

Draft Vision for the Faculty of Health's Contribution to Global Health

Feb 7, 2019

Definition. Global health is concerned with the determinants and health challenges, as well as opportunities and interventions which are multi- and transnational in origin. We appreciate that they are often complex in nature and require broad perspectives and multi-lateral responses.

Five years of Progress. In the last five years the Faculty of Health has supported several activities to enhance global health: the design and implementation of Canada's first ever undergraduate program in global health; support to establishment of an Institutional ORU in the form of the Dahdaleh Institute for Global Health Research; recruiting a chair in global health governance; attracting and hosting the Global Strategy Lab; and hosting the CIHR Institute for Population and Public Health.

Vision for Global Health (within the Faculty of Health). We envision a world where all people and nations have the opportunity and resources to achieve a high standard of health, health equity and wellbeing.

Mission and Characteristics. The mission of our global health initiatives is to enhance human health, health equity, health care and wellbeing by generating, testing and sharing imaginative ideas and solutions to significant global health challenges; supporting the development of informed, skilled and compassionate global health leaders, policy makers and practitioners; and facilitating transformational partnerships with people and organizations who share our values and goals for global health.

We welcome and will proactively facilitate collaboration across York University and other local and national academic partners. The actions of the Faculty of Health must be undertaken in a manner which encourages and enables success in other research centers, Faculties, and programs. They are viewed as partners and as assets for our mutual success.

We aim to fulfill our mission in highly distinctive ways. Our strength lies in our diversity and multi-disciplinarily, which includes but goes beyond traditional approaches grounded in medicine or public health. Our focus is to help identify, characterize and solve the most significant global health challenges such as planetary health; human migration; health inequity; global health governance and funding; nutrition security; the early detection of disease risk and rapid global response; the amelioration of chronic diseases; the prevention of significant infectious outbreaks; sustainable, integrated, high quality health systems, to name a few. Our effectiveness will require the development of strategic collaborations with other global health academics and centres, as well as key public, private and non-profit organizations. Our approach to capacity building includes a commitment to knowledge sharing and exchange, excellence, lifelong continuous learning, accessibility, and connectively. We recognize the need

to be good stewards of our assets and to be both givers and receivers of knowledge and other resources.

The Next Five Years for Global Health in the Faculty of Health

Having established some fundamental pillars, we must set the stage for continued, growth, sustainability, distinctiveness, excellence and impact.

To this end, we are in the process of hiring five new tenure track faculty members dedicated to global health. The new hires were developed specifically to enhance our research capacity in global health, provide a stable core of instructors available to teach key courses and supervise student projects, enhance our networks, and reduce our reliance on sessional and contract instructors. That said, we will continue to welcome the teaching contributions and research collaborations of tenure stream faculty members in existing units and programs. The intention for one of the new Associate Professor hires is to ask them to assume the role of program coordinator (or chair) of global health. A second hire was developed, in part, potentially help York attract a WHO Collaborating Centre in drug resistant disease. A third new hire was developed, in part, to potentially help us relocate a Centre for the Evaluation of Complex Systems to York University. The addition of five faculty hires in 2019 should be viewed as only one step in a longer plan to further develop and grow our faculty, staff and student complement. We are in the process of designating contiguous space for the five new global health hires, and staff coordinator. Once again, this should be viewed as one of a series of steps which will eventually enable us to accommodate future hires, visitors and students in a manner which enables greater exchange. A third important develop underway is a proposal to create a highly distinctive graduate program in global health.

Another important step is to consider what governance and organizational structure is best suited to help us achieve our mission and goals.

Our objectives over the next five years could include:

- Develop and implement a sustainable governance and organizational structure which will help us achieve the other goals described here.
- Increase undergraduate enrolment in the global health programs to achieve our original plan of 800 students (from the current enrolment of approximately 400).
- Undertake a program review to enhance the quality, success, and experience our students.
- Lead the development and implementation of a highly distinctive, sustainable, interdisciplinary graduate programs in global health, with a peak enrolment of at least 20 students.
- Grow our faculty and staff complement commensurate with resources and opportunities, ideally with the goal of having a minimum of 10 core faculty members and two full time staff.

- Increase our research intensity and impact in global health.
- Support and mentor our new faculty hires to achieve tenure and promotion.
- Enhance the number of educational and research partnerships concerned with global health, particularly with agencies such as the WHO, the UN, the World Bank, Health Canada, etc.. (e.g., attract a WHO Collaborating Centre)
- Enable our faculty and students to become actively engaged in global health service, including policy development and consultation.
- Increase York's reputation as an innovative centre for global health education and research.
- Find a fit for purpose space to accommodate the needs of our growing complement of faculty, staff and students, and facilitate functional interdisciplinary research teams, as well as greater collaboration with global health related research centers at York.
- Work with colleagues across York to submit and win at least one more research chair and one major long term project grant.