

**Milestones: Master of Science in Global Health at McMaster, Manipal and Maastricht Universities**

**Reaccreditation**

The MSc Global Health programs at Maastricht and McMaster Universities recently received re-accreditation in accordance with their national accreditation requirements/standards. Members of the Global Health Advisory Board contributed to the evaluation process and met with evaluators of the Canadian Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) and the Dutch Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO).

In the 2014 IQAP report, McMaster’s MSc Global Health was described as “a unique educational program that has succeeded in preparing its graduates for careers in global health.” In the Netherlands, the MSc GH program successfully applied for a Distinctive Quality Feature Internationalisation, which NVAO grants to programs with an ambitious internationalization strategy. According to the panel, the program exemplifies international “best practice.”

**Partnerships**

The partnership between McMaster and Maastricht, formed in 2010 and reaffirmed with a new MOU in November 2012, has evolved over the years. Manipal University (India) has been involved in the program since its launch and, in 2013, joined as an Associate member. In light of this ongoing collaboration, two staff members from Maastricht University were appointed professors at Manipal University in 2015.

Thammasat University (Thailand) has been an Affiliate partner of Maastricht since the program began. Recently, institutional partnerships have expanded to include Universidad del Rosario in Colombia, and Buskerud and Vestfold University College (HBV) in Norway.

In 2015, McMaster’s Global Health Office was awarded funding for a High North Program grant, submitted with HBV to create a joint Norwegian and Canadian global health course that addresses health policy issues of the High North. Designed to complement McMaster’s existing MSc Global Health program, the course will teach future global healthcare leaders critical approaches to interrogating policies from all points of view.

**Awards and recognition**

In November 2015, McMaster University’s MSc Global Health will receive the Canadian Bureau of International Education (CBIE) Panorama Award for Outstanding International Education Program, in the Academic category. The CBIE Excellence Awards showcase the innovators, leaders, connectors, and emerging stars in international education. The Panorama Award recognizes “a team or individual who has demonstrated innovation and excellence in design, planning, implementation and management of high quality endeavours in international education.”

Dr. Andrea Baumann, Associate V-P Global Health at McMaster University, has been recognized for her significant contributions to nursing and health care with an induction into the American Academy of Nursing in October 2015.

McMaster Global Health graduate Jessica Yu received the 2015 Mitacs Globalinks Research Award, which funded her thesis, *Disaster Management and the Urban Poor in Ahmedabad*, toanalyze how urbanization, climate change, and access to basic amenities affected the disaster management strategies and health of people living in informal settlements in Ahmedabad.

McMaster Global Health graduate Eustace Orleans-Lindsay was selected by the Ontario Pharmacists Association (OPA) as the recipient of the 2015 Pfizer Bowl of Hygeia – an award presented to a pharmacist on the basis of outstanding service to the community.

Molly Whalen-Browne, a graduate of McMaster’s MSc Global Health program, received an award from the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame (CMHF) in 2015.

In 2014, Dr. Anja Krumeich received the Certificate of Prestige, an honorary award from Thammasat University, for her important contribution to the Global Health program at this Thai university.

Maastricht University’s MSc Global Health was highlighted as a top Masters program in the field of health sciences in the 2013 Dutch Master’s Choice Guide (a yearly critical evaluation and comparison of the quality of all Dutch masters programs). In the Guide’s 2012 edition, the program was ranked first.

In 2013, Isabel Mank, Maastricht Global Health program graduate, received the Catharina Pijls Foundation Encouragement prize for her research in Sudan documenting women’s perspectives on waterborne diseases and water management.

A five-member team of students in McMaster University’s Master of Science in Global Health program competed in San Francisco in 2013 in regional finals for the international Hult Prize, the world’s largest student competition for creating a business solution to a global problem.

McMaster students received a grant for fieldwork studies in Guatemala in the spring of 2013 from the Tula Foundation.

**Manipal Learning Symposium**

The culmination of the program is an intense two-week summit – the Learning Symposium/Field Orientation in Manipal (India) – where students from partner universities meet and present their research, receiving critical universities in four continents?t offered in their own institution..e, dentistry, rehabilitation therapy, nursing, PhD, etc.), afeedback from health policy-makers, activists, and expert researchers in the global health field, as well as from their peers and professors. For students, the experience represents an opportunity to meet the peers with whom they have been working in virtual teams. The number of students participating has grown each year.

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| Number of students participating by university | | | | | | |
| University | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **% of total** |
| Manipal | 30 | 50 | 62 | 59 | 77 | 36% |
| Maastricht | 27 | 44 | 42 | 56 | 74 | 35% |
| McMaster | 25 | 27 | 42 | 50 | 63 | 29% |
| Total | **82** | **121** | **146** | **165** | **214** | 100% |
| % increase |  | 48% | 21% | 13% | 30% |  |

**Annual Maastricht Symposium on Global and European Health**

The Annual Maastricht Symposium on Global and European Health is organized by students and staff from the Maastricht Global Health and European Public Health programs. Attended by more than 200 participants and an online audience, the symposium has a different theme every year:

2011: ‘Implementation of Health Care Innovations’

2012: ‘Enhancing Equity in Health: A Role for Public Private Partnerships’

2013: ‘Global benefit of personalized medicine? Worldwide perspectives and the role of Europe’ (attended by HRH Princess Margriet)

2014: ‘Climate Change and Health. Vulnerability and Responsibility in a Global and European Perspective’

2015: ‘A healthy world by 2030’

**Global Health Book**

Students and staff involved in the Master of Science in Global Health program helped to inform the content in the book ‘Making Global Health Care Innovation Work -Standardization and Localization’. Published in 2014, this book is the first to study the tension between universal and localized health care innovations, and provides a diverse account of how global health care innovations are, and can be, connected to local practices.

**MOOC**

In 2013, McMaster joined other prestigious universities in disseminating information via a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC). The MSc Global Health program offered the first of the series, “Experts on Tap”, and the first lecture was titled “Marginalized Populations”.

**Relationships with Embassies & Royal Heads of State**

Over the years, Global Health program staff and Advisory Board members have met with representatives from the Embassy of Canada in the Netherlands and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Canada.

The MSc Global Health program was well represented during the Dutch higher education mission and state visit to Canada by Their Majesties King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima of the Netherlands, which took place in May 2015. During this event, the MSc Global Health was recognized as a best practice model of Dutch-Canadian collaboration in higher education. Co-directors Andrea Baumann and Anja Krumeich delivered a presentation on the program, which was introduced by McMaster President Deane and Maastricht’s Rector Magnificus, Luc Soete. Andrea Baumann, along with two Advisory Board members – Elizabeth Witmer and Luis Barreto – also attended special events with the Royal couple.