseedha Janakiram (Women’s College Hospital) and Dr. Eileen Nicolle (Markham Stouffville Hospital) who now deliver this important educational program.

All residents engaged in international electives and training are required to complete pre-departure training and post-return debrief with the GH program. This training is part of the process to ensure that residents are prepared, engaged and accountable during their international experience. The training is an integral component of the GH Program’s commitment to ethical training.
iii. International Learners in Canada

Chilean Interprofessional Program in Primary Care & Family Health

Since 1999, the DFCM Global Health Program, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health of Chile, has offered a program for the professional development of Chilean primary health care workers. As part of a strategy to strengthen human resources in primary care, the Chilean Ministry of Health has sponsored more than 150 health professionals to participate in this training program in Toronto, Canada.

The Chilean Inter-professional Program in Primary Care & Family Health program aims to strengthen the delivery, quality and management of care in primary care establishments, and strengthen the model of family health in primary care in Chile. In 2013 the participants included one medical doctor, two nurses, three psychologists, two social workers, two dentists, a midwife, and a physiotherapist. The program included workshops on different aspects of family medicine and primary care in Canada as well as numerous site visits to community health centres including Unison, Access Alliance, St. Michael’s Health Centre (410 Sherbourne), Anishnawbe Health and others.

THE DFCM GH program is looking forward to celebrating the 15th anniversary of collaboration with Chile in 2014/2015.
The Toronto International Program in Strengthening Family Medicine & Primary Care (TIPS-FM) is a course for leaders in the area of health care delivery, policy and academia who are interested in strengthening family medicine and primary care in their own context and globally. The course runs every summer for two weeks and includes presentations, workshops on policy, research, quality improvement and health care delivery. TIPS-FM also includes customized self-directed learning and visits to Community Health Centres and family medicine clinics.

We ran the inaugural TIPS-FM from July 2-12, 2013. Participants included three Ministry of Health personnel from Ethiopia, seven general practitioners from Shanghai China, one Brazilian family physician involved in primary care policy in Rio de Janeiro, and U of T, and Faculty of Medicine Senior Global Health Strategist, Ms. Rani Kotha. The course received very positive reviews by participants and invited faculty.

In 2014, participants included Dr. Aileen Standard-Goldson, coordinator of the family medicine residency program at the University of West Indies, Mona Campus, Dr. Kerling Israel, program director of the Partners in Health family residency program in Haiti, and Drs. Cassia Lanes and Marcos Goldraich family medicine preceptors from Rio de Janeiro Brazil. This group was exceptional and provided very positive feedback on the various sessions and site visits. We plan to continue building on the success of the first two years.
iv. International Learners Abroad

**TAAAC-FM**

The DFCM has supported Addis Ababa University in establishing Ethiopia’s first training program in family medicine. After nearly five years of preparation, the program was launched on February 4, 2013. The introduction of family medicine in Ethiopia, where it had not previously existed, is expected to improve health outcomes by developing a new cadre of highly trained comprehensive care generalist physicians. Since September 2012, the DFCM has supported Dr. Brian Cornelson, an experienced Canadian family physician to work full time in Addis Ababa in the role of TAAAC-FM program liaison. Other Canadian family physicians have contributed to this program including two physicians affiliated with CUSO and several DFCM faculty members who have worked in Addis Ababa for durations ranging from one to five months. Canadian faculty have worked under the leadership of the Ethiopian residency program director and other Ethiopian faculty leads initially to prepare, and now to support the delivery of the program. The program began with eight residents, and four more joined the program at the beginning of the second year.

*First Family Medicine Annual Meeting, Addis Ababa University*
Partnerships

The GH Program continues to nurture sustainable relationships with local and international partners for capacity building in family medicine education and system strengthening.

Faculdade da Medicine Santa Marcelina (FASM) Sao Paolo, Brazil

The partnership of the DFCM with the Faculdade da Medicina Santa Marcelina (FASM) builds on nearly twenty years of collaboration between our department and various Brazilian partners. Our partnership with FASM includes a number of collaborative educational activities. Starting in 2014, FASM through its affiliated hospitals and health centres hosts the six-month practicum of our Enhanced Skills program in Global Health and the Care of Vulnerable Populations. FASM will also provide an elective in global family medicine for PGY2 in family medicine. Planning is currently under way for faculty collaboration specifically around Canadian resident supervision (at FASM), faculty development, the improvement of end of life care, and enhancing the family medicine content of the undergraduate curriculum as FASM.

Programa da Clínica da Família (PCF) Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The DFCM has also recently engaged with PCF to explore potential areas of collaboration towards capacity-building and family medicine strengthening. PCF has invited the DFCM to send PGY2 in family medicine for electives in Rio and our first residents travelled to Rio de Janeiro in the fall 2014. Potential collaboration in the areas of research and faculty development are currently being explored.

Family Medicine Curriculum Development in Rio de Janeiro

Dr. Karl Iglar and Dr. Cynthia Whitehead travelled to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil the first week of May 2014 to assist in converting their objective-based curriculum to a competency-based curriculum. The goal of the Society of Family Physicians of Brazil is that the competency-based curriculum would be eventually rolled out to the rest of the country.

Strengthening Partnerships and Exploring New Collaborations

In an effort to strengthen existing partnerships, important meetings were held in 2014 with

- Brazilian Consul General in Toronto
- Chilean Consul General and Trade Commissioner in Toronto
Both consulates articulated great enthusiasm in the primary health care educational initiatives involving our partners in Brazil and Chile and expressed support for these and any new partnerships we may embark on with colleagues in their respective countries.

In 2013-14, the GH Program hosted and participated in a number of delegations during which possible collaborations were explored:

- Thammasat University Hospital (Thailand): A delegation made up of eight representatives from Thammasat University Hospital visited us on April 30th, 2014. Among the topics discussed were international elective opportunities in Thailand for DFCM residents.
- Université Sherbrooke: Discussions were focused on how the DFCM may be able to collaborate around strengthening of primary care in Haiti.

DFCM faculty and staff also participated in meetings with other international delegations namely from Japan and China.

**Scholarships and Research**

In 2013-2014 the GH program was engaged in a number of scholarly and research projects.

**IDRC Grant**

The GH program secured a $60 000 grant from the international development research centre (IDRC) for a two year project, “Strengthening primary care through family medicine around the world: collaborating towards promising practices”. The project is a collaboration with our colleagues at Université Sherbrooke, McMaster University, the University of British Colombia, Addis Ababa University, Faculdade Santa Marcelina (Sao Paolo, Brazil) and colleagues in Rio de Janeiro. The project aims to:

1. Produce a compilation of case studies on the development of family medicine in the selected local contexts (Ethiopia, Brazil, Mali, Indonesia, Kenya and Canada). Case studies to include key steps, challenges, enabling factors and lessons learned.

2. Gather research team and LMIC partners in Canada for a 3-day workshop to discuss the case studies and different experiences in family medicine development, extract common shared lessons from case studies and develop a framework of promising practices for the strengthening of family medicine. The three-day workshop will take place November 9-11th 2014 in Quebec City.
Perspectives on Poverty & Health: How can the Health Sector Respond?

On January 27th, 2014, the GH program hosted a Café Scientifique with a generous grant from the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR), at the 519 Church St. Community Centre in Toronto. The event gathered different stakeholders for dialogue and exchange on the intricate connection between poverty and health.

An estimated 150 people attended the Café. Audience make-up was mixed and included students, academics/researchers, and community workers, people from the community, health service providers and other professionals. Attendees contributed their experiences related to delivery of health care, working with marginalized and vulnerable populations, lived experience of poverty, research and teaching the social determinants of health, advocacy and a deep commitment to eradicating poverty and social inequalities.

Central to the event was the lived experience of the many dimensions of poverty through presentation(s) and discussion by members of the community.

Evaluation of the Chilean Interprofessional Training Program in Primary Care & Family Health

With support from a DFCM Office of Education Scholarship grant, in 2013-2014 the DFCM GH program conducted a follow-up study of the Chilean Interprofessional Training Program in Primary Care & Family Health. The study focused on three cohorts of students (2010, 2011, & 2012) and examined if, from the participant’s point of view, the program had met its objectives and explored participant’s perspectives on the program’s impact. The results indicated that participants of the program had high levels of satisfaction with the program and perceived the programs objectives as met. Participants in the study reported important
knowledge gain, particularly in the areas of patient-centred and intercultural approaches to health, and indicated that the knowledge was relevant to their context of practice, their communities in Chile. A vast majority of participants indicated that being able to experience the Canadian model of primary health care through site visits and observation was essential to their learning experience.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participant expectations</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, my expectations were met</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(72%)</td>
<td>(90%)</td>
<td>(92%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partially met</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(10%)</td>
<td>(10%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, my expectations were not met</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(18%)</td>
<td>(8%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Satisfaction of participant expectations, by year of attendance

2010 – Total of 11 participants
2011 – Total of 11 participants
2012 – Total of 12 participants

Dr. Paula Ruiz presented preliminary results of the study at the Canadian Society for International Health Conference 2013 with a poster titled “Chilean Inter-professional Capacity Building Program in Primary Health Care (PHC): A follow-up study”.  

Dr. Paula Ruiz
Scholarship on Partnerships and Engaging with Potential International Partners:

With funding from the DFCM’s One Time Only (OTO) fund and the help of a research assistant (PhD candidate at OISE) the GH program completed an exercise to develop a tool to assist DFCM faculty and staff to engage with potential international partners. The tool is aimed at gathering information on: who is making the request/contact, the nature of the collaboration they are interested in, whether the DFCM has the capacity to engage in such activities, the resources needed and who is providing them, and other important issues to be considered.

As the DFCM itself has grown, over the last decade the volume of requests at different levels, individual small-scale partnerships, program-specific partnerships, and partnerships at the university level or government level, have also drastically increased. As part of this project key informant interviews were conducted with the DFCM leadership, which emphasized the need for developing parameters for selecting and prioritizing potential partners in order to ensure both a) a balance between meeting the needs of DFCM’s core learners; and b) that the department is engaged in international partnerships that are socially responsible and equitable.

Dr. Megan Landes & Dr. Katherine Rouleau also co-lead a workshop on partnerships in global health at Walter Rosser Day May 2, 2014. The workshop was well attended & and an enriching discussion of partnerships in global health and measuring partnership success ensued among participants.

Additionally, Dr. Katherine Rouleau presented on partnerships in global health at the PEGASUS Conference.

Global Health Clinician Investigator

The GH program is happy to announce the three year appointment of our first Global Health Clinician Investigator, Dr. Megan Landes. The awarding of the GH Clinician Investigator position acknowledges Dr. Landes’ significant contribution to scholarship and research in the areas of global health and global health education.

Global Health Library Guide:

With the help of DFCM Librarian, Robyn Butcher, the GH program has developed a Global Health Family Medicine Library Guide. The library guide is a resource platform for our learners and a broader audience interested in academic journals, books and studies relevant to family medicine and primary care in a global health context.
Communications: Increasing the visibility of the DFCM Global Health Program

Through multiple channels of communication, the GH program hopes to connect with a growing global health-focused audience, while also being positioned to reach a family medicine-focused audience. A number of communication channels were activated or re-designed to match increasing program activities and highlight the program’s unique position in leveraging family medicine to achieve equity and improve health of vulnerable populations locally and abroad.

- Increased dissemination of the Global Health Program’s e-newsletter “The Global Health Bulletin”: We increased the frequency of publication from monthly to bi-weekly. In the last 12 months, subscription also increased from 138 to 230 individual subscribers. Special editions of the e-newsletter, with a focus on poverty and health, were also disseminated leading up to the Café Scientifique, and contributed to a growing momentum and focus on these issues.
- Re-design of the Global Health webpage: The new design reflects the growing number of program activities and organizes information much more efficiently.
- Global Health Program Twitter account @UTGlobHealthFM: The Global Health program is growing rapidly. Promotion and marketing for upcoming courses, programs and events needs to be systematic, focused, and frequent. Therefore, a Twitter account was created to help with the sharing of news, resources, and events focused on family medicine and primary care in the global health context. Our aim is to highlight issues of family medicine and primary care in the global health context for a growing audience on social media channels.

Moving Forward

On May 9th, 2014 the GH Program held a half-day mini retreat to brainstorm and discuss future strategic directions for the program. Participants engaged in rich discussion about the future direction for the GH program and the meeting outcomes will inform the next round of strategic planning exercises.

A few key priorities moving forward are:

- Increased documentation and dissemination of our work in a scholarly fashion.
- Increased collaborating internally within the DFCM, Faculty and the University, and externally with local and international partners.
- Increased focus and action on the care of local vulnerable populations.
- Increase educational scholarship relevant to global health education.
References: