

## GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY & ADVOCACY UNIT (GHEAU)

SEPT 2025

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

### Halifax's first-ever Papapalooza

Halifax's first-ever Papapalooza was launched to improve cervical cancer screening access for equity-deserving populations, including people who are street-involved or living with mental health challenges. Led by Dalhousie medical students Nicoletta Dini and Maya Lowe, the event was a collaboration between the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology's Global Health Equity and Advocacy Unit and Mobile Outreach Street Health (MOSH).

Held on June 12, 2025, in Halifax's North End, the event involved a wide network of community partners and volunteers, including Amanda Moore, the Direction 180 team, and Dr. Heather Scott, alongside staff from various local health centres. The event also featured interactive games, treats, and complimentary self-care services, including haircuts and manicures, provided by Regency Salon and Spa. A fantastic team of DJs also brought energy and joy to the crowd, spreading good vibes through music and a spirit of togetherness.

The event was well attended, with approximately 100 participants. Key outcomes included 22 Pap smears completed, 17 mammogram appointments booked, and 77 naloxone kits distributed.



Left to right: Dr. Heather Scott, chair, Global Health Equity Advocacy Unit with OB/GYN residents: Alison Harding, Lucie Ménard, Kaylee Jabbour, Emma Jeffrey, Chloe Brown



Left to right: Philemon Opoku Tontoh, global health coordinator, Chloe Brown, OB/GYN resident



Health screening, mammogram booking & fun.



CBBC Regency Salon students who offered free self-care services such as haircuts and pedicures, but also engaging booths



The Wije'winen Health Centre and the Rose Clinic in shot engaging guest



Colorful, cheeky, sweet Papapalooza cupcakes!

### Global Health Partnership - IWK and Korle Bu Teaching Hospital (KBTH)

Thanks to the IWK Foundation, the Global Health Equity and Advocacy Unit in collaboration with Korle Bu Teaching Hospital (KBTH), will be implementing a bereavement clinic, a flagship global health initiative aimed at strengthening the capacity of care providers to deliver compassionate, evidence-based care for women and families experiencing pregnancy loss. The project will not only train care practitioners on bereavement care principles, trauma-informed communication but also grief counselling, and emotional first aid, among others.

More details on this lifesaving collaboration coming soon!

## Vital Anesthesia Simulation Training (VAST)



Key stakeholders and participants present included: Dr. Scott, UGMC CEO Dr. Abdul Samed Tanko, Dr. Chris Owoo, Dr. Jerry Coleman, and Dr. Kwaku Doffour and many more distinguished people.  
Photo credit: GBC TV

The VAST Trainers' Course, held in Ghana from May 19 - 23, 2025, prepared facilitators to independently deliver VAST simulations and support the program's long-term sustainability.

The training equipped participants to guide healthcare teams in technical and non-technical skills, as well as in a systematic approach to managing common peri-operative clinical cases.

Hosted at the University of Ghana's Advanced Simulation Center, the workshop drew anesthesiologists, surgeons, obstetricians, nurses, and midwives from across the country.

Dr. Heather Scott was in attendance, and highlights from the event were featured on national Ghanaian television.



## MOU Updates : GHEAU and GARH

The unit has signed a new memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Greater Accra Regional Hospital (GARH/ Ridge Hospital). This agreement strengthens knowledge exchange, data sharing, and capacity building, while fostering mutual collaboration and providing a framework for future joint initiatives between partners.



## Prenatal Education Session

Dr. Scott, our committed Residents, and Public Health Nurses continue to teach the Antenatal, Labour & Delivery, and Postpartum/Breastfeeding classes at ISANS. Our ISANS team (Patricia Madut, Tashi Yangtso) remain committed in ensuring interpretation and administrative support for these monthly evening sessions.

## GHEAU Announcements

### Canadian Conference on Global Health (CCGH) 2025 in Halifax

The 31st CAGH's annual conference brings together researchers, practitioners, policymakers, advocates, students, community mobilizers, and professionals from other disciplines and sectors within the global health community. The conference will address pressing global health issues and provide a platform for sharing knowledge, best practices, and innovations in global health research, policy, and practice.

The 2025 Conference is scheduled for **October 24-28, 2025**. [Click here for more info](#)



## Global Health MFM Elective Program

Dr. Frank Amegah, a third-year Fellow in training at Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, completed an eight-week MFM Elective Training Program with us from April to May 2025 and returned home enriched by the experience.



## Gynecological Consult Clinic for Newcomer Women

The monthly gynecological consult clinic led by Dr. Jocelyn Stairs and held at ISANS continues to promote respectful and inclusive obstetrical care needs of newcomer women.

## Global Health Academic Half Day

The Academic half day has been scheduled on April 24, 2026

More details TBA soon

For more information or suggestions on global health initiatives, kindly contact:

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