



APRU
Global Health

Association of Pacific Rim Universities Program Report 2020



Global Health

APRU Global Health Program Major Accomplishments 2019

OVERVIEW

The APRU Global Health Program aims to expand existing collaborative research efforts among Pacific Rim universities to address regional and global health issues. Through the Program, APRU members leverage their leading-edge research, education/training programs and evidence-based health interventions to address today’s most pressing challenges, such as urbanization, rising rates of non-communicable diseases, and increasingly older populations. Since its launch in 2007-08, the program has covered a significant range of topics including emerging public health threats, migration, mental health and nutrition. The program has expanded its scope to include new modalities of global health education, research and applied activities. The Program is hosted by the Institute on Inequalities in Global Health, University of Southern California and the Program Director is Dr. Mellissa Withers.

ADVISORY GROUP

Our Advisory Group is made up of 12 members that will serve through the end of 2020.



RESEARCH

2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2019 conference, which was going to be hosted by the University of Hong Kong, was unfortunately postponed until 2021 due to security issues in Hong Kong. The theme was Urban Health. The 2020 conference will be hosted by Fudan University in October and the theme is Universal Healthcare Across the Lifecourse.

RESEARCH WORKING GROUPS

Currently, we have five research working groups that are chaired or co-chaired by members of our program. The objectives of these groups include the creation of collaborations, sharing of information, writing publishable papers, and the development of research projects. Each group has about 40-50 members and a chair or co-chair from APRU member universities. Each group decides on its priorities and what it will produce each year. Some groups are more active than others but the plan for 2020 is to encourage each group to have a product, such as a publication, at the end of each year. The groups often form smaller groups of 6-8 people to work on a specific project. The groups were formed around key issues of interest to members, including:

- **Global Health Education and Technology** (Chair is Shubha Kumar, University of Southern California)
- **Non-Communicable Diseases** (Co-chairs are KL Chien, National Taiwan University, and Martin Wong, Chinese University of Hong Kong)
- **Environmental Health** (Co-chairs are Budi Haryonto, University of Indonesia, and Ying Zhang, University of Sydney)
- **Bioethics** (Chair is Leander Marquez, University of the Philippines,)
- **Mental Health** (Chair is Maosheng Ran, University of Hong Kong)
- **Migrants** (Chair is Brian Hall, University of Macau)

PUBLICATIONS-PUBLISHED OR IN PRESS

In the last year the APRU Global Health Program had five articles published that resulted directly from our work.

- Withers, M, Wipfli, H, Schenker, MB, Jahingir, T, Herbosa, T, and Tigno, JV. The Manila Declaration on Migration and Health by the Association of Pacific Rim Universities.

Globalization and Health, e-published ahead of print. **This policy statement was developed collaboratively at a special half-day session on migration that was held as part of the 2017 annual conference in Manila. Authors come from USC, UC Davis and the University of the Philippines. Aligning with our goal of education and training for students, one of the co-authors is a undergraduate student. And in the acknowledgements we also mentioned all of the participants who helped to develop and who endorsed this statement at the conference.**

- Pimentel Simbulan, N, Estacio, Jr., L, Dioquino-Maligaso, C, Herbosa, T, and Withers, M. The Manila Declaration on the Drug Problem in the Philippines. *Annals of Global Health*, 5;85(1), 2019. **This policy statement was developed as part of a panel on the drug problems in the Philippines that was held as part of the 2017 annual conference in Manila. Authors come from USC and the University of the Philippines.**
- Wipfli, H, Bhuiyan, MR, Qin, X, Guiyllana, J, Palaganas, E, Jimba, M, Saito, J, Ernstrom, K, Raman, R, and Withers, M. Tobacco Use and E-cigarette Regulation: Perspectives of University Students in the Asia-Pacific. *Addictive Behaviors*. Accepted Jan 2019. **This paper outlines the results of our student survey on e-cigarettes. The survey was developed and implemented by members of the Working Group on E-Cigarettes. The survey was administered online to students at APRU members and more than 2,000 participated. Authors are from USC, Peking University, FEFU, University of the Philippines, and University of Tokyo.**
- Withers, M, Cousineau, M, Wipfli, H, Rampal, S, and Naqiah Hairi, N. The Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Planetary Health. *Malaysian Academy of Science*. Accepted Dec 2019. **This policy statement was developed as part of a small roundtable session at the 2018 annual conference in Kuala Lumpur. Authors are from USC and University of Malaya.**
- Withers, M, Nguyen, A, and McCool, J. University Students' Perspectives on Tobacco Control in the Asia-Pacific: A content analysis of a case competition. *Nicotine and Tobacco*

Research. Accepted Feb 2020. **This paper is a content analysis of the videos submitted for the 2016 APRU GH Case Competition on tobacco control. The videos outlined student proposals on how to better use universities as a platform for tobacco control efforts in the Pacific Rim region. Authors are from USC and University of Auckland. One of the authors is a medical student.**

PUBLICATIONS-UNDER REVIEW

Xu, W, Yang, Y, Huang, J, Wu, W, Luu, NH, Foong-Ming M, Songsong T, Jiongxing, F, Tao Ying, BA; Withers, M, Dang, TH, Dandan M, Sikun C, and Wong, MCS. Performance of Initial Screening Tests for Colorectal Cancer and Subsequent Adherence to Colonoscopy: An Ecological Study. *The Lancet Public Health*. **This is a result of the joint work of the Working Group on Non-Communicable Diseases. Some of the authors are medical students.**

Ran, M, Hall, BJ, Su, TT, Prawira, B, Breth-Petersen, M. Stigma of mental illness and cultural factors in Pacific Rim region: A systematic review. *Asian Journal of Psychiatry*. **This is a result of a one-year collaboration of the Working Group on Mental Health. One of the authors is an undergraduate student.**

PUBLICATIONS-IN PREPARATION

We are finalizing a paper on the results of the 2018 APRU GH Case Competition, which challenged students to develop an intervention to address stigma associated with mental health care among university students. Using content analysis, we are analyzing the proposed intervention strategies outlined in the 15 videos submitted from students in nine economies. These include how to better screen and counsel students, as well as ideas for effective educational campaigns. Authors are from USC and Thammasat University. Two of the authors are students-one undergraduate and one PhD.

COMMENT ON BEHALF OF APRU GLOBAL HEALTH PUBLISHED IN JGHS

Dr Withers published a comment on behalf of the Program in the new journal *Journal of Global Health Science*. The editor-in-chief is a member of the APRU GHP Advisory Group. A snippet is: "Confronting the health challenges of our modern world requires challenging conventional wisdom

with new ideas that reflect the changing global landscape. The launch of the Journal of Global Health Science (JGHS) is an important step in advancing global health by creating a platform to share and debate scholarly research from around the world. The dissemination of research is critical to building an evidence-base, sharing lessons learned, and maximizing efficiency and costs by avoiding duplicative efforts. I am pleased to see that the focus of the JGHS is under-served populations in low- and middle-income economies and marginalized groups in high-income economies. The JGHS will expand the opportunity to share high quality scientific work through an open-access format.” For more details, visit: <https://e-jghs.org/DOIx.php?id=10.35500/jghs.2019.1.e37>

2019 INAUGURAL HEALTHY WOMEN/HEALTHY ECONOMIES RESEARCH PRIZE

Since 2014 the APEC “Healthy Women, Healthy Economies” (HWHE) initiative has been working to improve women’s health so women can join, thrive, and rise in the workforce. Dr Withers has been part of this initiative since 2017, as developing more partnerships between APRU and APEC is one of the priorities of the APRU network. This new annual prize recognized research that enables policy makers, business leaders, and others to identify and implement measures to improve women’s health in APEC economies so women can join and rise in the workforce. Dr Withers served as a judge for this competition. This was also featured in our quarterly newsletter and more than one-half of the submissions came from researchers at APRU member institutions The winner of the prize received US\$20,000, while the two runners-up won USD \$5,000 each. The winner came from the Philippines while the runners-up came from Chile and Fudan University. The winners presented their research in Chile, host of the 2019 APEC meetings. For more information, visit <https://www.apec.org/healthywomen>

GUEST EDITORS OF A SPECIAL EDITION ON MIGRATION FOR THE *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND PUBLIC HEALTH*

The APRU GHP’s members will collaborate on editing a special edition on migration. Dr Withers will serve as a lead guest editor and the assistant guest editors are Brian Hall (University of Macau, and chair of the APRU GH Working Group on Migrants), Tharani Loganathan (University of Malaya), and Hsin-Chieh Chang (Fudan University). Migrants encompass a broad range of vulnerable populations, including migrant workers, human trafficking victims, refugees, migrant children, internally displaced persons, and many more. Migration is considered an important social

determinant of health. One important advantage of editing this special edition is that we can offer three publication fee waivers to APRU GHP members in low- and middle-income economies, helping them to disseminate their work more widely. The deadline for manuscripts is 30 November 2020, with anticipated publication in late 2021. Depending upon the number and quality of submissions, we may be able to narrow the edition's focus to the Pacific Rim region. We have been promoting this through APRU channels, including the APRU website, the APRU GH website, and our quarterly newsletter.

PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES

Dr Withers represented the APRU GHP at several conferences in 2019. These were opportunities to not only disseminate the results of our collaborative research but also to introduce people outside of the network to APRU and its objectives:

- Withers, M. and Wipfli, H. (2019). E-cigarette use and support for regulation among university students in the Asia-Pacific. Poster presentation at the annual conference of the Asia-Pacific Consortium for Public Health, Bangkok, Thailand.
- McCool, J, Nguyen, B, and Withers, M. (2019). University Students' Perspectives on Tobacco Control in the Asia-Pacific: A content analysis of a case competition. Poster presentation at the Centennial Congress of the Medical Women's International Association by the American Medical Women's Association, New York City, NY.
- Withers, M, and Stolfuz, N. (2019). Assessing Workplace Wellness Programs at Universities in the Asia-Pacific. Poster presentation at the annual conference of the Consortium of Universities for Global Health, Chicago, IL.

She attended the annual Senior International Leaders conference of APRU in Vancouver in Sept 2019, where she made a presentation on the work of the APRU GHP, specifically focused on student engagement, which was the theme of the conference.

She also went to Australia in March 2020 where she met with leaders at UNSW, Australia, University of Sydney, and University of Melbourne to share with them the details about the Program and strategized about how to engage more.

WORKPLACE WELLNESS SURVEY

In 2019, we released our report of the APRU Global Health Workplace Wellness Survey. In 2018, we sent all APRU member universities a comprehensive, online 96-question assessment on workplace wellness policies and programs, which 29 APRU members completed. The final report highlighted several innovative and successful programs, as well as key findings and recommendations for future steps. Universities can play a crucial role in promoting employee health and well-being. The results of this report have been presented by Dr Withers at two APEC conferences (2017 and 2018), as well as at the 2019 Consortium of Universities for Global Health conference in Chicago, IL. We hope to conduct a “Part B” of this project—possibly a conference to share best practices or another survey focused on employees.



To read the APRU feature or the report, please visit: <https://apru.org/upgrade-needed-for-universities-workplace-wellness-programs-new-apru-survey-shows/>

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

STUDENT POSTER CONTEST

The 2019 Student Poster Contest had a *record* 54 entries from 24 universities in 12 economies (Australia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Macao, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, and the US). Three winners in each category were chosen. The first place winners each received a cash prize of US\$100.

UNDERGRADUATE POSTER WINNERS:

- **Lei Huang, The University of Macau.** “Fast food restaurant density and weight status: A spatial analysis among Filipina migrant workers in Macao (SAR), People’s Republic of China.”
- **Cynthia Sin Nga Lam, The University of Hong Kong.** “How are students combating non-communicable diseases?: A review of intervention design in NCD projects initiated by medical students.”

- **Ida Ayu Gede Jyotidiwy and Nur Rachmat Satria, University of Indonesia.** “Musculoskeletal & eyes symptoms due to posture while using mobile phone among elderly and young user.”
- **Wonjun Jang, Sangeun Je, Ahra Cho, and Do Yun Kim, Postech.** “Treatment system for severe dementia patients using multi-sensory stimulation.”

GRADUATE POSTER WINNERS:

- **Chia-pei Lin, National Taiwan University.** “The association between religion and self-rated health: A case of Taiwan.”
- **Gina L. Leipertz, The University of Sydney.** “Factors associated with pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) awareness and interest among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Shanghai, China who use geosocial networking (GSN) applications.”
- **Malia E Skjefte, Harvard University.** “The biological factors affecting the performance of HRP2-based malaria rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs)”

To see all of the posters, please visit:

[undergraduate submissions](#)

[postgraduate submissions](#)

GLOBAL HEALTH VIRTUAL CASE COMPETITION

The 2019 challenge was related to using social media to promote physical activity in urban environments. We had a *record* 45 teams registered from 19 universities in 10 economies (Australia, China, Egypt, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and the United States). The three finalist teams came from the University of Indonesia, the University of Hong Kong, and the University of California, Los Angeles. The winners were chosen by an international panel of 11 judges. The 1st place prize of US\$500 went to the University of Hong Kong for their excellent proposal which incorporated local sites into an application to encourage physical activity. Their team was made up of four undergraduate students in biomedical sciences. **To see their video**, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-afuB9at90>

For more information and to see the other videos, visit: <https://apruglobalhealth.org/education-opportunities/casecompetition/>

DISTANCE EDUCATION COURSES

In 2019, we offered two graduate-level distance education courses bringing together students from across APRU universities. The courses are taught for 10 weeks for 2 hours each week between September and December. Each participating university was required to nominate a lead instructor from their institutions to facilitate the course details on their end. Students sign in simultaneously each week to listen to and interact with a live guest speaker. The guest lectures are conducted by renowned global health leaders from WHO, government, NGOs, private sector. The courses use a combination of readings, case studies, video clips, discussion boards, etc. The logistics, including shared course website, IT support, setting up guest speakers, etc. were all managed by the GHP. APRU member institutions were invited to participate as a benefit to them. There was no additional cost to students or their universities to participate.

- ***Global Health Ethics*** had a record 64 students from four universities and 12 disciplines (University of Southern California, National Autonomous University of Mexico, University of the Philippines, and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.)
- ***Global Health Leadership*** was offered again to new partners after a hiatus in 2018 when we decided not to offer the course because we wanted to reorganize it. The 32 participating students came from five universities, three of which were new to the course (University of Southern California, Fudan University, University of Malaya, Osaka University, and Peking University.) The new case studies book published by APRU GHP members was used as the textbook.

THE APRU/NEW YORK TIMES CASE COMPETITION ON AIR POLLUTION

The 2019 Asia-Pacific Case Competition, a partnership between APRU and The New York Times, challenged students to critically evaluate the global health policy ecosystem in the Asia Pacific relating to air pollution. Dr Withers served as one of the judges for this competition and helped select the challenge topic. The competition was also advertised to APRU GHP members, who were encouraged to promote the competition among students at their own universities. This was also featured in our quarterly newsletter. The winners were from The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) for taking first place in the competition! Their entry, entitled “Air Pollution in Hong Kong: A Market-Based Approach to Infrastructural Change” was published in the International Edition of The New York Times on November 18, 2019. For more information, please see: <https://www.apru-nytimeschallenge.com/copy-of-the-competition>

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, in 2019 we successfully met our objectives to advance our scholarly output by developing new collaborative research, as well as publishing five new articles and making several presentations on our work. The GHP also provided several unique opportunities for student engagement and training, including two distance education courses, three student contests, student membership on working groups that produce publications.

In 2020, our major activities will include an annual conference, the annual virtual global health case competition, two distance education courses, and the special edition on migration for the journal IJERPH.

Other priorities for 2020 are:

- We will continue to explore new opportunities for collaboration with APEC and other partners. Dr Withers recently had a call with the APEC Digital Hub on Mental Health, which is hosted by the University of British Columbia, an APRU member. She was asked to serve as a judge again for the HWHE Research Prize. And she will likely participate in another APEC meeting this year, which will be held in Malaysia.
- Later this year, she will also travel to Ecuador for meetings with a new APRU member, the University of San Francisco, Quito to develop a plan on how they can participate in the Program.
- We have agreed to work with Dr Mu Li, one of our Advisory Group members from the University of Sydney, on her proposal to develop pre-departure training for students going on global health study/travel programs abroad.
- Along with the APRU GHP Advisory Group, we will strategize on how to revitalize some of the working groups that have not been active. We will recruit new co-chairs for those groups.
- We will also explore avenues of funding to hold a conference on workplace wellness for APRU members, such as representatives from HR Departments or Employee Wellness Offices.
- Dr Withers will attend the APRU Senior International Leaders meeting in Russia in October in order to inform members about the GHP achievements, and learn more about the direction of the network.

NEWSLETTERS

U	UNIVERSITY	FACULTY	STUDENT	EDUCATION	RESEARCH	OTHER MISC.
1	UNSW	NUS	U of Wash.	USC	U of Malaya	USC, NTU, UNSW,
2	U of Indonesia	Tokyo	U of Hawaii	Indonesia/Nanjing	Auckland/Hawaii	NTU, USC, Chulalongkorn
3	Yonsei	UCLA	U of Oregon	UNSW	Tokyo/Mahidol	NUS, UNSW, USC, Fudan, Peking, UCSB, Oregon, UC Irvine, UC Berkeley, UCSD
4	Chulalongkorn	NTU	U of Indonesia	Zhejiang	Zhejiang	UC Davis, Peking, USC, UNSW, Auckland, NTU
5	Tech. Monterrey	Sydney	U of Auckland	U of Hawaii	Tsukuba	USC, Indonesia, UC Davis, Auckland
6	Osaka	Zhejiang	USC	NTU	Yonsei	Osaka, Sydney, Peking, NUS, Kyoto, Fudan, USC
7	U of Auckland	NUS	U of Washington	USC	U of Malaya	Osaka, Indonesia, USC, Melbourne, Sydney, FEFU, NUS, UNSW, UC Davis
8	Phil	Tech Monterrey	UC Irvine	Sydney	Melbourne	Osaka, UNSW, U of Hawaii
9	FEFU	Seoul National	-----	Fudan	Zhejiang	Tohoku, NUS, UC Davis, Peking, Sydney, UC Irvine
10	Kyoto	Auckland	UCLA	HKUST	NTU	CUHK, UNSW, Oregon, NUS,
11	UCSD	FEFU	UCLA	NTU, SNU	U of Malaya	UNSW, Malaya
12	U of Washington	UNSW	U of Sydney	Washington	UCSD	Philippines
13	U of Hong Kong	Tohoku	Fudan	Melbourne	Yonsei/USC	Oregon, Sydney, USC
14	Tokyo	UNAM	UC Irvine	Tohoku	UC Davis	Sydney, Philippines, NUS, Indonesia, Malaya, USC, SNU, UCLA, NTU, UW
15	TOHOKU	Indonesia	U of Melbourne	UC Davis	Peking	UNAM, NTU, UP, USC, Chulalongkorn, Malaya
16	CUHK	Chulalongkorn	USC	----	Philippines	Oregon, Malaya, Indonesia, Sydney, Fudan, HKU
17	----	NUS	Zhejiang	CUHK	Malaya	Malaya, UC Davis, Oregon
18	ANU	UCDavis	Hawaii	Tsinghua	Tokyo	Fudan, USC, UW, Sydney, Indonesia, UCLA, Malaya
19	Korea	NUS	Malaya	HKU	UNSW	HKU, Malaya, UW, Sydney, USC, Auckland, Seoul, Osaka
20	UCLA	UC Irvine	Seoul	Sydney	Zhejiang	HKU, Indonesia, NTU, Sydney, Postech, UCLA, USC, Keio
21	Fudan	HKUST	Postech	USC	Fudan	HKU, Fudan, HKUST, UCLA, Indonesia, Malaya, Osaka, Philippines,

*green denotes released in 2019