Office for Global Health

Strategic Plan 2017-2020

Sydney Medical School
Contents

Global Health 2
Introduction 3
Values 4
Priority Countries 5
China 6
Vietnam 8
Indonesia 8
Myanmar 9
India 9
Philippines 10
Other regions and countries 10
Student mobility and exchange 11
Partnerships within the University 11
Strategic objectives 12
Global Health

Global Health can be defined as “an area for study, research, and practice that places a priority on improving health and achieving health equity for all people worldwide...embracing both prevention in populations and clinical care of individuals”

And as:

“Highly interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary within and beyond health sciences”

“Health issues that transcend national boundaries and governments and call for actions on the global forces that determine the health of people”

And as:

“Collaborative international research and action for promoting health for all”
Introduction

The Office for Global Health (OGH) drives the internationalisation of health focused research, learning and teaching at the University of Sydney. Working collaboratively with all the health faculties and with the University’s health and medical research institutes the OGH provides and promotes strategic thinking and leadership for international collaboration.

The OGH establishes and maintains links with key international partners, government and non-government agencies by engaging to tackle some of the most challenging global problems. The OGH aims to positively impact global health and well-being through sustainable partnerships, shared learning, scholarship and research.

The OGH has dedicated country managers who work predominantly with partners in strategic priority countries: China, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines and Vietnam. The managers provide expert analysis, program development in conjunction with University of Sydney academics, colleagues in partner institutions and facilitate strong relationships to support education and research to improve health. Work in a range of other countries also occurs.

Strategic Overview

Over the next three years OGH strategy is to enhance our position as a leading university in the Asia Pacific region by focusing on activity at national level and on collaboration with high-ranking institutions in country. Our already established collaborative working relationship across the health faculties ideally places the new Medicine and Health mega Faculty (emerging from the University of Sydney’s re-structure), to be leader in the region for education, research and capacity building in health.

Associate Professor Kirsty Foster

Head, Office for Global Health
Associate Dean (International)
Sydney Medical School
Values

Values underpinning OGH activities

Fundamental to our values is commitment to social justice, fairness, gender equality and acknowledgement of different values and beliefs.

Collaboration
We bring people with different skills, perspectives, and experiences together to focus on global health.
We share aims, responsibilities and outcomes with a variety of stakeholders.
We adopt flexible, adaptable frameworks.
We strive for a better understanding and improved outcomes through teamwork.

Relationships
We invest in building and maintaining relationships, based on trust, respect and information sharing.
We communicate effectively and responsively to achieve productive, sustainable and mutually beneficial relationships.

Impact
We support development of best practice.
We foster development of health champions and community leaders at home and abroad through innovation in research and education.
We achieve improved and sustainable health outcomes.

Shanghai Jiao Tung University School of Public Health students attending training program in Sydney
Photo: Office for Global Health
Priority countries

2017-2020

The Office for Global Health prioritises six countries in the Asia Pacific region on which to focus its activity. The aim is to develop deep and lasting relationships in research and education through collaboration, human resource development and capacity building. The six key countries were selected through a process of examining status of health indicators in-country, potential for effective collaborative relationship and existence of emerging research and education linkages with University of Sydney academics.

In each of the priority countries we partner to improve health and well-being through enhancing health research capacity, medical education, contributing to larger health system reform, professional clinical placement programs and student and staff mobility. Collaborative activities include joint grants, joint appointments, publications and the development of research and education collaboration through symposia and workshops. A fundamental principle is to take a multi-disciplinary approach through collaboration with the other health faculties and research institutes affiliated with the University. The six priority countries are China (including Hong Kong), Vietnam, Indonesia, Myanmar, India and the Philippines.

Dr Narelle Shadbolt, Associate Professor Kirsty Foster and Dr Gloria Heng Dong at Fudan University
Photo: Office for Global Health
China (including Hong Kong)

OGH works in collaboration with the China Studies Centre and in alignment with the University’s China Strategy. Sydney Medical School has long standing engagement and active collaboration with Peking University Health Science Centre, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Fudan University and their affiliated hospitals. More recently established collaborations in Nanjing and Harbin are extending our work in China. Our key partners in Hong Kong include the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

The opening of the University of Sydney’s multifunction centre at Suzhou in 2016, the first offshore site in the University’s history is an exciting opportunity to run in-country events to raise Sydney health faculty profile.

Key strategies in China:

- Provide education and support to existing and new Chinese partners in specialist postgraduate training for family medicine specialists to reach the Chinese Government’s target to provide high quality primary care services across the nation by 2020 (with Discipline of General Practice and later incorporating Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy)
- Deepening of research and education collaboration with key partners in China
- Support strengthening of Biomedical Engineering research initiatives as part of the University of Sydney Shanghai Jiao Tong Biomedical Alliance
“The quest to improve global health represents a challenge of monumental proportions: the problems seem so enormous, the obstacles so great, and success so elusive. On the other hand it is difficult to imagine a pursuit more closely aligned with the professional values and visceral instincts of most physicians [clinicians]. Many young doctors [health professionals] enter medicine with a passionate interest in global health; our challenge is to nurture this commitment and encourage its expression.”

D Shaywitz and D Ausiello. Global Health: A Chance for Western Physicians to Give and Receive. The American Journal of Medicine. 2002; 113(4)354

[ ] edited by OGH
Vietnam

The OGH, through the Học Mãi Australia-Vietnam Medical Foundation (founded in 1997), has led development of student exchange, clinical placement programs, and capacity building in research, health systems improvement, medical education and maternal and child health. Học Mãi partners with universities and teaching hospitals across the country and has well established relationships with the World Health Organisation Viet Nam Representative Office, United Nations organisations, as well as national and local government institutions including the Ministry of Health.

Key strategies in Vietnam:
- Increase research capacity building program
- Extend rural maternal and child health community health literacy programs
- Expand postgraduate education program on and off shore
- Provide consultancy services in health professional curriculum development and health system reform

Indonesia

The Sydney Medical School has partnerships with Universitas Indonesia, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Eijkman Institute for Molecular Biology, Universitas Katolik Widya Mandala, Universitas Airlangga, Institut Pertanian Bogor, Universitas Udayana and Universitas Hasanuddin. Activities range from research engagement, through student and staff mobility, to innovative executive leadership programs.

Key strategies in Indonesia:
- Capacity building in clinical and research skills
- Co-lead the Health Cluster of the Australia Indonesia Centre implementing 5 Strategic Research Projects contributing to primary prevention of non-communicable disease
- Support collaboration between Marie Bashir Institute of Infection, Immunity and Biosecurity and Indonesian partners
- Staff and student mobility at all levels
Myanmar

The Union Minister for Health and Sports, identified the importance of international collaboration in his inaugural speech in 2016. He listed 15 key priority areas of health policy including the strengthening of medical education, public health education, the teaching of health ethics, training of family doctors and reducing mortality in pregnant women and young children.

Sydney Medical School and Sydney School of Public Health have close research and education links with Myanmar. Key partners are University of Medicine-1 and University of Medicine-2, Yangon, the University of Public Health, University of Medicine, Mandalay and University of Medicine, Magway.

Key strategies in Myanmar:

- Develop National Institute of Maternal and Child Health
- Strengthen links with Departments of Preventive and Social Medicine at Medical Universities
- Capacity building for primary health care professionals
- Contribute to medical education curriculum reform

India

The University of Sydney has a significant track record of research collaboration in India and there is great potential to do much more in the health space. The Sydney Medical School has partnerships with Christian Medical College Vellore, Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences, Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Indian Institute Technology Madras, King George Medical University, Lucknow, Public Health Foundation India and the Indian Council of Medical Research.

Key strategies in India:

- Increase collaborative research in medical sciences, clinical research and biomedical engineering
- Increase staff and student mobility at all levels
The Philippine government has placed health as a country priority, along with education and agriculture complementing the range of health policies introduced and programs implemented over the last six years. Sydney Medical School has established its relationships with the University of the Philippines, Philippine General Hospital (UP PGH) and the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center (UERMMMCI).

Key strategies in the Philippines:
- Expand health research capacity building programs and forge research collaboration
- Partner with the Department of Health on priority health issues identified by the government
- Support expansion of staff and student mobility between Australia and the Philippines

Other regions and countries

Office for Global Health engages in activities in other regions of the world and collaborates with the faculties of Nursing, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Health Sciences to support their partnerships in their priority countries.
Student mobility and exchange

The Office for Global Health leads the medical student exchange and will continue to do so. The Associate Dean (International) has taken up the role of Director of Electives and the OGH is taking on an increasing role in the management of incoming as well as outgoing elective students providing them with opportunities to increase their understanding of global health issues.

Key OGH strategies:
- Analyse inbound and outbound elective student data to monitor key partners and student preferences
- Review existing partnerships in line with strengths and gaps identified in the data
- Maintain, manage and develop Dean’s, OGH and Hoc Mai scholarship programs

Partnerships within the University

The Office for Global Health is uniquely placed within the University of Sydney to work collaboratively with the Sydney Southeast Asia Centre, the Office for Global Engagement and the China Studies Centre in contributing to and implementing the University’s international strategy.

The Sydney Southeast Asia Centre (SSEAC) is Australia’s premier centre of interdisciplinary academic excellence on the region. It plays a key role in forging an innovative and engaged approach that reflects the complexity of the region and recognises its salience to Australia’s future. Health is one of the five theme areas that SSEAC focuses on and Associate Professor Kirsty Foster from the OGH plays a pivotal role as Adviser on Regional Engagement on the SSEAC Executive committee.

The Office of Global Engagement (OGE) advances the university’s interests internationally and works to promote internationalisation of the University of Sydney. OGH is involved in relevant health related regional engagement activities organised through OGE and regularly participates in VIP visits from international universities, research organisations and government bodies. OGH is able to share health specific experiences, information, ideas and contribute towards developing sustainable collaborative relationships for the University of Sydney.

The University of Sydney’s China Studies Centre (CSC) promotes better understand of China’s impact on the world and Australia. The CSC develops local and international networks, engaging with business and government in both China and Australia and supports collaborative research. OGH has participated in health forums organised by CSC and will continue to engage and contribute in health related activities.

OGH has an excellent working relationship with Global Student Recruitment and Mobility and provides these units with advice and information related to health.
Strategic Objectives

2017-2020

Research collaboration

- Contribute to establishing at least one health-related research collaboration in each priority country
- Hold at least one international research workshop each year
- At least one successful grant application annually

Capacity building in health professional education

- Obtain at least one international consultancy with an international agency each year.
- Develop and deliver at least one Sydney based and one off-shore tailored short course to international delegates each year
- Organise at least 3 international keynote lectures for Sydney health faculty academics each year
- Expand the research capacity building workshop to more countries in the region
- Collaboratively arrange offshore “health” delegations each year to our priority countries, including hosting a health/medicine alumni event in each country

Student and staff mobility

- Increase to 75% the number of Sydney Medical Program students undertaking an international placement as part of their medical degree
- Expand field placement opportunities for Masters by coursework and Graduate Diploma of Indigenous Health students to all priority countries
- Obtain funding to support increased number of scholarships for inbound and outbound health professional. Masters level and PhD students
- Centralise the electives portal in the Office for Global Health for all inbound and outbound medical students, including online application and processing to the clinical schools
- Host high level incoming international delegations from our partners each year

Photos: Danielle Somers and Office for Global Health