

PARTNERSHIPS IN GLOBAL HEALTH



On November 10th, the Global Health Equity and Advocacy Unit presented at Grand Rounds on the topic of “Partnerships in Global Health: Why and How”. Dr. Heather Scott along with Dr. Jocelyn Stairs and Aditi Sivakumar highlighted some of the many benefits of two of the global health unit’s long-term partnerships: our partnership with Korle Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra Ghana, and our partnership with the Halifax Newcomer Health Centre and Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia here in Halifax. These partnerships have allowed residents, staff, and others to make important contributions to

improved health outcomes and have also provided valuable learning opportunities for our residents and staff members who have been involved. If you missed the Grand Rounds, you can view the recorded session here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRi1bjg_rmQ&t=10s

Partnerships in global health was also central to the theme of the Canadian Conference for Global Health which took place from November 24-26, 2021. The conference was a hybrid event with some delegates attending in Ottawa, but with many others attending online. The theme: “Rethinking partnership paradigms in global health” invited attendees to participate in a conversation about how we might rethink partnerships within global health to move toward a more equitable future where health inequities and power disparities have been addressed.

The conference included a variety of panels where a number of different global health partnerships were showcased. There were conversations about bringing a compassion revolution to global health, and about how to decolonize global health. Various speakers raised thought-provoking points about imagining a new future for global health.

If you are interested in reading more about how to decolonize global health partnerships, you can read this blog entry by See Change entitled “Walking the talk: 10 ways to decolonize global health partnerships”. The blog summarizes some of what we heard at the Canadian Conference for Global Health.

<https://seechangeinitiative.org/news/walking-the-talk-10-ways-to-decolonise-global-health-partnerships/>

GLOBAL SURGERY COURSE

Contributed by Emma Sumner

Resident Emma Sumner (PGY-5) recently completed the Graduate Certificate in Global Surgical Care at UBC and we asked her to share a short write-up describing the course and her thoughts on the experience as this may be an interesting opportunity for others to consider as well.

The Graduate Certificate in Global Surgical Care is a program offered by the UBC Department of Surgery (International Surgery branch). It

is offered online and consists of 4 courses: Surgical Care in International Health, Global Disability: A Surgical Mandate, Surgical Care in Humanitarian Disaster Response, and Program Planning and Evaluation in Surgical Care Low Resource Settings. The program is designed for healthcare professionals (nurses, midwives, surgeons, residents, health-related graduate students, etc.) who may already be involved in or are planning to be involved in global surgery programs in their career. I think it provides a necessary level of background knowledge for anyone hoping to be an ethical and practical contributor to the unmet burden of global surgical need. To contribute meaningfully, we need more than surgical skill, and this program can provide a baseline for some other meaningful skills that can then be further built upon. We discussed the history of global surgery as a field, successes and failures in aid that have shaped the humanitarian landscape, Global Health Research ethics, building sustainable partnerships, the role of Global Surgery in trauma and maternal mortality, advocacy, education, health program planning and assessment, and so much more.

The instructors are experts in their field, and the course participants have such varied and interesting experience to contribute, so the hard questions are asked of you and the debates are rich in learning and provocation. You are forced to confront your own biases, limitations, strengths, misperceptions, motivations, and fears, and address them in a healthy, supported environment.

For anyone interested, but wondering about time commitment and expectations, read on. You have the option of completing it in 1 year by doing 2 courses per semester, which is considered full time study, or you can choose to do part-time study, and complete it over 2 years. There is also an option of laddering it into the Masters in Global Surgical Care, as there are some overlapping courses. Each course consists of extensive weekly readings, weekly discussion posts based on the readings, some quizzes, a mid-term written assignment, and a final written assignment (approx. 2000-3000 words each). It varies per week, but I would estimate a weekly time commitment per course is anywhere from 4-6 hours, and sometimes more. It is a lot of work but is definitely rewarding if it's something you're passionate about.



The screenshot shows the UBC Vancouver Campus website for the Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Graduate School. The page title is "MASTER OF GLOBAL SURGICAL CARE (MGSC)". The navigation menu includes Home, Prospective Students, Current Students, Campus & Community, Awards, Deadlines, Forms, Faculty & Staff, and About Us. The breadcrumb trail is: ON THIS PAGE > Overview > Structure > Facts > Admission > Tuition and Finances > Career Options > Related Programs > Further Information. The main image shows surgeons in an operating room, and the text "MASTER OF GLOBAL SURGICAL CARE (MGSC)" is overlaid on the bottom of the image.

For interested residents, there is an opportunity to join the Mobile Outreach Street Health (MOSH) team for a van clinic. This provides an opportunity to observe and learn about how MOSH cares for underserved populations in our community. Please speak with Dr. Heather Scott if you are interested in learning more about this opportunity.

Global health equity and advocacy resources to explore:

FILM: THE UNFORGOTTEN

The *Unforgotten* is a five-part anthology. While the film is meant to be watched as a whole, each story can also be watched individually. This powerful short film is available to watch for free online. <https://theunforgotten.cma.ca/film/>



The film explores the health and well-being of Inuit, Métis and First Nations peoples across five stages of life: birth, childhood, adolescence, adulthood and elderhood. Featuring stories rich in visuals, poetry and music, the film uncovers instances of systemic racism, the impacts of colonialism and the ongoing trauma experienced by Indigenous peoples in the Canadian health care system.

This film was a project of the Canadian Medical Association. The events and issues raised in *The Unforgotten* can leave many questions unanswered. With the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority, the CMA has created resources to help viewers learn, reflect, and discuss topics that were raised in the film:

<https://theunforgotten.cma.ca/education/>

Global Health Awards

The Dalhousie Global Health Office is now accepting nominations for the annual Global Health Awards. Submissions are due on March 6, 2022.

Please visit their website for more information and details about the awards that are available.

<https://medicine.dal.ca/departments/core-units/global-health/awards.html>

A reminder that the Lancet Commission on Gender and Global Health continues their work exploring gender and global health. They have several recorded seminars available. The seminar series aims to involve a range of stakeholders and voices in its work and promote discussion and debate on gender and global health. You can visit their YouTube Channel to view videos and learn more:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIH_y967-Ndg71aFvesiNQHg