



Centre for Global Health 2018 – 2023 the consolidation phase

Introduction

In response to the calls for more efficient and collaborative knowledge production and in line with the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, the scale and scope of global health research has grown dramatically in Norway and the rest of the world. The idea that researchers should work in collaboration has significantly reconfigured health research, with additional impetus given by claims that Global Health research collaborations have the potential to play a significant role in addressing Global Health disparities. The Faculty of Medicine (MedFac) at the University of Oslo (UiO) aims to be at the forefront of this strive to address the Global Health challenges of today.

The Centre for Global Health (CGH) is an initiative of MedFac, hosted by the Institute of Health and Society (HELSAM). The focus of the CGH is to support and link the existing strong knowledge base of Global Health research at MedFac to relevant networks, and human and financial resources, while further enhancing Global Health research capacity within the university. Another key function of CGH is to disseminate information to the wider community of researchers, decision makers and the public, while enhancing the Global Health profile of MedFac through high quality events, communication and reporting. In addition, active participation of CGH in national Global Health forums and international networks further supports and develops the role of MedFac in these organisations and promotes access to novel and innovative funding sources.

Vision

To facilitate capacity development in research and education in Global Health at MedFac and UiO and with relevant (external) players.

Mission

Overall, the mission of CGH is to strengthen the multidisciplinary cooperation at MedFac and UiO and other leading academic institutions. More concretely, CGH will build sustainable research excellence programs in selected Global Health research areas that, in addition to its scientific value, reaches into society and influences policy in the Global Health Arena in Norway and abroad, thereby becoming a leading national and international Global Health network/institution.

Priority areas of capacity development

After initial two years of establishing a comprehensive Global Health arena at MedFac/UiO, CGH has now developed a consolidation plan for the next 5 years. Within this plan, CGH recommends a specific focus on **capacity development in Global Health research and education** in the two following areas:

Supporting innovative and upcoming research groups that are in an early phase but have the potential for excellence, high impact and long term sustainability.

A new support program for Global Health research groups at MedFac, named Research Excellence and Innovation in Global Health (RELIGHT) will be launched in the fall of 2018 for start-up in 2019. The support for these upcoming, young research groups will include a strong level of involvement in terms of networking, mentoring, i.e. grant writing, fostering a stronger global health focus, liaise people and groups into relevant research environments that can compete for the larger funding schemes (for example Jebsen Centre, CoE, EU synergy grants etc).

Ensuring long-term sustainability of already successful Global Health research groups.



The Norwegian Global Health landscape has put an emphasis on global maternal & child health and infectious diseases. As a consequence, we have a well-established maternal & child health as well as an infectious diseases hub with a strong support base at MedFac. CGH will *offer mentorship, strategic advice, travel support, event organizing and institutional backing* to select groups.

Aims

The two above mentioned priority areas are tied to the main strategic aims of CGH, namely capacity development in Global Health focusing on facilitating networks, fostering research and securing education.

Strategic Aim 1- Networks

Building on the achievements for 2016, 2017 and 2018, CGH aims at further supporting and developing the role of the UiO in the national forums for Global Health research and education as well as in the international networks. The aim of further expanding our networks is to facilitate collaboration and research, have access to novel and innovative funding opportunities and build strong working relationships between academics within MedFac/UiO and internationally. In line with the movement of gender equality in Global Health, CGH will fulfil its role in the global community and host a network Women in Global Health Norway.

We aim to continue to be a unifying platform for an interdisciplinary environment of academics interested in Global Health at the UiO and beyond, providing a virtual space for networking, information dissemination and promotion of events, and increasing interest and participation in Global Health by hosting a range of events focused on the current Global Health arena.

Strategic Aim 2-Research

The CGH is committed to supporting already-established research at MedFac and across the UiO by establishing a platform for research collaboration and communication. Based on current and on-going global health research, the CGH has established 12 signatory theme networks. The academic staff member in charge of each signatory theme functions as the liaison between the CGH and the research environment. The theme leaders constitute the CGH Technical Advisory Board (TAB). CGH presents virtually all relevant research projects online and the webpages function as hubs for the signatory themes.

Strategic aim 3- Education

CGH has established a yearly Global Health elective course for PhD students and at the same time carries on contributing to the courses and lectures on Global Health issues for students at HELSAM and MedFac. In addition, CGH offers seminars for researchers, clinicians and other professionals. CGH will implement their future educational activities in alignment with general UiO plans and strategy and will foster student exchange at a Master and PhD level with partners in the South. Through CGH hosting of the NORPART Excel Smart project, this goal is further developed.

Conclusion

After the initial establishment phase of the CGH we are now ready to move towards a consolidation period and have chosen priority areas where financial investment and support through the CGH will focus on capacity building for excellence. The areas outlined above have already established successful research activities at MedFac and other faculties at different levels, together with the potential for collaborations with strategic global partners as defined by the MedFac, i.e. South Africa and Ethiopia. In addition, infectious diseases with their various facets (e.g. emerging diseases and neglected tropical diseases), AMR, Digital Health and Mother & Child Health are very high on the global political agenda, which is reflected by funding provided by national and EU schemes. This can also offer realistic



potential to not only leverage Global Health but also national health research priorities, e.g. primary health care (Figure 1).

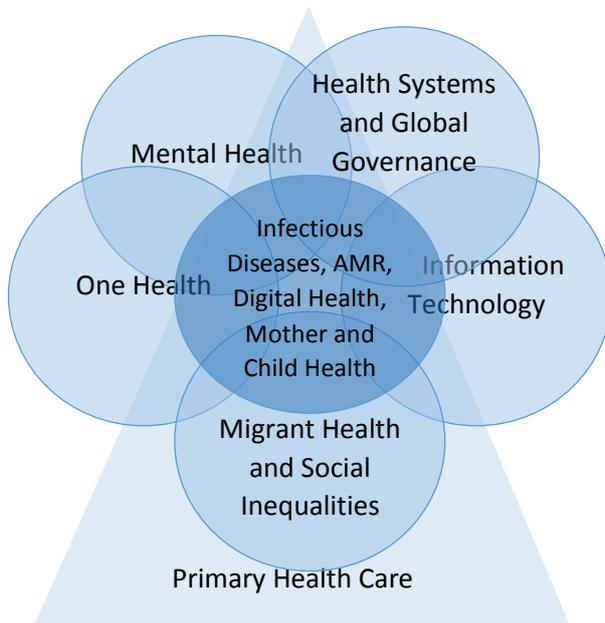


Figure 1. Priority areas for seed funding within CGH signatory themes