

CFMS Global Health Program
Midterm Report

January, 2009

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Abbreviations

AGM: Annual General Meeting

BAGM: Bi-annual General Meeting

CCIH: Canadian Conference on International Health

CCME: Canadian Conference on Medical Education

GHA: Global Health Advocate

GHEC: Global Health Education Consortium

GHL: Global Health Liaison

GHMP: Global Health Mentorship Program

IFMSA: International Federation of Medical Students Associations

NO: National Officer

NEO: National Exchange Officer

NOGHE: National Officer of Global Health Education

NORP: National Officer of Human Rights and Peace

VP-GH: Vice President Global Health

1. VP Global Health Update - Brianne Hudson

I. Description of Position

The Vice President Global Health (VP-GH) provides guidance, leadership, and support to the GHP. The VP-GH is responsible for assuring that GHP follows the principles and procedures outlined in its operating policy. She/He represents the GHP to the CFMS executive and with external organizations such as the International Federation of Medical Students' Association (IFMSA). She/He is also responsible for managing the GHP budget, organizing GHP meetings, and maintaining communication between GHP members.

II. Activities

1. Meetings attended

- CFMS AGM, Halifax, NS, Sept 26-28, 2008
- CFMS Exec Meeting, Ottawa, ON, Oct 17-19, 2008
- CCIH, Ottawa, ON, Oct 26-28, 2008
- CFMS Exec Meeting, Toronto, ON, Jan 16-18, 2009

2. Portfolio changes - N/A

3. Major Updates

- Continuing bilateral exchange with Israel: In late December, when conflict re-ignited between Israel and Gaza, some members of the GHP approached me about the idea of reconsidering our bilateral exchange contract with Israel. After discussing this issue with several GHP members and giving the issue a great deal of thought, I presented the CFMS Exec with the issue at our January meeting. We came to a consensus that exchange contracts should only be cancelled in the case that there is a security risk to our students. In matters of international or civil conflict, we should otherwise remain a neutral party. Since the Canadian travel advisory to Israel remain unchanged during the period of increased conflict (except for areas bordering Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon), our students will be permitted to participate in the exchange with Israel, with the stipulation they are strongly advised not to go to those three high risk areas. In addition, the CFMS-GHP will also investigate the possibility of a unilateral exchange contract with Palestine at our upcoming IFMSA Meeting.

4. Completed Projects

- Hiring new national officers: We hired the new NORP, Trisha Rys, in October 2008 and the new NOGHE, Mike Slatnik, in November 2008.
- New CFMS website: In October, we launched a brand new CFMS website (www.cfms.org). With the help of the National Officers, I update the global health information and transferred it to the new website. I also set up some links to global health documents, relevant websites, etc.
- CFMS Annual Review: Every year the CFMS publishes an Annual Review, essentially a magazine that showcases the activities of the CFMS and its members. There are always quite a

few articles on Global Health. This January, I submitted my update, and also edited a number of global health submissions.

- CFMS Executive: I participate regularly in email discussions, teleconferences as well as face-to-face meetings. Since the AGM, the CFMS Exec has met twice in person - in October in Ottawa, and in January in Toronto.
- Supporting GHP members: I welcomed each new GHL to the GHP via email, and sent them the GHL Manual. I attempted to have national officers call each new GHL personally (ie those who weren't at the AGM), but I think a few were missed! Since late September, I have supported GHLs, GHAs and NOs through email and over the phone. This year, the Global Health Advocacy Program (GHAP) is brand new so Trisha (NORP, head of GHAP) and I have collaborated a lot on this.

5. Current Activities

- Supporting NOs, GHLs and GHAs
- Hiring new National Officers: In the process of hiring new NORSH and NOP, to be completed mid-February.
- IFMSA March Meeting (Mar 2-9, 2009): We are currently preparing for IFMSA March Meeting in Tunis, Tunisia.
 - 6 delegates to attend: VP-GH, NEO Sr (Fareen), NEO Jr (Ken), NOP (Fadi), Dax (GHL, UWO), Catherine (GHL, UofA)
 - Fadi and Dax to present on Pre-Departure Training
 - collaborating with IFMSA-Quebec to support their bid for the August Meeting 2010
- MonWHO (Mar 6-8, 2009): I'm currently supporting Trisha to prepare for this meeting.
 - 15 GHAs as well as our NORP (Trisha) will attend
 - 3 presentations: (1) environmental impacts of Alberta Oil Sands, (2) Aboriginal Health Cultural Competency, (3) low Aboriginal representation in Canadian medical schools

III. Future Goals

A major part of my role is to support all members of the GHP. I plan to continue supporting GHLs, NOs and working groups to achieve their goals before the end of the school year and the BAGM in early May.

From now until the BAGM, there are three areas that I'd like to focus on: (1) working to improve and further develop healthforall.ca, (2) communicating medical student advances in Pre-departure Training at the GHEC and CCME meetings, and (3) reviewing and editing the GHP's IOGs (Internal Operating Guidelines) that were produced last year.

Mike Slatnik and Dax Biondi have started to get the ball rolling with healthforall.ca, and have solicited help from one of their colleagues at UWO to assist as well. The website will also be a major area of focus for the new NOP coming on board. With a few people to focus on this project, we should be able to make some headway by early May.

At each CCME meeting, the CFMS executive has the opportunity to meet privately with the Deans of Undergraduate Medical Education for 30 minutes. **For 2009, I've secured a 15 minute slot to speak to this group on the topic of Pre-Departure Training.** I hope to work closely with the NOGHEs and the Pre-departure Training Working Group to develop my presentation. Also, I plan to support the NOGHEs and Pre-Departure Training Working Group to develop their poster presentations for the CCME meeting, as well as GHEC.

Another goal of mine is to support meaningful participation of the CFMS-GHP at national and international meetings. This quarter, we will attend the IFMSA March Meetings in Tunisia, the MonWHO in March (GHAs and NORP to attend), the GHEC Conference in early April and the BAGM in early May. At the March IFMSA Meeting (Mar 2-9, 2009), our delegation will present on Pre-departure Training. At the MonWHO Conference (Mar 6-8, 2009), GHAs will present on the environmental impact of the Alberta Oil Sands, Aboriginal cultural competencies, and low Aboriginal student representation in Canadian medical schools.

IV. Recommendations and Suggestions for Improvement

At the BAGM, I would like to hold a discussion to talk about leadership of the GHP next year. Although the new VP-GH will not be elected until late September 2009, I feel it's important to think about who our next VP-GH will be at an early stage, so the individual has adequate time to prepare him/herself for the position and arrange their schedule accordingly.

2. National Officer Updates

i. National Exchange Officer (NEO) Sr. - Fareen Karachiwalla

I. Description of Position

As the National Exchange Officer Sr., I am responsible for coordinating the research and clinical exchanges within the International Federation of Medical Students Association (IFMSA). This includes coordinating the local committees in setting up incoming student placements, selecting outgoing participants, liaising with the elective coordinators at each Canadian university and communicating with exchange officers around the globe to improve the quality of the IFMSA exchange program.

II. Activities

1. Meetings attended

In September of 2008, I attended the annual CFMS General Meeting. In this meeting, I presented the nature of the exchange program to the CFMS at large as well as met with and trained the regional exchange officers (REO), a position which is new to the exchange program this year. Myself and the REOs discussed troubleshooting issues pertaining to the program as

well as brainstormed ways to make the program more sustainable and enhance communication between all levels of organization.

2. Portfolio Changes

The exchange program has newly implemented the position of the Regional Exchange Officer this year. As such, the nature of the NEO position has altered slightly and is now more focused on promotion and expansion of the program in Canada and enhancing the quality of exchanges for all involved.

3. Completed Projects

The outgoing exchange participants for the 2009-2010 exchange season have been selected. There are 62 students participating in professional exchanges in 25 countries around the world and 39 students participating in research electives in 18 countries across the globe. In addition, a new NEO Jr, Ken Mendoza, has been selected as well as new LEO Jr's at each Canadian university.

4. Current Activities

Currently, the local officers along with myself and Ken are working on securing research projects from incoming students and are recruiting supervisors from six Canadian universities to take on international students. In addition, I am working with the elective coordinators at each school on placing incoming students for the 2009-2010 exchange period. The exchange team is also working on gathering documents for outgoing Canadian students and preparing them for their international experiences. Finally, I am working on compiling a comprehensive description of experiences from students that have gone on exchanges in the past for the benefit of future participants. This will either be published in the CFMS annual review or posted on the health for all website and will aid Canadian students in gaining insight about what to expect on these clinical and research placements.

III. Future Goals

In the coming months, I hope to aid in the preparedness of students venturing on international placements. I hope to work in collaboration with the National Officer of Global Health Education to ensure that all Canadian students participating in IFMSA exchanges engage in some form of pre-departure training, whether they do so through a program offered by the GHLs at their schools or through an online module, such as Depart Smart.

IV. Recommendations and Suggestions for Improvement

I believe that the exchange program would benefit from a more collaborative approach. Perhaps if the LEOs and REOs were offered the opportunity to be funded to attend an IFMSA conference

or an annual CFMS meeting, they could take on a project which would contribute to the sustainability of the program and lead in that endeavour. Projects could include compiling a database of past student participants, finding global health related research projects etc. This would also help in making them feel more involved in the organization of the program and enhance motivation among the regional and local levels.

ii. National Exchange Officer (NEO) Jr. - Ken Mendoza

I. Description of Position

As the National Exchange Officer Jr., I coordinate research and clinical exchanges within the International Federation of Medical Students Association (IFMSA) with the assistance of the Regional and Local exchange officers. I was recently appointed to this position on Oct 2008.

II. Activities

1. Meetings attended - None

2. Portfolio Changes - N/A

3. Completed Projects

The outgoing exchange participants for the 2009-2010 exchange season have been selected. There are 62 students participating in professional exchanges in 25 countries around the world and 39 students participating in research electives in 18 countries across the globe. In addition, a new NEO Jr, Ken Mendoza, has been selected as well as new LEO Jr's at each Canadian university.

4. Current Activities

Currently, the local officers along with myself and Ken are working on securing research projects from incoming students and are recruiting supervisors from six Canadian universities to take on international students. In addition, I am working with the elective coordinators at each school on placing incoming students for the 2009-2010 exchange period. The exchange team is also working on gathering documents for outgoing Canadian students and preparing them for their international experiences. Finally, I am working on compiling a comprehensive description of experiences from students that have gone on exchanges in the past for the benefit of future participants. This will either be published in the CFMS annual review or posted on the health for all website and will aid Canadian students in gaining insight about what to expect on these clinical and research placements.

III. Future Goals

- Compiling a database for feedback from as many exchange students as possible
- A website detailing the various cities in Canada
- Generate more interest in exchanges in some schools with a low number of applicants such as McMaster
- Create a document to help with new LEO/REO/NEOs

IV. Recommendations and Suggestions for Improvement

- Access to the exchange@cfms.org e-mail
- Another “official” e-mail address for the NEO Jr

iii. National Officer of Global Health Education (NOGHE) - Kelly Anderson (outgoing) and Mike Slatnik (incoming)

*Please note this report compiles activities of both the incoming and outgoing NOGHE

I. Description of Position

As incoming and outgoing National Officers of Global Health Education, our goals are to promote the incorporation and continual improvement of global health education and pre-departure training at all Canadian medical schools. We work closely with the Chairs of the Pre-departure Training and Global Health Curriculum working groups, as well as relevant external organizations such as the AFMC Global Health Resource Group, the Global Health Education Consortium and the Canadian Society for International Health.

II. Activities

1. Meetings attended:

- Family Medicine Forum, CFPC (November 2008) in Toronto (Mike)
- Bellagio Rockefeller Conference, "Expanding Frontiers in Medical Education" (September 2008) in Italy (Kelly)
- GHEC biannual Board Meeting (November 2008) in Chicago (Kelly)

2. Portfolio update (list any changes to the nature of your portfolio, etc)

- No changes

3. Completed projects (over the last quarter, ie since AGM)

- Transition of NOGHE role: We have worked closely in the past four months to transition. Kelly has introduced Mike to all of the relevant organizations and partners, and Mike is developing relationships with these groups.

4. Current activities

- Pre-departure training
 - (Mike) As a member of the predeparture training working group, I have worked with Dax Biondi, the chair, as well as the AFMC Global Health Resource Group,

to plan the activities of this working group. Building on the success of the predeparture training document of last year, this year the working group will focus on accumulating and sharing resources and guidelines for implementation, as well as evaluating the current status of predeparture training at all CFMS schools, and supporting the development of predeparture training at all CFMS schools.

- (Mike) I have shared predeparture training documents and resources with the CFMS GHP listserv. My recent focus has been on contacting all GHs to assess the status of predeparture training at their schools this year, and supporting them to run predeparture training sessions this year.

- Global health curriculum
 - (Mike) As a member of the Global Health Curriculum working group, I have worked closely with Olivier Drouin, the chair of this group. The working group will be focusing on accumulating the evidence for the benefits of global health education in the medical school curriculum, as well as developing tools for advocacy so that medical students can push for global health in their curricula.
 - We are active members of the US-Canadian Joint Committee on Global Health Education standards. We are working in this group in order to develop guidelines for global health in medical school curriculum.
 - (Kelly) I have been working with several GHs to recreate the Clip Campaign in select schools this year.
 - (Kelly) I continue to assist the GHMP in their networking, mentor recruitment, matching and monitoring of mentorship pairs.
 - (Kelly) I've been working with the Lancet Student regarding their new advocacy campaign around the Right To Health, and plan to involve GHs in this process by February.
 - (Kelly) I recently began collecting examples of how medical students across Canada are teaching each other global health, and will compile this into an advocacy commentary and document for distribution and publication.

- Global health website & communications
 - Mike and other members of the CFMS GHP are working on building www.healthforall.ca even further, as a resource for global health and global health education.
 - Kelly has been working with new NO Trisha Rys to ensure adequate orientation and program development. She has also been involved in the recruitment process for new NOs.

- Liaison with the CFPC
 - Mike has been in initial discussion with the International Health Committee of the Canadian Family Physician's College, to discuss possible collaboration with

the CFMS GHP, as a focus of their group is both predeparture training as well as global health curriculum.

III. Future goals

- Pre-departure training should happen at every CFMS medical school this year
- Continued work on global health curriculum
- Building healthforall.ca as a global health learning resource, as well as an institutional memory tool for the CFMS.

IV. Recommendations and suggestions for improvement

Mike and Kelly will continue to work together to ensure maximal handover and institutional memory building

iv. National Officer of Human Rights and Peace (NORP) - Trisha Rys

I. Description of Position

The role of the NORP is to create opportunities for Canadian medical students to learn more about issues related to human rights and peace, and to act as advocates in this regard. I work with the GHP's Advocacy

Working Group and Global Health Advocates (GHAs) from each school to develop local and national advocacy initiatives based on a different theme each year. I also support Global Health Liaisons (GHLs) in organizing campaigns related to human rights and peace.

II. Activities

1. Meetings attended:

-Initial GHA teleconference

2. Portfolio update (list any changes to the nature of your portfolio, etc)

-Not currently

3. Completed projects (over the last quarter, ie since AGM)

- University of Calgary has started an Aboriginal Health Association student group.
- University of Toronto has initiated a partnership with the Aboriginal Street Youth Program
- University of Toronto has partnered with the First Nations House, which is an organization that provides culturally supportive student services and programs to Aboriginal students and the general community at the University of Toronto.
- McGill has developed and is conducting the CKUT radio program Health on Earth. This program discusses aboriginal health issues on the radio for half an hour each week.

4. Current activities

- Putting together presentations for the MonWHO: The GHAs have been split into four groups. The first group will focus on addressing the under-representation of Aboriginal students in Canadian medical schools and the physician population. The second group will be conducting a workshop on cultural sensitivity training to enhance understanding of Aboriginal culture, heritage and traditional Aboriginal medicine practices. The third group is focusing a poster presentation concerning the environmental consequences of the oil-sand developments in northern Alberta for Aboriginal communities' located downstream along the Athabasca River basin. The fourth group will be presenting on the contamination of food supplies in northern Aboriginal communities (they may also add in the contamination of water supplies in these communities).

- Developing and conducting local and national advocacy initiatives in relation to aboriginal health and the need for more Aboriginal medical students. These projects vary depending on the services and awareness initiatives already in place in Canadian medical school and their communities.

III. Future goals

- To develop and conduct a national advocacy initiative related to aboriginal health.
- To maintain and develop, the CFMS-GHP's website, www.healthforall.ca
- To improve communication between the GHAP and the GHP's Advocacy Working Group

IV. Recommendations and suggestions for improvement

- It would be helpful to have someone take a lead role in the GHP program. I feel this would assist in increasing communication between the GHAP and the GHP working advocacy group.
- Information regarding how to access and update the GHP's website would assist me in maintaining and developing this section of the CFMS website.

v. National Officer of Partnership (NOP) - Fadi Hamadani

I. Description of Position

Work within the CFMS with other global health leaders to create and sustain with other student, academic, non-governmental and/or national organizations with an interest in global health.

II. Activities

1. Meetings attended

- CSIH Global Health Conference; Ottawa(meeting with organizers and potential partners) Oct. 25-27, 2008
- SUNSIH conference; Ottawa (meeting with organizers and potential partners) Oct. 24, 2008
- Physicians for Global Survival Rx for Survival Conference; Halifax (meeting with organizers and potential partners) September 2008
- CFMS AGM; Halifax September 2008

2. Portfolio update (list any changes to the nature of your portfolio, etc)

- In conjunction with the new NOP, I will play a bigger role in maintaining the "healthforall" website, something I haven't done thusfar

3. Completed projects (over the last quarter, ie since AGM)

- SUNSIH/CSIH project - gave 3 medical students from across Canada the opportunity to attend this large international conference
- Presented 2 posters at the CSIH conference, both representing the work of the GHP
- Gave a 30 minute lecture about GHP to SUNSIH conference
- Gave a 20 minute lecture about GHP to PGS conference

4. Current activities

- Applied to present at the GHEC conference in April along with Kelly Anderson about the GHP's Pre-Departure Training projects
- Attend the IFMSA to present on Pre-Departure Training
- Communicate with CMAJ and Lancet Student about student global health publications

III. Future goals

- See above

IV. Recommendations and suggestions for improvement

- Increase involvement in "healthforall" website
- Produce tri-monthly publication summarizing CFMS GHP work

vi. National Officer of Reproductive and Sexual Health (NORSH) - Lana Saciragic

I. Description of Position

The goal of NORSH is to create educational and practical opportunities in the vast domain of sexual and reproductive health for Canadian medical students. In particular, NORSH is responsible for overseeing major international awareness days on a national level; World AIDS Day and International Women's Day. In addition, NORSH organizes and implements workshops and conferences related to sexual and reproductive health. The above is achieved by close collaboration with other GHP members, national and international organizations and NGOs.

II. Activities

1. Meetings attended
 - a. BAGM 2008 in Halifax
 - b. Meeting with Dr. Jane Philpott, originator of Give A Day campaign
 - c. Phone conference with members of the CFMS Pre-Departure Training Small Working Group

- d. Phone conference with VP-GHP and NOs.
2. Portfolio update – please see NORSH’s roles and responsibilities below, as listed in the application form. Ones highlighted in italics have been added to reflect activities carried out in the past 9 months.

Roles and Responsibilities

- a. Implement a project which seeks out, creates or provides access to sexual health and/or reproductive health related opportunities directly to individual students and grassroots initiatives at medical schools. This initiative should be guided by the VP Global Health and the GHLs, with input provided at the BAGM.
- b. Provide resources regarding sexual and reproductive health where relevant or requested.
- c. *Responsible for organizing and implementing a reproductive/sexual health workshop at the annual medical student conference, Ontario Medical Student Weekend; seek opportunities for adoption of similar workshop for eastern and western Canadian medical schools.*
- d. Implementation of World AIDS Day (December 1st) in conjunction with GHLs across Canada:
 - i. Liaise with international bodies (e.g. IFMSA Standing Committee on Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS (IFMSA-SCORA), World AIDS Campaign) as well as national bodies (e.g.) in order to gather resources
 - ii. Provide relevant, practical resources to GHLs
 - iii. *Seek opportunities for collaboration with national organizations or NGOs*
- e. Implementation of International Women’s Day (March 8th) in conjunction with GHLs across Canada:
 - i. Liaise with international bodies (e.g. IFMSA Standing Committee on Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS (IFMSA-SCORA)) as well as national bodies (e.g.) in order to gather resources
 - ii. Provide relevant practical resources to GHLs for
 - iii. *Seek opportunities for collaboration with national organizations or NGOs*

- f. Disseminate global health opportunities to international health liaisons (GHLs) via the national GHL listserv.
 - g. Attend the annual and bi-annual CFMS general meeting (AGM and BAGM).
 - h. If interested, attend one IFMSA General Assembly (preferably August Meeting), by submitting a relevant proposal and work plan to the VP Global Health for consideration. Subscribe to the IFMSA Standing Committee on Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS (SCORA) listserv and monitor international action in the realm of SCORA.
 - i. Maintain and update the CFMS GHP website every two weeks, synthesizing input from NOs and GHLs as needed. (Note that web expertise is not required, but some experience with websites is desirable).
 - j. Strategize to improve communications between VP-GH, National Officers, and GHLs as appropriate.
 - k. Submit a report to the VP-GHP triannually (September AGM, January and May BAGM).
3. Completed projects (over the last quarter, ie since AGM)
- a. OMSW Sexual and Reproductive Health workshop (see newsletter attached for more information)
 - b. World AIDS Day
 - i. Updated the World AIDS Day GHL resource booklet
 - ii. A coordinated national World AIDS Day campaign in partnership with Give A Day (www.giveaday.ca).
Students were invited to participate in the Give A Day campaign in two ways: 1. Donate time to an HIV/AIDS related cause 2. Donate a small amount (“Give a Coffee”, giving \$33 in recognition of 33 million people living with HIV/AIDS 3. Encourage faculty/staff at their schools to donate to Give A Day. Almost all Canadian medical schools participated. I am waiting to hear the total amount that was raised by Canadian schools.
 - iii. Canadian medical schools continued their partnerships with local organizations and groups.
4. Current activities
- a. Planning International Women’s Day
 - b. Recruiting incoming NORSH
 - c. Compiling a useful set of resources for the incoming NORSH

- d. Working with the pre-departure training small working group

III. Future goals:

1. Sexual and reproductive health workshop to become a standard part of OMSW
2. Implement a similar workshop at Eastern and Western medical school conferences
3. Achieve a sustainable transition with the incoming NORSH

IV. Recommendations and suggestions for improvement

- Mentorship within the GHP – members of the GHP becoming mentors to each other

3. Global Health Mentorship Project Update - Nitasha Puri

I. The Global Health Mentorship Project Organizational Team works to manage the Global Health Mentorship Project (GHMP). Created in 2006 by then National Officer of Public Health Kelly Anderson, the GHMP works to match medical students with mentors in various sectors of global health in order to fill in the global health educational gaps within the Canadian medical curriculum. For a more detailed overview, please visit the website at <http://ghmp.cfms.org>.

II. Activities

The GHMP Organizational Team has completed phase one of the 2008-2009 mentorship cycle, and is currently in phase two. Phase one consisted of recruiting mentors and students to be part of the project, and then carefully evaluating their preferences and expertise in order to match them most favourably. Mentors and mentees were matched based on geographic proximity, indicated time commitment, and educational interests. Post matching, each pair was assigned an administrator who set off the conversations and encouraged all involved parties to complete a pre-mentorship survey.

In the currently ongoing phase two, students and development professionals are engaging in introductory conversations about topics within their specific sector of interest. Some mentorship pairs will also begin to work together through volunteering experiences. In addition, the GHMP Organizational Team will be launching a new resource and conversation stimulating website that all pairs will have access to. The site will include links to articles, websites, videos, and stories specific to the various interest sectors. In addition, the site will also include working modules that take students through thought experiments on ethics, politics, economics, and self-reflection. It is our hope that this will become a vibrant forum that contributes to the learning experience of both mentors and mentees, as well as a hub that keeps conversation going throughout the rest of the mentorship cycle.

III. Future Goals

The GHMP Organizational team aims to finish up the phase two and move into the final phase of the project in which mentorships may end. At this time, post-mentorship survey data will be collected and analyzed, and mentorship pairs given the opportunity to provide feedback. In

addition, we are focusing on preparing for our attendance at the GHEC Conference in Seattle, as well as updating our website and translating all our materials into the French language.

IV. Recommendations and Suggestions for Improvement

None at this time. These will be made once the data from the post-mentorship surveys has been collected.

4. School Updates - Condensed Versions

i. Dalhousie University - Alyson Horne-Douma & Rosie Ashton

- September: Scotiabank AIDS walk, raised \$800
- October: Global Health Initiative potluck dinner
- AIDS Week
 - bake sale, ribbon selling, martini night
 - raised over \$1000 for NGO Mothers2Mothers, operating in South Africa
- Collaboration with International Health Office on speaker series
- Plans for coffee house/photo auction
- Plans to launch MERCI, Medical Equipment Recovery Initiative (similar to REMEDY)

ii. McMaster University - Chris Keefer & Molly Forrester

- Guest speakers: Robert Huish and Quique Rodriguez
- World AIDS Day
 - partnered with MSF McMaster Chapter for “Angry Faces” Campaign
 - showed video clips before lecture
- December: International Electives Night
 - returned students share experiences during international electives with students interested in participating in an overseas elective
 - international cuisine
- Neglected Infectious Diseases Speaker Series
- New projects:
 - Surgical R's (REMEDY) Project
 - New Pharmaceutical Awareness Initiative
- Projects in the works:
 - Public Health Harm Reduction Elective
 - Opportunity for MacMed students to participate in a Hamilton Public Health Harm Reduction Program
 - Refugee Health Speaker Series
 - Pre-Departure Training for International Electives
 - plans for mandatory pre-departure training program to start in 2009
 - would run through-out the year to catch students in all years
- World Causes Awareness Campaigns

iii. McGill - Olivier Drouin & Jennifer Hulme

- McGill now has GHJL Jr as well as GHJL Sr
- World AIDS Day
 - Give A Day campaign
- Good communication with the Faculty's Global Health Program
- Global Health Curriculum Working Group
 - GHJL Sr leads this group
 - two teleconferences so far this year
 - plans to create package for students containing:
 - evidence of importance of Global Health curriculum
 - "hands-on" resources to help convince faculties of the need for GH curriculum
 - aim to finish documents by BAGM
- Future plans:
 - pre-departure training

iv. Memorial University of Newfoundland - Kate Hadley

- GULU walk
- World AIDS Day
 - Give A Day Campaign information mailed to ~100 MUN MED Faculty
 - International Photo Silent Auction & Fundraiser
 - photos submitted by students and faculty
 - week-long event
 - \$600 raised for HIV/AIDS charity
 - Guest Speaker: Robert Fox, Exec Director of OXFAM Canada
- Global Health Film Series
- Future plans:
 - Send books (already collected) to Books with Wings
 - Pre-departure training?
 - planning student survey to assess interest, investigate options

v. Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) - Julie Zalan & Amanda Moore

- World AIDS Day
 - student participation in Give A Day campaign
 - student participation at World AIDS Day Breakfast (put on by AIDS Thunder Bay)
- Pre-departure Training
 - in the process of developing a pre-departure training program for students going overseas this summer
 - based on AFMC-CFMS Pre-Departure Training Guidelines
- Juxtaposition Magazine
 - GHJs solicited NOSM students for article submissions
- Network Towards Unity for Health
 - potential role for GHJL involvement in research to present at conference
- Selected GHA

vi. Queen's University - Jessica Liauw & Jesleen Rana

- Health and Human Rights Conference, Oct 3-5, 2008
- Global Health Lecture Series
 - weekly basis
 - 102 students participated
 - students receive recognition from the Dean for certain amount of participation in global health activities
- Community Health Initiative
 - promotion of global health in a local context
 - GHLS organized field trip to Katarowki Friendship Center to learn about Indigenous health issues and invited guest speaker to talk about his work with youth and addiction
- World AIDS Day
 - Give a Day Campaign information sent out to all faculty members in the Department of Medicine at Queen's
 - asked students "give an hour of their time" to attend a lunchtime assembly and listen to two guest speakers
 - GHLS ran 2-week AIDS education campaign using quotes to illuminate the experience of living with HIV/AIDS
- Global Health Curriculum
 - Queen's in the process of revamping curriculum; GHLS in discussions with school administration about how global health will be integrated into this segment of the new curriculum
 - GHLS participate in Global Health Curriculum Working Group
- Future plans:
 - Global Health Gala and Fundraiser: Feb 27, 2009
 - Health and Agriculture Week, Mar 9-13, 2009
 - planning Health and Human Rights Conference 2009
 - Student-run Infectious Disease Elective Course to start September 2009
 - development of global health website
 - annual report

vii. University of Alberta - Brianne Hudson and Catherine Arkell

- Pre-Departure Training
 - second year running, sessions are four hours in length
 - based on AFMC-CFMS Pre-Departure Training Guidelines
 - 3 separate training opportunities: 2 afternoon sessions, 1 lunch hour series
 - now co-sponsored by Faculty and mandatory for students going on approved international electives
- Post-Departure Debriefing
 - organized coffee night in early September for students to discuss overseas electives they did over the summer
 - Associate Dean of Global Health attended

- GHL Jr attended CFMS AGM
 - GHL Sr secured funding and worked with MedSoc to hold the GHL election early such that the GHL Jr could attend the AGM at the beginning of her term
- Canadian Conference on International Health, Oct 26-28, 2008
 - both GHLs attended this conference and delivered a presentation about it to the UofA's Global Health Rounds
- Selected GHA and offered support as he transitioned into his role
- Future plans:
 - February: 3rd annual International Photo Contest and Silent Auction
 - April: Rich Man Poor Man Dinner

viii. University of British Columbia - Andrea Lo & Tonia Timperley

- Created GHL Jr position and elected GHL Jr
- Implemented clips campaign
 - obstetric fistula clip spurred student interest in holding Obstetric Fistula Fundraiser
 - students raised \$2300; amount matched by one professor for a total of \$4600, which was donated to UNFPA Campaign to End Fistula and World Vision Safe Motherhood in Ethiopia Fund
- World AIDS Day Events
 - students from the medical and dental classes of 2012 participated in a class photo in the formation of the red ribbon
 - picture formed part of a feature article on World AIDS Day in campus newspaper
 - secured funding to distribute HIV/AIDS materials to medical students in all four years
 - World AIDS Day photography sessions
 - red ribbon sales
 - Give A Day Campaign participation by UBC faculty and physicians
- Started planning UBC Global Health Website in conjunction with the UBC Department of International Health
- Future plans:
 - continue work with Global Health website
 - continue clips campaign

ix. University of Calgary - Michelle Tubman and Nadia Shehata (outgoing)

- Global Health Updates: sent out weekly to all classes
- UofC's R3 Night: GHLs ensured there was a Global Health speaker to talk about the UofC's R3 program in Global Health
- International Elective Calendar
 - every year, GHLs collect photos from students' international electives and use them to create a calendar
 - proceeds go to Kiva, NGO providing microfinancing to entrepreneurs in low income countries
- International Electives Night
 - students set up poster presentations and share experiences on international electives

- included a silent auction of international photos
- proceeds to Kiva
- World AIDS Day
 - collaborated with other groups to organize events including a pub night, selling T-shirts, giving away red ribbons and popcorns for donations, and a movie night
 - encourage faculty to participate in Give A Day Campaign
- Promotion of CFMS activities and programs, including GHMP and international exchanges
- Selected GHA and have supported her in starting a new faculty-supported Aboriginal Health Interest Group
- Future Plans:
 - workshop for students interested in working overseas

x. University of Manitoba - Kristen Creek & Aleesha Gillette

- Global Health Interest Group
- Speaker series
- World Diabetes Day
 - carb-counting luncheon, money raised for Life for a Child
- World AIDS Day Photo Auction
 - money raised for Nine Circles Community Health Centre
- involved in Immigrant and Refugee Health Interest Group which hosts speakers, movie nights, and other events
- involved in student-run French Club
- Future plans:
 - Global Health Awareness Week, March 2009
 - put together binder with information and resources about global health experiences and opportunities
 - pre-departure training
 - continue to advocate for global health inclusion in upcoming accreditation/curriculum reform process
 - advocate for student involvement in Global Health / Public Policy Centre opening soon at UofM

xi. University of Ottawa - Samantha Green & Becky Wallace

- Global Health Awareness Day, September 30, 2008
 - displays by MSF and other international health groups
 - panel discussion
- Speaker series
 - International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
 - Peace Through Health
 - Challenges in the HIV/TB co-epidemic
 - Climate Change & Health: Health Challenges Around the World

- student participation in SUNSIH Conference
- World AIDS Week
 - showed pertinent video clips
 - “Give A Day to World AIDS” event with Dr Jane Philpott (founder of Give A Day)
- Fundraiser for Ottawa’s Bruce House and Dignitas International
- Food Drive for Refugee House & the Ottawa Food Bank
- Future Plans:
 - movie screening: “Triage”
 - pre-departure training

xii. University of Saskatchewan - Zia Poonja & Bev Wudel

- global health club: Health Everywhere
 - sent two members to CCIH in October
- World AIDS Week
 - bake sale and red ribbon sales
 - raised \$1000 for Stephen Lewis Foundation and AIDS Saskatoon
- speaker: Sultan Sadat, Afghan refugee
- Future plans:
 - anti-nuclear proliferation advocacy group
 - planning annual dinner banquet fundraiser

xiii. University of Toronto - Rob Ciccarelli & Amitha Kalaichandran

- World AIDS Day
 - “Give A Day” event including music, speakers, HIV/AIDS awareness
 - bake sale raised \$200 for Give A Day campaign
- Green Meds Initiative
 - MedSoc policy outlines a set of environmentally conscious requirements and recommendations that must be adhered to by all clubs in order to receive funding
 - no disposable coffee cups, Styrofoam, or bottled water at MedSoc events
 - at Orientation Week, no bottled water, only biodegradable plates, cups and cutlery, students received stainless steel coffee cups and water bottles, USB keys with documents instead of paper, and cloth bags
 - also: cell phone recycling, Books with Wings, Environment & Health Portfolio
- GHGs drafting policy on environment to present as resolution to CFMS
- Future plans:
 - co-ordinate student-run pre-departure training program
 - Global Health Environment Symposium

xiv. University of Western Ontario - Mike Slatnik & Dax Biondi

- GET Ready! Pre-departure Training Conference, February 26-28, 2009
 - based on AFMC-CFMS Pre-Departure Training Guidelines

- MedLink
 - online student partnership between National University of Rwanda and UWO
 - students exchange emails, photos, etc.
 - 76 participants
- Student involvement in IFMSA exchanges, GHMP and TRAUMA Project
- Selected GHA
- Future plans:
 - planning Hungry for Change Gala and Fundraiser 2009

4. School Updates - Full Versions

i. Dalhousie University - Alyson Horne-Douma & Rosie Ashton

Sept. 10, 2008: Ramesh Ferris, polio survivor and “Cycle to Walk” founder, came to speak to a well attended audience, including members of Polio Nova Scotia.

Sept. 2008: Team entered in the ScotiaBank AIDS Walk; despite bad weather, there was a good turn-out to the event, and we all did yoga in place of walking! The Dalhousie team raised over \$800, and won the award for having the most team members!

Oct. 2008: A potluck was held for the members of our group, the Dalhousie Global Health Initiative (GHI). It was very well attended, including a few members from faculties other than medicine, and lots of new first year students. We did some great brainstorming for the rest of the year.

Nov. 2008: Textbook project underway with three librarians for Capital Health on board, and several pre-meds with cars willing to collect and inventory books. Unclear whether Books With Wings (officially endorsed by the CFMS) will be up and running before the new year, so we may have to wait until then to formally get a system started, or choose a new organization. Committee working on flyer for International Health Office, with interest in sending some books with students going on international electives.

Dec. 2008: AIDS Week was a huge success, raising over \$1000 from the bakesale at the Dal Student Union Building, ribbon-selling (for the Nova Scotia Gambia Association), and martini night at The Bitter End Martini Bar in downtown Halifax. We participated in an event with the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia at the main Dalhousie Campus, in cooperation with a number of different student societies, where we were able to have an information booth. The Bitter End would like to continue a formal relationship with the GHI for any other fundraiser we would be interested in having. All proceeds from martini night went to Mothers2Mothers in South Africa, an NGO committed to preventing mother to child transmission.

Jan. 2008: We will be participating in the societies' fair at the main campus, in order to expand our membership to include more students from other faculties.

A coffee house/photo auction is in its planning infancy. Two chairs have volunteered to see this project through: Emily Kay and Robin McNearney. Photographs will be arriving from the Mikinduri Children of Hope Foundation, which abide by our condition to promote responsible tourism: regarding photographs of individuals, permission must be given for the photograph to be taken.

Throughout the year so far, we have collaborated with the International Health Office on the monthly and weekly speakers series' they host.

New Initiative: MERCI (Medical Equipment Recovery Initiative)

- There are wide discrepancies in the delivery of health care between developed and developing countries. While developed countries do, of course, face challenges in the delivery of care, they pale in comparison to the challenges based by developing countries which face human resource challenges, severe monetary constraints, and lack of technical resources to help them meet the clinical demands. It might be possible to help some units in developing countries by shipping expired equipment to them.
 - Every unit in every hospital has to maintain a stock of supplies in order to meet clinical need. Most of these supplies have expiry dates. Because of necessity of never running short of a critical piece of equipment, an excess of stock is usually kept on hand. This inevitably means that some equipment reaches an expiry date without being used. The current practice is to dispose of expired equipment. This proposal is to develop an alternative to dumping expired equipment. We propose instead to ship it to developing countries who may use it for training or for clinical care.
 - The amount of material available is not clear. However the current health budget in NS is \$3,000, 000,000. Most of these funds are spent on human resources and operational expenses but clearly if even a small percentage of the funding could be tapped it has the possibility of making a significant change. Storage space obtained at the Victoria General hospital and a formal meeting with bio-ethicist Dr. Nuala Kenny to discuss issues surrounding the project and to get a pilot program running was achieved.
 - This is very similar to REMEDY, a program put in place by Yale and Duke .
 - We currently have three bins in place, and have the heads of
- MERCI will hopefully be officially launched in Feb. 2009.

ii. McMaster University - Chris Keefer & Molly Forrester

GUEST SPEAKERS:

1) Robert Huish – Going where no doctor has gone before: The role of Cuba's Latin American School of Medicine in meeting the needs of some of the world's most vulnerable populations – October 8, 2008

2) Quique Rodriguez – Addressing Health Care Needs with International Non-Governmental Organizations: Nuisance or Necessity? – October 22, 2008

- Quique Rodriguez will speak about growing up as an orphan in Honduras as well as his involvement with Sr. Maria Rosa and her organization Sociedad Amigos de los Ninos. He is now a paramedic, teacher and musician as well as the Co-Founder & Managing Director of Latin America operations for Global Medical Brigades, which brings in American doctors into Honduras to treat the poor in remote communities free of charge.

World AIDS Day – December 1, 2008:

- Partnered with McMaster MSF chapter for the “Angry Faces Campaign”; students participated in having their picture taken for campaign
- Presented brief video clips and statistics on HIV/AIDS before lecture

International Electives Night: From A student’s perspective – December 17, 2008:

- Upper years recounting their experiences in a variety of countries (e.g. Uganda, Scotland, India)
- An opportunity to ask all the questions about electives abroad that you’ve had at the back of your mind
- Sampling some fine international cuisine

Neglected Infectious Diseases Speaker Series:

January 12, 2009 – Dr. Christian Kraeker – Chagas Disease
November 26, 2008 – Dr. Andrea Hunter – Pediatric Malnutrition
October 23, 2008 – Dr. Tim O’Shea – Malaria
September 24, 2008 – Dr. Tim O’Shea – TB

PROJECTS “in the works”:

Public Health Harm Reduction Elective (VAN program)

- Opportunity for MacMed students to participate in a Hamilton Public Health Harm Reduction Program
- **HARP – Program linked with Hamilton SISO (Settlement and Integration Services Organization) – Assisting Newcomers to Canada**
 - Setting up matches with volunteers to help them navigate the health care system
 - A problem families encounter when they arrive in Canada and see a family doctor is that they feel a lack of communication with the physician. This can be due to time constraints, language barriers etc...
 - Medical students can be matched to a family to do sessions on history taking, general information etc...
 - They can accompany the family when going to the doctor or pharmacist
 - This can help the families get better acquainted and equipped to navigate the medical system
 - HARP project leaders will be continuing their meetings with in the new year
- **Refugee Health Speaker Series**
 - Movie & Speaker Night – end January/early February 2009

- **Pre-Departure Training for International Electives**

We are planning on MANDATORY pre-departure training sessions for all medical students (and eventually residents) to start in **May 2009** in anticipation of summer departures and then to continue a few times per year to catch all students going on electives (no matter what year of MD programme).

There is certainly a role for students to gather on separate occasions to discuss other topics that you may wish to cover in more detail, but we are planning to address:

- 1) Personal travel health issues (immunizations, malaria prophylaxis etc etc)
- 2) Travel safety issues
- 3) Cultural and language competencies
- 4) Ethical issues

(In addition to a post-return debriefing session to cover a number of issues, mostly at the students' suggestions)

- **World Causes Awareness Campaigns**

- This project involves educating our class on events and dates dedicated to important global causes (eg: World AIDS Day, International Women's Day, etc.)

NEW PROJECTS:

1) **Surgical R's (REMEDY) Project**

- The project involves the collection of sterile surgical supplies that would otherwise be disposed of for donation and use in other countries
- There is an organization in the US that prepares packages for this purpose
- People involved in the project would collect sterile surgical supplies that are about to be disposed and donate it abroad

2) **Pharmaceutical Awareness Initiative**

- Considering starting up a chapter of UAEM (Universal Alliance for Essential Medicines) – concerned with having socially just licensing agreements for university research

Affiliations with McMaster Medicine groups:

- Political advocacy Group
- CHIME (Community Health Initiative with McMaster Education)
- Aboriginal Health Interest Group
- International Surgery Awareness Week (ISAW) Organizing Committee

Affiliations with McMaster groups:

- MSF
- Amnesty International

iii. McGill University - Olivier Drouin and Jennifer Hulme

McGill moved this year from having only a senior GHL to having both a junior and a senior GHL, something that will greatly improve continuity and organizational memory. On the ground, medical students have contributed to the university-wide World AIDS Day campaign, among other things by running the Give A Day Campaign. McGill is also planning to organize a pre-departure training this year for medical students going abroad next summer, something that have been lacking in the past at McGill. The Global Health curriculum that was available to Med and Nursing students last year is back this year, welcoming now students from all health sciences disciplines offered at McGill. Communication is excellent with the Faculty, in particular with the Global Health Program which involve many students in its activities (students presentation, Global Health Conference, funding opportunities, etc).

Global Health Curriculum Working Group: In addition to the CFMS GA in September, the working group have met twice, via a conference call. The group has a good core of very committed individuals and progress is made at each occasion. Our focus for this year is to help

GHLs and dedicated individuals in faculties without a Global Health Curriculum to set one up. This include drafting a package with evidence of the importance of Global Health Education as well as more "hands-on" resources to convince faculties on the need to have such programs. These documents are being drafted at present and will hopefully be completed by the end of the academic year.

iv. Memorial University of Newfoundland - Kate Hadley

- Since Memorial has a relatively small student population the GHL/GHA (Kate Hadley) works closely with the International Health Action Group (IHAG) to plan and organize events throughout the med school and community
- At the meeting it was determined that World AIDS Day would be focus for the fall (December 1st).
- There was a good representation of students at GULU walk on Saturday October 25th , 2008
- We announced that we would be showing movies periodically throughout the year open to whoever was interested. Our first was shown on October 28th and we watched “Uganda Rising” – very well received and appropriately timed with GULU walk
- Early in November I received an email from Linda Ross who is the Media contact for the local branch of Oxfam Canada. She expressed interested in combining forces and getting a speaker for WAD.
- I met with Linda and Fran (with the AIDS Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador) and we decided to work on arranging Robert Fox as the speaker for WAD
- Also early in November it was announced that we would be doing a photo auction fundraiser in support of an HIV/AIDS charity during the week of December 1st- 5th in the main med school lobby. In the past the photo auction has been a great success, we encourage photo submissions from students and faculty (framed and basically any travel photo or photo that they feel someone else would appreciate). The photo auction runs “silent auction style” in the main lobby of the Medical School. Bidding is open to anyone and then when the auction closes we contact the winners to arrange pick up plans.
- WAD:
 - The week before WAD – “Give a Day” campaign brochures and letters were sent via internal mail to ~100 MUN MED Faculty. And posters were displayed throughout the Health Sciences Center (Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy schools)
 - Robert Fox- Executive Director of Oxfam Canada delivered: ‘HIV/AIDS: Power, Politics and Pandemic. The speech was very well received by all those who attended and generated a great discussion with lots of interesting questions. It was a huge honor to have such a well known speaker spend WAD here at Memorial’s Medical School. Exciting!
 - The Telegram (local newspaper) was at the event and there was a small write up before an after.

- The photo auction ran the week of December 1st to the 5th and although there were fewer photos than last year, we estimate that we made \$600+ for an HIV/AIDS charity that will be selected in the new year!
- There has been a lot of talk about implementing ‘Pre-Departure’ Training for international electives during all 4 years as well as summer volunteer positions etc... Interest for this training will be gauged by the Memorial CFMS annual survey of current students and then implementation accordingly will follow. I am anxious to see what students opinions are on this topic and excited about the educational component.
- So in terms of what I hope to do next/in the winter:
 - Investigate/plan options for ‘Pre-Departure’ Training within the school. Potentially hosting a few sessions of this with any students interested- especially geared towards those with international electives on the horizon (maybe given by someone who has been on an international elective?)
 - Check the binders in the UGME and update the lists of international electives (with the help of those who have submitted forms for the binder, and potentially Dr.Brundynski)
 - Organize the ‘Books with Wings’ send off of the 100s of books collected.

v. Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) - Julie Zalan & Amanda Moore

1. WORLD AIDS DAY: NOSM participated in this year’s GIVE A DAY TO WORLD AIDS CAMPAIGN to raise funds for the Stephen Lewis Foundation and Dignitas International. We distributed an email to NOSM students, residents, staff and faculty explaining the history and purpose of the campaign and asking for their support. We also distributed personalized letters to select faculty members regarding NOSM’s involvement in the campaign. Individuals were directed to the websites of the recipient organizations to donate and requested to select NOSM as their workplace/community campaign. We have not yet received the final amount raised by NOSM from the campaign organizers, but feel that this year laid a good foundation for our school’s continued involvement in the campaign in coming years.

NOSM students on the West campus also attended the World AIDS Day Breakfast hosted by AIDS Thunder Bay. This provided our GHJ Junior with the opportunity to introduce our Global Health Program to the Thunder Bay community and to network with other groups and organizations in the area that are active in global health. Several NOSM students on the East campus were also in attendance at the Access AIDS breakfast in Sudbury.

2. PRE-DEPARTURE TRAINING; NOSM’s Global Health Liaisons are currently working with several other students to develop comprehensive pre-departure training for students who will be traveling on exchange this coming summer. There has been discussion surrounding the need to put guidelines and recommendations into specific learning objectives for our students. The

following are recommendations that we are currently considering: Personal Health, Travel Safety, Cultural Competency, Language Competencies, Ethical Considerations.

3. JUXTAPOSITION MAGAZINE: Our GHJ Junior is also a member of the editorial team for a global health magazine affiliated with the University of Toronto's Centre for International Health called Juxtaposition. She has solicited articles from NOSM students with one submission for the coming spring issue and several for the following fall issue. The magazine is an excellent forum for medical students to engage with global health issues and to lend their voice to the global health movement. Amanda hopes to solicit an article drawing the parallels between northern communities in Canada and resource-constrained settings in the global South.

4. NETWORK TOWARDS UNITY FOR HEALTH: The Northern Ontario School of Medicine is currently a member of the Network Towards Unity for Health, which hosts an annual conference for global health practitioners and students. The Global Health Liaisons have been approached by NOSM faculty with a proposal for students to conduct research on NOSM's model of distributed learning and its impact on students' sense of social accountability. The students would then have an opportunity to present their findings at the Network's conference and discuss the value and appropriateness of distributed learning in other community contexts. We will be discussing this opportunity further in the weeks to come.

5. SPEAKER SERIES: A core part of NOSM's global health program in the past few years has been a speaker series for our students. We have not had any speakers yet this year but have been in contact with Dr. Michael Clarke from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and Dr. Samantha Nutt and Dr. Eric Hoskins from War Child Canada. This is a challenging component of our program given our campuses relative distance from Ontario's major urban centres; however, we have attempted to overcome these barriers using audio and video technology.

6. WORKING GROUPS: NOSM's GHJ Junior is currently involved in the Pharmaceutical and Advocacy working groups, while our GHJ Senior is a member of the groups for Advocacy and Pre-Departure Training. Julie will share the progress that we make on our pre-departure training with that respective group.

7. GLOBAL HEALTH ADVOCACY: Ms. Celia Sprague was selected as the Global Health Advocate for NOSM. She will be attending the Montreal World Health Organization Simulation and working to implement this year's CFMS-GHP advocacy campaign, which has a focus on Aboriginal Health. We are excited for this year's chosen theme and feel that it is particularly pertinent to the communities in which NOSM students work.

8. IHMP: Several students from NOSM applied for the International Health Mentorship Program with the Canadian Federation of Medical Students.

vi. Queen's University - Jessica Liauw & Jesleen Rana

Activities completed Sept-Dec 2008:

1. Health and Human Rights Conference 2008: Oct 3-5

This year's theme was: From Intentions to Actions: perspectives on global health. Over the course of the weekend we welcomed 27 speakers and approximately 150 delegates from various disciplines related to global health including political sciences, history, English, medicine, physiotherapy, and environmental studies. Our main keynotes included: Dr. Samantha Nutt, founder of WarChild Canada; Major Brent Beardsley, who served as General Dallaire's personal staff officer in UNAMIR before and during the genocide in Rwanda and is the co-author of General Dallaire's bestselling memoir *Shake Hands with the Devil: The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda*; and Colin Soskolne from the University of Alberta in the Department of Public Health Sciences, who is the senior editor of the recent publication: *Sustaining Life on Earth: Environmental and Human Health through Global Governance*; and Robert Lovelace, a spokesperson for Native rights, and currently a lecturer in Global Development Studies at Queen's University. Topics that were covered varied and included: Should we criminalize HIV transmission?; Healing as a strategy for resistance; Organ sourcing for transplants in China; Agriculture and Human Health: a focus on low-income countries; Pink Inc: Are global breast cancer campaigns good for women's health?; and Poverty and Food Security in Kingston. Our conference also included a photo contest and display, including 180 photos, and from which proceeds went to WarChild Canada as a donation of behalf of the conference.

2. Global Health Lecture Series:

This series ran every Wednesday at lunchtime and included eleven sessions. The aim of this series was to explore issues concerning specific regions of Africa and India (the regions currently most traveled to by Queen's medical students on overseas trips and electives) in terms of the cultural history, current day political situations, humanitarian projects, and personal experiences of students and faculty working in these regions. Our guest lecturers included experts from political sciences, health sciences, history, law, religious studies, and English and cultural studies. The series strove to illustrate the multiplicity of needs within underdeveloped countries and the importance of interventions from many disciplines, not just healthcare. The series was attended by 102 first, second and third year medical students. Students also receive recognition from our Dean's office for a certain amount of participation in certain global health activities.

3. Community Health Initiative:

The aim of this group is to promote global health within a local context. This is a new group and is currently in the process of developing formal directions and activities. An aim of this group is to eventually offer Queen's medical students the opportunity to do "observerships" with community health related organizations in the Kingston area. This semester, we organized a field trip to the Katarowki Friendship Center to learn about Indigenous health issues in the area, and organized a guest speaker, Dr. John Smythe, to speak about his work in Moose Factory, ON,

and his work with youth and addiction at the Street Health Center in Kingston. There is a lot of enthusiasm and movement in this group, and in the coming term we aim to include initiatives such as health education outreach to local high schools.

4. World AIDS Day – Dec 1st.

This year's World AIDS day campaign was based on a national event known as the "Give-A-Day Campaign". Nationally, this campaign calls on physicians to donate a day's worth of salary to AIDS research and initiatives focused primarily in Africa. As medical students, we participated in the Give-A-Day Campaign in 2 ways:

a) We sent letters and pamphlets explaining the campaign and how to contribute to all faculty members in the Department of Medicine at Queen's University.

b) We ran a 2-week campaign of AIDS education by displaying quotes illuminating the experience of living with HIV/AIDS, as well as some facts about the condition. We taped these quotes around the first, second and third year medical classrooms - on desks, walls and the backs of chairs. Over two weeks we rotated the quotes from classroom to classroom to keep students engaged with new facts and testimonies. On December 1st, which is official World AIDS day, we asked our colleagues to wear red in solidarity and to "give an hour of their time" to attend a lunchtime assembly and listen to two guest speakers: a local physician who works at our hospital's HIV clinic, as well as the director of the HIV/AIDS Kingston regional services, who also lives with HIV himself.

5. Global Health Curriculum

Queen's is in the process of revamping the curriculum according to recommendations made during our recent accreditation. Among the revisions will be the integration of curricula devoted to the physician's role as a Health Advocate, as described by the CANMEDS philosophy. We are currently in discussions with our administration as to how global health will be integrated into this segment of the new curriculum. We have two very supportive faculty members with a great interest in global health and who will be taking on a significant role in the development of this aspect of the new Queen's Medicine Curriculum. Working with the CFMS-GHP Global Health Curriculum Working Group, we hope to accumulate and consolidate all information surrounding global health curricula at all medical schools in the country, so that we will be able to make a strong case for significant course time to be devoted to global health topics.

Upcoming Events Jan-May 2009:

The aim for this coming semester is to further develop and enhance the existing global health program at Queen's by both continuing existing events along with introducing some new dimensions to the program.

1. HHRC 2009 planning

Through this coming semester, we will be organizing the Health and Human Rights Conference, which will take place in October 2009. After last semester's conference, we have gotten a lot of feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of the conference and we will be taking these into consideration when organizing the next event. Over this semester, we will be securing guest speakers, workshop leaders, and organizing a team to lead the organization and execution of the conference. The specific theme of the conference has not yet been determined.

2. Infectious disease elective course for September 2009

We aim to add a new dimension to Queen's Global Health program by adapting an program implemented in Yale medical school. This program will focus on specifically clinical aspects of global health issues, such as tropical infections diseases, and will involve weekly, or possibly bi-weekly case presentations. These presentations will be run by two medical students along with a medical resident, who will outline a particular illness, its method of contraction, prognosis, along with treatment. Within these case presentations, medical students will be encouraged to integrate issues such as cultural competency. Our aim for this program is to bridge gaps between the clinical side of global health issues along with the moral and consciousness aspects. Through this semester, we will be developing the vision, mission statement, program structure, and evaluation tools, along with developing connections with medical residents from various faculties.

3. New website

The development of a comprehensive website is a main focus for this coming year. We want to create a resource that will contain information for students that have a global health focus. Currently, there are several interest groups that focus on global health, such as Physicians for Global Survival, the Interdisciplinary Global Health Program, and Queen's GH. Through the website, we will bring the resources from all these groups together in encompassing location. On this website, there are also going to be several other features, including a directory and small biographies of local medical staff who are involved in global health initiatives, information pertaining to global health initiatives in different medical schools, and information on existing projects around the world.

4. Annual report

Starting in September 2009, we are going to publish an annual report to summarize the Global Health related events done over the course of the year. Within this report will be a compilation of articles, pictures, and press releases on the events such as the lecture series, World AIDS Day, the Health and Human Rights Conference, and the Community Health Initiatives. This report will also contain a directory and small biography of the various consenting faculty members who are involved in global health initiatives including what they do, where they do it, and how students can get involved. The aim for the development of this annual report is to create a sustainable resource that represents the initiatives at Queen's for both students and faculty.

5. Global Health Gala: Feb 27th

This annual gala, called “A Night for Tunaweza” is a fundraiser to raise money for the Pamoja Tunaweza Women’s Centre in Tanzania. This event is going to be a semi-formal where students and faculty come together for a night of social fun while getting information about the centre, as medical students from Queen’s University do summer electives there.

6. Health and Agriculture Week

In conjunction with CAPE, the Global Health group is organizing Health and Agriculture Week during the week of March 9th- 13th. The aim of this week is to raise the level of awareness amidst medical students on the connection between agriculture, food, the environment, and health and wellbeing along with the importance of healthy consumerism. Over this week, there will be movie screenings, lectures, panels, workshops, social events, along with an information fair with local clubs and organizations that focus on local agriculture initiatives.

vii. University of Alberta - Brianne Hudson and Catherine Arkell

Pre-departure Training - Last year, GHGs organized pre-departure training for the first time at the UofA. Training took the form of a series of five lunch hour sessions, and covered (i) travel health and safety, (ii) practical tips (visas and passports, travel insurance, etc.), (iii) language and cultural considerations, (iv) ethical considerations, and (v) issues surrounding sustainability. With the help of the Pre-departure Training Guidelines produced by the AFMC/CFMS-GHP last year, **the UofA has now made pre-departure training mandatory for medical students going on approved international electives.** GHGs still organize the sessions, but the Faculty of Medicine now co-sponsors the event, reviews content and plays a supervisory role. To accommodate students, this year we are hosting three opportunities for pre-departure training: a training afternoon in January, a training afternoon in March, as well as a series of four lunch hour sessions. The sessions cover four major topics: (i) practical tips, (ii) travel health and clinical safety, (iii) language and culture considerations, (iv) ethical considerations. Our sessions make use of lectures, activities, games, small and large group discussions to train students didactically, as well as experientially. We would be delighted to share our materials with other schools trying to build pre-departure training programs, and are equally interested to learn more about materials and tools other schools have used to develop their training programs.

Canadian Conference on International Health (CCIH) - GHGs attended the CCIH held Oct 26-28, 2008. In December, we delivered a presentation at the UofA’s Global Health Rounds about the conference.

International Photo Contest and Silent Auction - The UofA’s third annual International Health Photo Contest and Silent Auction will take place in February. Students submit photos taken during travels abroad, and photos are blown up, framed and auctioned off at the event. Prizes are also awarded to the top three photos. The event is advertised to students, faculty, as well as the general public, and this year will run concurrently with the UofA’s campus-wide International

Week. The event is sponsored by the UofA's Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and proceeds go to Keiskamma Trust, a Canadian NGO that does HIV/AIDS work in South Africa.

Rich Man Poor Man Dinner - We are currently preparing for the UofA's annual "Rich Man Poor Man" Dinner, a Faculty-run fundraiser for the UofA's Global Health Program. We sit on the organizing committee and are responsible for entertainment, soliciting for centrepieces, as well as emceeing the event.

viii. University of British Columbia - Andrea Lo & Tonia Timperley

Activities Carried Out to Date:

1) Created a GHJL Jr. position and elected a GHJL Jr.

2) Implemented Clips Campaign

- Some of the clips from Kelly as well as additional researched clips were shown to the 1st- and 2nd- year classes once a week immediately after morning lectures. Attendance was variable but on the whole quite good.

3) Obstetric Fistula Fundraiser

- After playing the clip "A Walk to Beautiful" to the 2nd year class, there was a strong interest from the class do something about the important issue of obstetric fistulas. We held a fundraiser within the class (a simple lottery for a Harrison's Internal Medicine Textbook) and raised \$2300 in two days. Every dollar was matched by one of our professors to a total of \$4600, which was donated to the UNFPA Campaign To End Fistula and World Vision Safe Motherhood in Ethiopia Fund.

4) Organized World AIDS Day Event

- Students from the medical and dental classes of 2012 participated in a class photo in the formation of the red ribbon (please find below). This picture was subsequently used as part of a feature article in the UBC campus wide newspaper, the Ubysey, to raise awareness about World AIDS day. Yet another article was written by two first year students and was published alongside the picture in the Appendix, the UBC medical students newspaper. Funding was granted from both the Division of International Health and the Division of Inner City Medicine to print and distribute media related to World AIDS Day to students in all four years.
- Students from both first and second year classes participated in World AIDS day photography sessions, which consisted of: (1) pictures of students and a brief recount of their experiences with HIV/AIDS prior to entering medicine (local and international experience) 2) a Powerpoint presentation delivered to the class on December 1st

followed by a speaker event and 3) a joint exhibit with the Faculty of Graduate Studies on AIDS Awareness. An example below (detail of individual experience excluded).

- In addition, the second years also participated in the red ribbon sales. "Give a Day" Campaign also garnered contribution from the UBC faculty and physicians.

5) Started planning for a UBC Global Health Website in conjunction with the UBC Department of International Health

- We are creating an extensive website for UBC students with a focus on global health related topics. This website will include announcements, conference opportunities, pre-departure training/ global health education guidelines, and an international electives database. The database will allow students who are considering a comprehensive international elective (both accredited and non-accredited) to search for electives that previous students/faculty have completed or suggest by area of interest and geographical region. This website will serve as a central global health resource for the UBC community that provides users with access to a broad scope of information and opportunities.

Plans for the rest of the year:

1) Continuation with Global Health Website

- This will include planning, design, data collection for the international electives database, etc.

2) Continuation of Clips Campaign

3) Possible Speaker/Fundraiser Event

- Topic yet to be determined

xi. University of Calgary - Nadia Shehata & Michelle Tubman

There have been many global health activities on the go at the University of Calgary, and more are planned for the future. The GHGs compile weekly "Global Health Updates" to send out to all medical students at UCalgary. These emails include opportunities and funding for international electives, CFMS updates, campus and community global and public health events, conferences, occasional links to pertinent news stories, and "fun facts" about global health. In addition to this, we ensure that global health is represented at various extra-curricular events, where appropriate. As an example, UCalgary recently developed an R3 year in Global Health. We have a yearly "R3 Night" where students get to listen to talks from residents in various R3 programs. The GHGs ensured that a resident from the Global Health program was invited to speak at this event.

Each year, the GHGs collect photographs from students who completed overseas electives and produce a calendar that contains the dates of all important class events, exams, holidays, etc. This year, calendars were sold to raise money for Kiva, an organization that provides microfinancing to entrepreneurs in the developing world. We also held an International Electives Night, where students set up poster presentations and talked about their experiences overseas. This event included a silent auction, where staff and students bid on photos and items brought back from electives. All proceeds from the auction went to Kiva as well.

UCalgary participated in World AIDS Day, and the GHGs coordinated the efforts of several student groups to promote these events. MedSPACE (a GLBT interest group), the Global and Public Health Interest Group (GPHIG) and Project TINMAN joined efforts to raise money for Dignitas International and to raise awareness of local and global HIV/AIDS issues. Events included a pub night, selling T-shirts, giving away red ribbons and popcorn for a donation, and a movie night where "3 Needles" was shown. We also posted HIV/AIDS facts in high-traffic areas on campus, and staff were encouraged to donate to the Give-A-Day Campaign.

We also work hard to promote CFMS activities and provide support to students interested in pursuing these activities. UCalgary students were encouraged to apply for the Global Health Mentorship program, and were also encouraged to explore the SCOPE/SCORE opportunities. These opportunities are advertised by email, in-class presentations, and presentations to interested students. We also chose a new Global Health Advocate and have supported her in starting a new faculty-supported Aboriginal Health Interest Group.

Our plans for the future include continuing the on-going activities described above, as well as continuing past traditions and events. We are planning a few events over the coming months, including a workshop for students interested in working overseas. We are inviting speakers from various medical relief, humanitarian and development agencies to join us in this workshop.

x. University of Manitoba - Kristen Creek & Aleesha Gillette

ACTIVITIES COMPLETED THIS YEAR:

- Global Health Interest Group formed and active with several core members
- Speaker Series: 3 lunch time sessions so far
- World Diabetes Day carb-counting luncheon and speaker, raising money for Life for a Child
- World AIDS Day photo auction raising awareness as well as money for Nine Circles Community Health Centre

-involved in Immigrant and Refugee Health Interest Group which hosts speakers, movie nights, and other events

-involved in student run French Club which allows students to develop conversational and medical French skills in lunch hour meetings

PLANS FOR UPCOMING AND ONGOING PROJECTS:

-February 14 2009: some sort of Women's/Sexual Health related event

-March 2009: Global Health Awareness Week (in coordination with Universities Allied for Essential Medicine)

-continue speaker series

-put together binder with information and resources about global health experiences and opportunities

-hopefully institute voluntary, student run pre-departure training

-continue to advocate for global health inclusion in upcoming accreditation/curriculum reform process

-new Global Health/Public Policy Centre apparently to be opened soon at University of Manitoba – will advocate for student involvement

xi. University of Ottawa - Samantha Green & Becky Wallace

Global Health Awareness Day, September 30th

11 am – 2pm

MSF displayed a nutritional tent used in its international humanitarian missions. Several Ottawa-based international health groups also had information displays.

5pm – 7 pm

Panel discussion featuring some of Ottawa's most prominent healthcare and development professionals working in the field of healthcare and development. Speakers included Dr. Amir Attaran, *Canada Research Chair in Law, Population Health and Global Development Policy and frequent CMAJ contributor; *Dr. Anne McCarthy, Professor of Medicine in the University of Ottawa's Department of

Infectious Disease and national coordinator of the Canada Malaria Network; and Dr. David Ponka, family physician and MSF volunteer.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, October 17th, 2008

Dr. Jeffrey Turnbull, a 2007 recipient of the Order of Canada and professor at the University of Ottawa Faculty of Medicine, spoke on healthcare for the homeless. Dr. Turnbull is the pioneering force behind medical services for the homeless that include a palliative hospice, a special care unit and a management of alcohol program, also known as a "wet shelter". In addition, he is actively involved in projects to improve health care and human rights in Africa.

Ted Schrecker, Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Community Medicine and Principal Scientist at the Institute of Population Health, described the glaring health disparities between rich and poor in the global frame of reference, with special reference to: the influence of transnational economic integration (globalization); the ethical arguments for caring about the health of those outside our borders, as he outlined them recently in the Bulletin of the World Health Organization; and the recently released report of the World Health Organization's Commission on Social Determinants of Health.

Peace Through Health, October 28, 2008

Dr. Neil Arya spoke about the concept and practice of peace through health. War affects human health through the direct violence of bombs and bullets, the disruption of economic and social systems by which people use to address their health needs, the famine and epidemics that follow such disruptions, and the diversion of economic resources to military ends rather than health needs. In recent years war has been framed as a public health problem, highlighting the role of health workers in preventing and mitigating destructiveness.

Dr. Arya is a family physician in Waterloo, Ontario, and an adjunct professor at the University of Waterloo, McMaster University, and the University of Western Ontario in family medicine, health studies, gerontology, and environment and resource studies. Dr. Arya has served as President of Physicians for Global Survival, and Vice President for North America International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

Student University International Health conference, October 26th, 2008

Participants and presenters

World AIDS Week

Throughout the week we showed video clips dealing with different aspects of HIV/AIDS to the first and second year classes.

Give A Day to World AIDS Day with Dr. Jane Philpott

"Give A Day to World AIDS" On Monday, November 24th, 5pm to 7pm, MIHIG and the Environmental & Public Health Advocacy Group (formerly sPGS) are excited to host Dr. Jane Philpott at the University of Ottawa. After spending nearly a decade working in West Africa, treating patients with HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, Dr. Philpott started the "Give a Day to World AIDS" campaign in 2004. Give a Day to World AIDS proposes that we recognize World AIDS Day, December 1st each year, by giving one day's income to an organization that will use the money well in the fight against AIDS.

Dr. Philpott first challenged doctors at Markham Stouffville Hospital in 2004. In response to her challenge, doctors at this hospital donated their day's income on World AIDS Day to the Stephen Lewis Foundation. More than \$33,000 was raised. Word quickly spread in the medical community and by 2005 over eight hospitals in nearby communities were involved in Give a Day. In 2005 almost \$100,000 was raised from eight hospitals with donations going to the Stephen Lewis Foundation and Dignitas International <http://www.giveaday.ca/dollars_work.php>. In the spring of 2006 a group of lawyers decided to bring the Give a Day campaign to the legal community. Three Toronto based firms provided sponsorship support enabling materials to be printed up and distributed. This support meant the campaign spread quickly from coast to coast. In 2006, over one thousand Canadians participated in Give a Day and raised over \$500,000. The momentum has not slowed since. Learn more about the campaign at <http://www.giveaday.ca/>

Challenges in the HIV/TB co-epidemic

Internal Medicine Interest Group, EPHAG, MIHIG & CIHAD are pleased to host Dr. Theresa Liu, an Infectious Disease Fellow at The Ottawa Hospital on Wednesday, November 26th at 5:30 p.m. in Amph. A. Dr. Liu will be talking about the burden of disease in the TB/HIV co-epidemic focusing on sub-Saharan Africa, to briefly review the clinical presentation and diagnosis of TB in people with HIV, and discuss the challenges of treating HIV/TB co-infected patients.

Fundraiser for Ottawa's Bruce House and Dignitas International

When: Saturday, November 29th, starting at 8 pm

Where: Café Nostalgica (603 Cumberland St. on main campus)

What: Listen to great live music and meet people from all over Ottawa with an interest in international health and raising awareness of HIV/AIDS, locally & internationally. Shake, shimmy, and raise funds for a good cause.

Bruce House: <http://www.brucehouse.org/>

Dignitas International: <http://www.dignitasinternational.org/>

Climate Change & Health: Health Challenges Around the World, December 5th, 2008

Join us Friday, December 5th for a panel discussion with leading experts on how climate change will impact health in the upcoming years, from both a Canadian and an international perspective. From infectious diseases to environmental refugees to the impacts on food production, join us in a discussion about the challenges and possible solutions in this area.

Dr. David Fisman, MD, MPH, FRCP(C): How Climate Change will Affect Infectious Diseases in Canada: Challenges to Healthcare and Public Health

Dr. Raywat Deonandan, Epidemiologist, Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences: Climate Change in a Global Health Context: The Likely Effects on Population Health

Representative from the Canadian Association of Nurses, to be determined

Food Drive for Refugee House & the Ottawa Food Bank

Reception House is the first stop for most refugees that arrive in Ottawa. The staff at Reception House is always in need of toiletries to give to families when they first arrive. There are never enough supplies to go around, so if you are planning a trip to the drug store or have any extras at home that you would be willing to donate, we would really appreciate your help in making this a success.

Reception House needs the following: toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant,

soap, lotions, shaving cream, razors, feminine hygiene products, etc.

The Ottawa Food Bank provides emergency food assistance to 40,000 people per month and approximately 40% of those receiving help are children. They need any non-perishable food items such as cereal, pasta, peanut butter, snacks, juice, legumes, and baby formula.

A collection box will be located in each of the PBL rooms from Nov. 28th to Dec. 8th. The PBL group who collects the most will win a pizza party... so let the collecting begin!

Additional Plans for the Year:

- Screening of the movie Triage on the medical campus (you can contact Jane Gutteridge to get a copy of the film to screen j.gutteridge@nfb.ca)
- Robert Hush, Latin American School of Medicine
- Pre-departure training

xii. University of Saskatchewan - Zia Poonja & Bev Wudel

This semester we worked on the following:

- Health Everywhere our global health club had many new members, our membership is now around 36.

We met 2-3 times each month this semester and did the following:

- Organize an AIDS week Bake Sale
- Distributed red ribbons to raise money for the Steven Louis Foundation and AIDS Saskatoon.
- This year we raised \$500 to each institution during AIDS week.
- We watched some videos as a group relating to tolerance and diversity by Karen Armstrong
- We had a speaker session where Sultan Sadat, an afghan refugee came to speak to us about his time in Afghanistan and his viewpoint on the healthcare systems in his home country and the refugee camps that he was living in.
- As a group Health Everywhere was able to send two members to the International Health Conference in Ottawa. They will be reporting about their experiences in the new year.
- We began some talks on creating an advocacy group around Anti-nuclear proliferation however this has not been revisited.
- We are about to start planning for our annual dinner banquet fundraiser for a local inner city charity food program.

xiii. University of Toronto - Rob Ciccarelli & Amitha Kalaichandran

1. World AIDS Day / Give-a-Day

“Give an Hour for AIDS”

Faculty of Medicine World AIDS Day 2008 Event

Students from the Faculty of Medicine planned an event with a “Give a Day” theme that included music, speakers, and HIV/AIDS advocacy. From 12pm to 1pm on December 1st in the lobby of the Medical Sciences Building, we experienced firsthand the plight of HIV/AIDS from three different perspectives. First Dr. Kelly McDonald shared her experience with HIV/AIDS from the front-lines. She described her role as a researcher and as an advocate for HIV/AIDS issues, and recounted the first time she heard about the disease and its manifestations. She went on to describe the plight in sub-Saharan Africa and reflected on the time she spent there. Then, medical student, Ali Okhowat shared an emotional story about his personal experience working with an HIV/AIDS NGO. He uplifted and inspired medical students to “finish their own story” about their role in addressing the issue of HIV/AIDS. Lastly, we heard about the firsthand experience with HIV/AIDS from a woman who contracted the virus during the Rwandan genocide. She passionately discussed her struggle with stigma, and her hope to raise awareness about the harm of discrimination and judgment about people living with HIV/AIDS in Canada. The band, Fineprint, shared a few songs to uplift and inspire us. In addition, CANFAR, a research and advocacy organization, was present to answer students questions. CANFAR also conducted a red ribbon campaign. We provided a booth filled with information regarding how students can be involved with HIV/AIDS awareness and advocacy on campus and in the community. Lastly, through a bakesale, we raised \$200 for the Give a Day Campaign.

2. Green Meds Initiative

In 2008, the Faculty of Medicine's Medical Society (MedSoc) had a major focus on reforming its practices to become a more environmentally aware organization. MedSoc is the organization that represents students in the undergraduate medical program at the University of Toronto. This year, under the VP Global Health Liaison Portfolio, MedSoc has instituted the Green Meds Initiative, one of the first of its kind at a Canadian medical school. This policy outlines a set of environmentally conscious requirements and recommendations that must be adhered to by all clubs in order to receive funding.

In brief, the three major reforms are:

- No coffee cups at events
- No bottled water at events
- No Styrofoam plates, cups, etc at events

These recommendations were actualized during the 2008 Orientation Week for new medical students. Bottled water was eliminated throughout the week and biodegradable plates, cups and utensils were provided for all events. In addition, new students received:

- Stainless steel coffee mugs and water bottles
- Cloth bags from the Book Store
- USB key with O-Week documents on (instead of paper copies)

Other MedSoc Programs and Eco-conscious Initiatives include:

- Cell phone recycling program
- Books with Wings: Donates old textbooks to medical schools in Afghanistan
- Environment & Health Portfolio: Provides students the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the field of environment and health by connecting students with professional organizations and environment leaders

The Medical Society is taking a lead role in environmental reform within the Undergraduate Medicine Program at the University of Toronto and across Canada. In collaboration with Canadian Federation of Medical Students, we are working to develop a policy statement that describes the environment as a global health issue. This document will establish the evidence-based link between the environment and health and it will outline the relevance of environmental health to medical students. It is hoped that this document will be used as a tool that can be utilized in creating and promoting environmental policy change at the various medical schools.

Plans for the Rest of the Year

- Co-ordinate student-led Pre-Departure Training Program
- Roundtable Discussion
- Global Health Environment Symposium

xiv. University of Western Ontario - Mike Slatnik & Dax Biondi

GET Ready! for exciting Global Health News!

GET Ready! Whether you are going abroad this summer/fall or just want to learn more about global health, the GET Ready! conference is for you! If you are traveling on an International Federation of Medical Student's Association (IFMSA) exchange or you are applying for funding from the Global Health Funding Committee, then the conference training is a pre-requisite for your participation. The conference kicks off with a Global Health Speaker Series and GET Ready! joint presentation of Raj Patel, who will address the world systems that propel the spread of poverty, happening on Thursday February 26th at the Spencer Engineering Building, Room 1059. Then, Friday night through to Saturday afternoon, with the help of experts from Schulich and beyond, we'll navigate the challenges of cultural sensitivity, personal and patient safety and the ethical dilemmas of trying to help in the developing world. For information, please contact me, Dax Biondi - dbiondi2@meds.uwo.ca

HFC 2009. The Hungry for Change Gala is only 3 months away! Check out our new website: www.schulich.uwo.ca/hfc Tickets will be on sale soon and we are raising money, once again for Huruma Children's Home in Kenya and for our Hippocratic Council's Global Health Funding Committee. Together, we can help out an orphanage of needy children as well as create opportunities for our peers to experience global health. Feel free to contact me, Dax Biondi - dbiondi2@meds.uwo.ca for information!

Global Health Funding Committee. Funding you do not want to miss out on! Scholarships are brought to you by your Hippocratic counsel and are intended for students planning to travel to resource poor areas in Canada and beyond to learn and serve for a summer elective. The funding committee is supported by revenue from the Hungry for Change Gala and as well as well wishers including our dean, Dr. Herbert. Applications for the funding be downloaded from <http://www.uwomed.com/funding/GHFC.php> and are due March 30, 2009. For information, please contact Michael Slatnik - mflatnik@gmail.com.

IFMSA Exchanges. Prior to the holidays, the selection process for the outgoing international exchanges for 2009 was completed. There was great interest in the program and many students applied. As such, the Schulich School of Medicine will be sending 12 students on clinical and research exchanges to medical schools in Europe, South America, Africa and Asia! As part of our agreement with other medical school student organizations, we will also be hosting three students from Austria, Egypt and Ecuador in the upcoming months. ~ Thanks to Natasha Aleksova for this contribution!

Global Health Mentorship Program. The Global Health Mentorship Project is now in full swing across the country. With all mentors and mentees matched, students and development professionals are engaging in introductory conversations about a variety of topics in global health. In the new year, pairs will receive educational material to further develop their relationships and discussions. Some mentorship pairs will also begin to work together through volunteering experiences. If you are interested in learning more about the project, and/or gaining access to the educational materials, please visit our website at <http://ghmp.cfms.org>, or email Nitasha at mentorship@cfms.org. ~ Thanks to Nitasha Puri for this contribution!

TRAUMA Project. This program gives Schulich medical students the opportunity to assist new Canadian immigrants right here in London. Coordinated through the Cross Cultural Learning Centre, students take detailed histories and clinical exams; thus far, 3 pairs of medical students have spent time working with refugees and the feedback from both the centre and the students has been overwhelmingly positive. Weekly clinics will resume as soon as classes begin again. As the project continues to develop, capacity for student participation will continue to expand; students will have the opportunity to participate in one of two weekly clinics. ~ Thanks to Heather Osborn for this contribution!

Congratulations to Michael Slatnik and Kirsten Jewell! Michael has been elected as the National Officer of Global Health Education. This is a Canadian Federation of Medical Students position and we should be proud to have such a leader hailing from Schulich! On the local front, Kirsten Jewell has been selected as Schulich's Global Health Advocate and she will work with advocates from across the country on the issue of aboriginal health this semester.

MedLink Update. MedLINK 2008-09 is now underway with 76 participants signed up from the National University of Rwanda (NUR) and UWO. Although students at NUR come back from summer holidays shortly, some partnerships are already off to a great start with the pairs exchanging emails and pictures. A new photo website has been created with pictures of the UWO participants for the NUR students to look at and we're working on getting photos from them to upload as well. Look out for the MedLINK bulletin board going up in the 2011 classroom in the new year that will be full of related news you can talk about with your partner. 2012s can catch that info on a slide during their breaks.

Dominicana March 2009. A remarkable number of 2011's will be traveling to the Dominican Republic over reading week. I would like to propose that we select a charity in the Dominican and make a contribution to them as part of our trip! Perhaps a movie night fundraiser? If you have any fundraising ideas or worthy charities in mind, please let me know. I'd welcome the help of anyone who wants to get involved too!

On behalf of your GHL Sr., Michael Slatnik and myself, Dax Biondi (GHL Jr.), thank you for reading!