

SINGHEALTH DUKE-NUS GLOBAL HEALTH INSTITUTE

SDGHI FACULTY NEWSLETTER

August 2023

This Issue in Summary

01

SDGHI signed an MOU with the Universitas Sumatera Utara (USU) to set up a Regional Collaborating Centre (RCC) in Medan. Through the RCC, we hope that we may better coordinate efforts between our institutions in the areas of research, capacity building, health system enhancement and education.

02

Congratulations to the 4 awardees of the SDGHI Pilot Grant!

03

3 grant calls to support Global Health work are currently open. For the first time, the SDGHI Pilot Grant call is open to nurses and allied health professionals.

04

Meet our first featured Global Health Warrior - Professor David Hipgrave, who is currently a Visiting Professor at SDGHI and the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health. He shares four key areas of interest as well as his new-found love for durian.

05

Applications for the Global Health Fellows Programme open 31 Aug 2023. Receive sponsorship for a Master of Public Health and a grant of up to S\$15,000 to undertake a Global Health field research project.

06

Registration for our new Graduate Certificate in Global Health Practice in Asia opens 1 Oct 2023. Discounts are available for participants from the AMC.

From the Director's Desk

Building a Global Health Community

by Clinical Assoc Prof Tan Hiang Khoon
Director, SingHealth Duke-NUS Global Health Institute

I am deeply honoured to collaborate with colleagues like you in the endeavour to establish a robust Global Health community, a venture that extends beyond the confines of the SingHealth Duke-NUS Academic Medical Centre (AMC) to encompass the broader region. During the recent AMC Strategy Retreat, I had the privilege of discussing our collective aspirations. In those discussions, I emphasised the profound significance of adopting a global perspective in our clinical, capacity building, and research pursuits. By transcending borders, we not only elevate our own expertise but also nurture an environment of mutual learning and growth.

Our commitment to this Global Health community goes beyond professional development; it fosters a collective sense of purpose and camaraderie. As we broaden our horizons, we curate a dynamic community of practice that thrives on knowledge exchange, innovative methodologies, and collaborative partnerships. This community serves as an invaluable platform for sharing insights, discoveries, and best practices that transcend geographical limitations.

Perhaps even more poignant is the establishment of lasting friendships and alliances, ready to stand united in the face of future challenges. The bonds we forge through this shared endeavour will become our pillars of strength when confronted with crises such as pandemics. Our collective efforts will not only better prepare us for these unpredictable events but will also enable us to extend a helping hand to others in times of need.

As we embark on this journey together, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your commitment and enthusiasm. The SingHealth Duke-NUS AMC Global Health community spearheaded by the SingHealth Duke-NUS Global Health Institute (SDGHI) is more than just an initiative; it's a testament to our dedication to global well-being, a testament that will undoubtedly echo through the halls of healthcare advancement for years to come.

On that note, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all successful awardees of the SDGHI Pilot Grant and the ACP Programme Funding for Global Health. We received a record number of submissions, and it was encouraging to note your growing interest in Global Health. To expand our reach, and to acknowledge the importance of nurses and allied health professionals in improving health outcomes, we are happy to share that the August SDGHI Pilot Grant call will be made exclusively available for them. Read more on page 6.

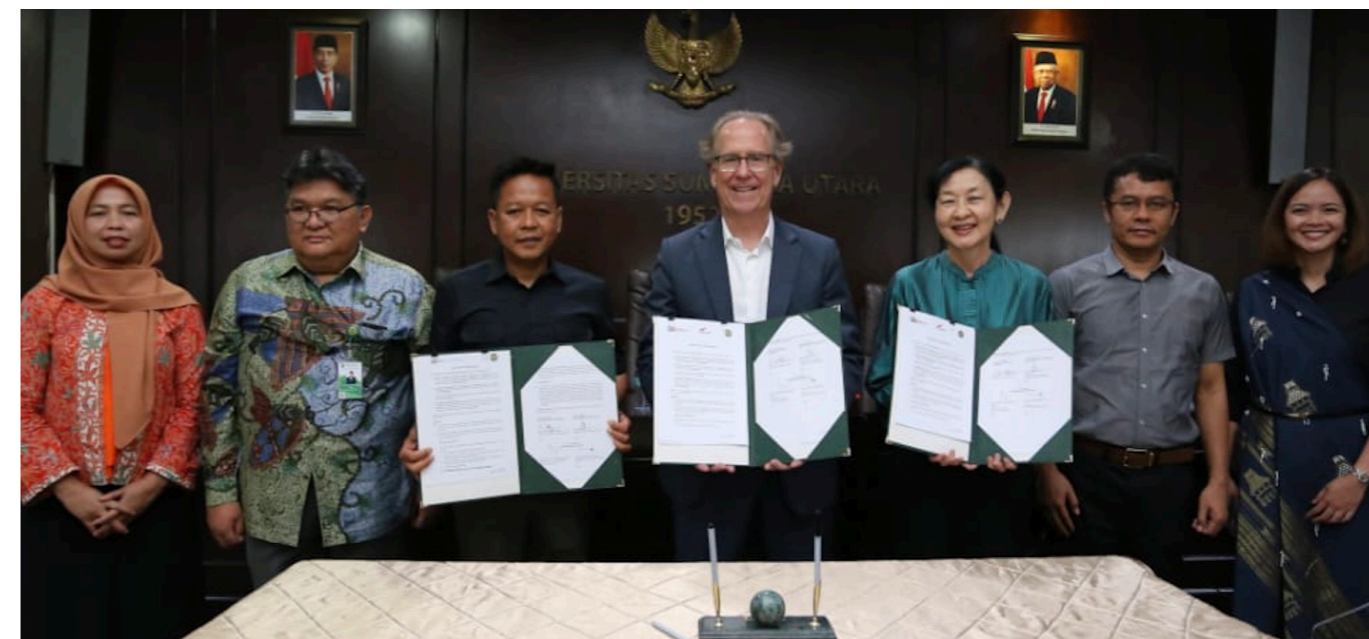
The multidisciplinary nature of Global Health sometimes makes the work we do somewhat messy. But I believe that in the messiness, we will find solutions, innovations and greatness that will overcome the health challenges we face in our region and beyond.

I look forward to working through the mess with you – and in that process, positively leave our mark in the world.

- HK

Forging Deeper Regional Collaborations

MOU signed with Universitas Sumatera Utara to set up a Regional Collaborating Centre in Medan



From left to right: Prof. Dr. Poppy Anjelisa Zaitun Hasibuan, Vice Rector III, Universitas Sumatera Utara; Prof. Dr. Aldy Safruddin Rambe, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Sumatera Utara; Prof. Dr. Muryanto Amin, Rector, Universitas Sumatera Utara; Prof. Dr. Thomas Coffman, Dean, Duke-NUS Medical School; Prof Ivy Ng, Group CEO, SingHealth; Prof. Dr. Eng Himsar Ambarita, Directorate Internationalization and Global Partnership, Universitas Sumatera Utara; Dr. Inke Nadia D. Lubis, Vice Dean III of Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Sumatera Utara

Representatives from SingHealth and Duke-NUS met with leaders of Universitas Sumatera Utara (USU) on 20 July in a ceremonial signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that cements the commitment to collaboration between Singapore and Medan on various Global Health fronts.

“Beyond the pandemic, there are many other challenges - the ageing population, the challenge of chronic diseases, rising healthcare costs, rising patient expectations, new emerging technologies. The more difficult the challenge, the more we put

out collective expertise together to find new solutions that will improve health and healthcare services to the populations that we serve,” said Prof Ivy Ng, Group CEO of SingHealth.

“In the last 15 years, we’ve shown that we can have a good partnership. Today, we bring in not just SingHealth, but together with Duke-NUS, the SingHealth Duke-NUS Global Health Institute, because increasingly we see the importance of building strong partnerships and collaborations so that together we can progress and advance health.”

“The more difficult the challenge, the more we put out collective expertise together to find new solutions that will improve health and healthcare services to the populations that we serve.”

- Prof Ivy Ng
Group CEO, SingHealth



“We also look forward to health system enhancement for pandemic preparedness, that will lead to robust programmes for assuring health security and strengthening preparedness for the next pandemic.”

- Prof Thomas Coffman
Dean,
Duke-NUS Medical School

Medan, where USU is located, has been identified as one of three of SDGHI’s Regional Collaborating Centres (RCC). The RCCs will serve to connect researchers, clinicians, and advocates to a larger Global Health network.

“Preceding the signing of this MOU, there have been a number of engagements with USU, exploring potential research collaborations in the areas of dementia, oncology, pharmacogenomics, cardiology, and infectious diseases,” said Prof Thomas Coffman, Dean of Duke-NUS Medical School.

“These are all areas of significant interest and expertise in Duke-

NUS, so we are very keen to get involved. We also look forward to contributing to health system enhancement for pandemic preparedness, that will lead to robust programmes for assuring health security and strengthening preparedness for the next pandemic.”

“I’m delighted that it’s the start of a new chapter of our collaboration,” said Prof Ivy Ng. “I am excited about what we can do together. If we want to go fast and far, we must go together with trusted partners who are committed to the same goal of improving our patients’ lives and defining tomorrow’s medicine.”

MORE ONLINE

View the coverage of the event on [USU TV](#)

About SDGHI RCC

SDGHI RCCs aim to optimise coordination of new and existing global health programmes taking place within the Academic Medical Centre (AMC) and between Duke affiliated institutions. These programmes include research, capacity building, education and knowledge exchange activities. SDGHI is looking at establishing two other RCCs - in Jaffna, Sri Lanka and Hanoi, Vietnam - in the next year.

Connect with us if you have interest in global health activities in these regions!

Global Health Grant Awardees

Congratulations to the awardees of the SDGHI Pilot Grant!

The March 2023 call of the SDGHI Pilot Grant was a competitive one that saw a marked increase in applications. We are encouraged by the growing interest in Global Health research work and are pleased to be able to contribute to research efforts aimed at understanding and addressing health challenges across Asia through the Pilot Grant and through facilitating the ACP Programme Funding for Global Health, of which results will be announced in September.

SDGHI PILOT GRANT AWARDEES



Prof Erik Finkelstein
Lien Centre for Palliative Care

PROJECT TITLE
Economic Burden of Depression and Anxiety in Sri Lanka



Prof Wang Linfa
Emerging Infectious Diseases Programme

PROJECT TITLE
Parvovirus 4 Serology and its Relation to Pediatric Meningoencephalitis in Bagladesh



Dr Evelyn Wong
National Cancer Centre Singapore

PROJECT TITLE
An organised Community-Approach Clinical Screening Programme for Cervical, Breast and Oral Cancer in Bangladesh: A Design, Pilot and Implementation Project



Dr Rahul Malhorta
Health Services & Systems Research Programme

PROJECT TITLE
Community information needs assess for health information system restructuring in the setting of a public-private clinic partnership

About the SDGHI Pilot Grant

The SDGHI [Pilot Grant](#) seeks to support and encourage interdisciplinary teams led by a SDGHI Faculty to undertake Global Health projects that address pressing health challenges in Asia. Capped at S\$50,000 per award, the grant is open to all SDGHI Faculty members.

Connect with us at sdghi@duke-nus.edu.sg if you are involved in Global Health work and would like to be an SDGHI Faculty member!

Open Grant Call!

ACP Programme Funding for Global Health

The **Academic Clinical Programme (ACP) Programme Funding** is an academic medicine initiative designed to seed development and facilitate advancement of the ACPs' Academic Medicine strategic goals.

The Global Health Support category is to promote interest in and to provide opportunities for global health projects in the region. Proposals that support and describe a sustainable line of global health research, policy, innovation and/or educational opportunities will be prioritised.

Grant capped at S\$50,000

USU - SDGHI Pilot Grant

The USU-SDGHI Pilot Grant seeks to support and encourage interdisciplinary teams led by Universitas Sumatera Utara and SDGHI Faculty members to undertake Global Health projects that address pressing health challenges in Indonesia and in the region. Through this joint grant call, we hope to encourage cross collaboration between both institutions to make a substantial contribution to improving health outcomes and reducing the burden of disease through support of evidence-based research and educational activities in Indonesia.

Grant capped at IDR 500 million

SDGHI Pilot Grant for Nurses and Allied Health Professionals

Recognising that nurses and Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) are key in improving health outcomes, especially in the context of Global Health, SDGHI is opening this grant call specifically for nurses and AHPs. Open to all nurses and AHPs within our AMC only.

Grant capped at S\$50,000

ONLINE INFO

Find out more and access forms [here](#)

CLOSING DATE

26 September 2023

DOWNLOAD FACT SHEET

Find out more and access forms [here](#)

CLOSING DATE

28 September 2023

DOWNLOAD FACT SHEET

Find out more and access forms [here](#)

CLOSING DATE

6 October 2023

Global Health Warrior

In this segment, we profile the champions of Global Health who have been doing great work across the region. Get to know more about their motivations, interests, and expertise, and feel free to reach out to them for collaboration opportunities!

David Hipgrave

Visiting Professor

SingHealth Duke-NUS Global Health Institute
Duke-NUS Medical School

Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health
National University of Singapore

Prof David Hipgrave is an Australian paediatrician and global child health specialist whose work has taken him all around the world.

"My journey started in a particular area of global child health - immunisation - but expanded to include early child nutrition, health systems including health financing, and the political economy of health," said Prof Hipgrave. "And I'm glad it did!"

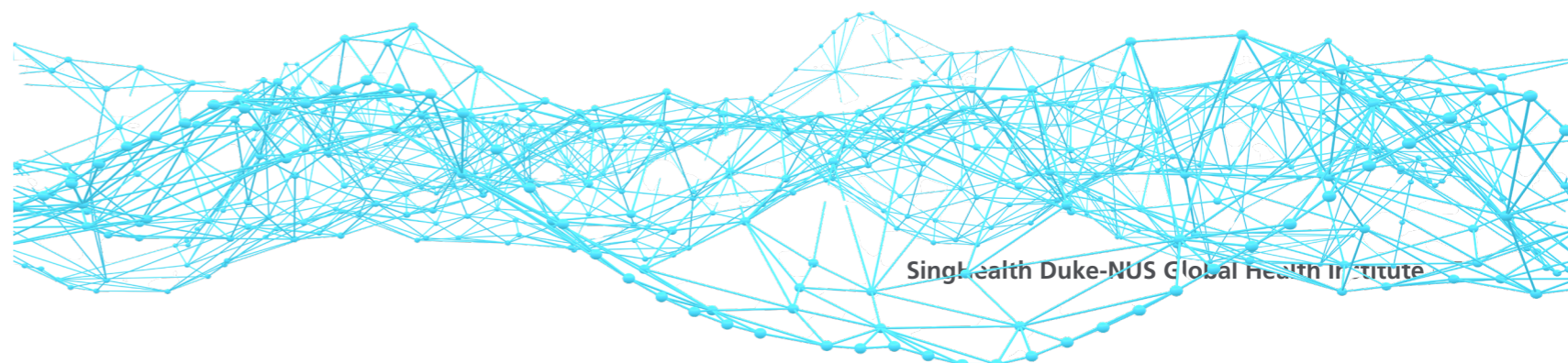
Speaking of his motivations to begin his global health journey, Prof Hipgrave said, "I prefer to work towards the health of communities or the health of populations. As a paediatrician, this has tended to be for the benefit of infants and young children. However, as the life cycle approach to health and well-being becomes more evident, all age groups are important."

"Additionally, I have always assumed that everything is connected and have tried to avoid becoming too specialised in my areas of focus. I think this perspective is becoming more justified as the links between our personal health and the health of the planet, the relationships between nations and the health of their populations, and the influence of the commercial sector on health become more obvious."



"I am optimistic about the funding and partnership possibilities in the region, and the potential impact of our work. There is no shortage of important work for the teams at Saw Swee Hock and SDGHI."

- Prof David Hipgrave





Prof Hipgrave with fellow colleagues from SDGHI enjoying his first experience eating durians.

Having worked in Malawi, New York, and most recently Iraq, David chose Singapore as the next location in his Global Health journey upon recommendations from his colleagues. No stranger to local foods, Prof Hipgrave is a lover of rendang and recently had his first bite of durian (we are glad to report that he quite enjoyed the experience!)

“I feel very lucky to have landed in such a well-located, strategic-thinking and well-regarded set of institutions. There is no shortage of important work for the teams at Saw Swee Hock and SDGHI,” said Prof Hipgrave. “I am optimistic about the funding and partnership possibilities in the region, and the potential impact of our work.”

Prof Hipgrave holds a joint appointment between SDGHI and the SSHSPH and brings with him the following four areas of interest to Singapore:

- Early life interventions to reduce NCD risk in later life, and to maximise human capital development in LMICs
- Improving public financial management and planning in the health sector, to improve public trust in government and effective and efficient use of health resources (both public and private)
- Digital transformation in the health sector
- Building the knowledge and capacity of sub-national health authorities on health systems, health financing and planning and ensuring equitable access to and uptake of health care

CONNECT & COLLABORATE

Interested in collaborating with Prof Hipgrave? Connect with him at hipgrave@nus.edu.sg

BE FEATURED AS OUR GLOBAL HEALTH WARRIOR

If you would like to be featured as our Global Health Warrior, or know one who should be featured, connect with us at sdghi@duke-nus.edu.sg

Deepen Your Knowledge & Practice in Global Health

SingHealth Duke-NUS

Global Health Fellows Programme

The SDGHI Global Health Fellows Programme seeks to support and encourage the growth of Global Health practitioners within the SingHealth Duke-NUS Academic Medical Centre (AMC).

Gain the opportunity to pursue a sponsored 24-month part-time Master of Public Health programme (specialising in Global Health) at the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore.

REGISTRATION

31 Aug 2023 to 10 Jan 2024

CONTACT

For enquiries, connect with us at sdghi@duke-nus.edu.sg

[DOWNLOAD FACT SHEET HERE](#)

Programme Support Entitlements

As a SDGHI Global Health Fellow, you will get support in the following ways:

1. **Sponsorship of course fee** for the Master in Public Health programme at the NUS Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, including miscellaneous fees*
2. **Salary during absence from work** to undertake the Master in Public Health for a maximum period of 3 months over two years
3. **An additional grant of up to S\$15,000** to undertake a field research project (locally or overseas)#

*Capped at the prevailing MPH fees at SSHSPH for Singaporeans and Singapore Permanent Residents only

#Subject to approval via a separate grant application

Who Can Apply?

All SingHealth clinicians who are associate consultants and above.

Deadline

10 January 2024

Applicants should separately apply for admission to the Master of Public Health (Global Health) programme in Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, NUS (applications close 15 Nov 2023).

Please refer to the [official website](#) for more information on admission criteria and deadline.

Enhance your Global Health Knowledge **NEW!**

Graduate Certificate in Practice of Global Health in Asia

The Graduate Certificate in Global Health and its constituent courses seek to empower participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to address Global Health issues affecting Singapore, Asia, and beyond.

Curated for the global learner, the Graduate Certificate delivers world-class knowledge through an Asian lens, developing your understanding of the intricacies and challenges of health and healthcare in Asia and beyond. It provides you with a strong foundation of both theoretical knowledge and practical skills to further your career in Global Health as a practitioner, educator, researcher or administrator.

Complete the 2 core courses and 2 electives to obtain your Graduate Certificate.

COURSE FEE

S\$21,600 for whole Graduate Certificate or **S\$5,400** per course
Discounts are available for participants from within the AMC

REGISTER **HERE** FROM 1 OCTOBER 2023

Course registration for AY23/24 S2 (core courses):

1 Oct - 31 Dec 2023

Course registration for AY24/25 S1 (electives):

1 May - 30 Jun 2024

FOR MORE INFO

To find out more, visit our [website](#) or download the Graduate Certificate [brochure](#)

CONTACT

For enquiries, connect with us at sdghi@duke-nus.edu.sg

2024 Course Schedule

Course Number	Course Title	Course Type	Course Dates
GMS 6961	Practice of Global Health in Asia: An Introduction	Core	26 Feb - 1 Mar 2024
GMS 5151	Project Evaluation in Global Health	Core	22 Apr - 26 Apr 2024
GMS 5152	Infectious Diseases and Global Health	Elective	12 Aug - 16 Aug 2024
GMS 5153	Non-Communicable Diseases: Building Health System Capacity	Elective	2 Sep - 6 Sep 2024
GMS 5155	Planetary Health: From Analysis to Action	Elective	23 Sep - 27 Sep 2024
GMS 5154	Adolescent Health in Asia	Elective	11 Nov - 15 Nov 2024

Global Health Seminar Series

Upcoming Topics

Date	Topic	Speaker
29 September 2023	AI Innovation in Health	Dr Daniel Ting
27 October 2023	Big Data in Cancer Care CVS.AI and APOLLO	Dr Melvin Chua Dr Lohendran Baskaran
24 November 2023	Osteoporosis Detection by AI model without DXA Machine Using AI for Spinal Anaes Delivery	Dr Jerry Chen Prof Sng Ban Leong

*topics and speakers subject to change



SAVE THE DATE!
SDGHI TOWNHALL

Friday, 13 October • 4.30pm
Alice Lee Innovation Centre of Excellence (A.L.I.C.E)

SingHealth DukeNUS ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTRE
GLOBAL HEALTH INSTITUTE

Advancing Global Health in Asia and Beyond

The SingHealth Duke-NUS Global Health Institute seeks to tackle prevalent health challenges, strengthen health systems, and better insulate countries from pandemics and disease threats.

Have an idea for a segment in the SDGHI Faculty newsletter? Let us know!

ashley.teo@duke-nus.edu.sg



Duke-NUS Medical School, Level 2
8 College Rd, Singapore 169857

www.duke-nus.edu.sg/sdghi