Global Health
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The pandemic challenged our academic networks and our societies in ways few had imagined. APRU member universities were forced to shift attention to the effects of the pandemic, including budgetary shortfalls, campus closures, postponement of research and international exchange programs, and ensuring equitable access to online education. Despite the uncertainty and disruptions, the APRU GHP endeavored to bring value to its members through activities that both responded to COVID-19 and maintained our network’s relationships. We sustained our commitment to research and education as priorities.

In 2020, we successfully completed several research initiatives, including:

- Four papers published or in press, with four additional research papers under review
- The largest annual conference to date, attracting over 2,500 people
- Two-hour webinar on Bioethics and COVID-19 with more than 500 participants

In 2020, some highlights of our educational activities include:

- Eight-part webinar series on COVID-19, attracting a total of over 1,250 registrants
- Six-part webinar series on Teaching in Virtual Environments, with more than 1,000 registrants
- Two distance education courses with participation from over 170 students and 20 professors from 10 APRU universities in 7 economies

In 2021, our priority activities are:

- 2021 annual conference on Urban Health
- Trainings, including bioethics and teaching in virtual environments
- New Case Studies Book, book chapter and a few publications
- Joint COVID-19 survey
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.

2020 ADVISORY GROUP

Our Advisory Group is made up of 12 members that will serve through the end of 2020. We were very grateful for the guidance and tremendous efforts of the members of the group to continue to build and shape our program.
RESEARCH

2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2020 conference was held virtually in October. The annual conference was moved to an online format due to the pandemic. While this presented new challenges in terms of the making significant changes to the conference program and figuring out the logistics of hosting such a large conference, we felt it was critical to move forward. The 2019 conference was cancelled due to political unrest in Hong Kong so we did not want to skip another year. The theme was Universal Healthcare Across the Lifecourse. The conference provided the opportunity for speakers to present their research on key themes including global health security, COVID-19, the lifecourse perspective, migration, women’s health, and aging. Fudan University was the host. Featured speakers include Margaret Chan, Emeritus Director-General of WHO, Minghui Ren, Assistant Director-General, WHO, and Alejandro Gaviria, President of Universidad de los Andes and Former Minister of Health and Social Protection, Colombia. Panels provided the opportunity for Q&A from the audience with the speakers. The conference was offered for free and certificates of participation were provided.

This is by far the largest event that APRU has ever undertaken with 2,470 participants over the three days plus approx. 1,000 people in China joining via livestream. This included:

- Participants from 53 economies
- 39 of 56 APRU members engaged, including most of the new members
- 315 external universities/orgs
- 33 Speakers and moderators
The conference program can be found at: APRU Global Health Conference 2020 - APRU

The recordings are available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hCkIJyGcW6I&list=PL72szUuwsFYdi7vaS7JmQTcgNEmk-JrPG

STUDENT POSTER CONTEST

The Student Poster Contest encourages students to get involved in mentors’ research and provides the opportunity for students to disseminate their work to a global audience. This was our 6th annual contest and we received 47 submissions from 15 economies and 26 universities. Our expert panel of judges chose the top finalists in the undergraduate and graduate categories. Conference participants voted on the winners. The 1st place prize in each category was US$500. The undergraduate winners were from the University of Santo Thomas in the Philippines. Undergraduate finalists were from the University of Oregon and the University of Malawi. For the graduate category, the winner was from Fudan University in China. Graduate finalists were from BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Universitas Indonesia and University of Tokyo.

A big thank you to our expert panel of judges who came from 10 economies were: Rajasekhar Balasubramanian (NUS), Masamine Jimba (Tokyo), Shubha Kumar (USC), Mu Li (Sydney), Tina Lin (APRU), Judith McCool (Auckland), Juhwan Oh (SNU), Erlinda Palaganas (Philippines), Sanjay Rampal (Malaya), Christina Schönleber (APRU), Mellissa Withers (USC), Pinpin Zheng (Fudan), Wanghong Xu (Fudan).

Info on our student poster contest is here:


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 20-40 members and a chair or co-chair from APRU member universities. One key objective is to include students on each group to provide mentorship and training. Each group decides on its priorities and what it will produce each year. The majority of the groups were much more active in 2020 as compared to previous years.
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)
  This group focuses on best practices around education and training in global health, including capacity-building within our network.

- **Non-Communicable Diseases** (Co-chairs are KL Chien, National Taiwan University, and Martin Wong, Chinese University of Hong Kong)
  This group focuses on collaborating across economies on the latest research in NCDs, including tobacco, diabetes, cancer, and heart disease.

- **Bioethics** (Chair is Leander Marquez, University of the Philippines)
  The focus of this group is to increase awareness of key ethical issues in health/medical research and building capacity amongst our members for the ethical conduct of such research.

- **Mental Health** (Chair is Maosheng Ran, University of Hong Kong)
  The focus of this group is raising awareness of mental health challenges facing the Asia-Pacific, reducing stigma, and contributing to evidence on best practices regarding mental healthcare.

- **Migrants** (Chair is Brian Hall, University of Macau)
  This group aims to raise awareness of migrants’ needs, and to conduct collaborative research to promote health and well-being among migrants.

Below you will find some of the activities that were organized under the auspices of the different groups.

**SPECIAL JOURNAL EDITION ON MIGRATION**

The **Working Group on Migrants** was in charge of a special edition of the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, which has an impact factor of 2.85. Through this special edition, we hoped to call attention to recent, high-quality research that aimed to promote migrant health. One important advantage of this special edition is that we can offer five publication fee waivers (a value of more than US$11,000) to APRU GHP members in low- and middle-income economies, helping them to disseminate their work more widely. The title of the special edition, edited by Mellissa Withers (USC) as lead editor, along with Brian Hall (NYU Shanghai), Tharani Loganathan (University of Malaya), and Hsin-Chieh Wang (Fudan University), is “Patterns, Determinants, and Community-based Interventions of Migrant and
Refugee Health.” By the end of 2020, six papers had been published. We expect six more in 2021. The deadline is April 1, 2021. We have been promoting this through APRU channels, including the APRU website, the APRU GH website, and our quarterly newsletter. Papers are published on a rolling basis.

For more information, visit: [https://www.mdpi.com/journal/ijerph/special_issues/MRH](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/ijerph/special_issues/MRH)

**WORKING GROUP ON BIOETHICS WEBINAR**

The Bioethics Working Group wanted to increase engagement of people in our network whose work focuses on bioethics, while also responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. With close to 1,000 people registered from across the world, this webinar called attention to key issues of global health and ethics in the time of COVID-19. Some of the speakers are world-renowned experts in the field and included: Angus Dawson (University of Sydney), Leonardo de Castro (University of the Philippines), Maria de Jesús Medina-Medina (National Autonomous University of Mexico), Calvin Wai-Loon Ho (University of Hong Kong), and Jonathan Guillemot (Universidad San Francisco Quito). Through these virtual experiences, APRU made knowledge sharing accessible among everyone, eliminating the many financial and commitment barriers across the globe. Held on May 19/20, the two-hour webinar facilitated a meaningful discussion among experts from the Bioethics Working Group. Their presentations addressed key ethical challenges in relation to COVID-19, including resource allocation, stigma and discrimination, reproductive rights, mass surveillance, and aging.

Learn more about the webinar [here](#). Watch the recording and view the slides [here](#).

The group then collaborated on a related paper, which was published by the Journal of Global Health Science. Read the joint publication [here](#).
PUBLICATIONS

In the last year, the APRU Global Health Program had four articles published that resulted directly from our work. Aside from the publication on ethics (mentioned above), they are:

- Withers, M, Nguyen, A, McCool, J. University Students’ Perspectives on Tobacco Control in the Asia-Pacific: A content analysis of a case competition. *International Journal of Health Promotion and Education, epublished ahead of print, May 2020*. This is a content analysis of the submissions for the 2016 Case Competition on tobacco control. The videos outlined student proposals on how to use universities as a platform for tobacco control. Authors are from USC and U of Auckland.


PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

We have an additional four papers under review:

- Working Group on NCDs: A global view on adherence to colonoscopy in colorectal cancer screening. *Annals of Oncology. Submitted August 2020*. This was a project of the APRU GH Working Group on NCDs.

- Hsiao, V, Stoltzfus, N, Withers, M. An Assessment of Workplace Wellness Policies and Programs of Universities in the Asia-Pacific. *Journal of Global Health. Submitted August 2020*. This paper came from our survey on workplace wellness and highlighted key findings and recommendations for future steps, as universities can play a crucial role in promoting employee health and well-being.

- Withers, M, Jahangir, T, Kubasova, K, Ran, M. University Students Tackle Stigma and Mental Health: A video content analysis of student-driven intervention proposals from a case competition. *Asian
This reports 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 analyzed proposed intervention strategies outlined in the 15 videos submitted from students in nine economies. Authors are from USC and Thammasat University.

- 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, which included one Student.

**EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**2020 APRU GLOBAL HEALTH CASE COMPETITION**

The annual case competition promotes critical thinking on real-world global health challenges. It also fosters scholastic and digital creativity, cooperation, and leadership. This year, teams of 4-6 students were given 4 months to create a creative but realistic program relating to elderly care. The teams submitted a 10-minute video outlining their hypothetical program.

We had a record total of 45 teams from 22 universities in 12 economies (Australia, China, Ecuador, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and the US) register for the competition. Teams were asked to create innovative proposals to address elderly care. The winners were selected through a voting process that included input from all conference participants. The University of Indonesia team took the grand prize of US$500. The other two finalist teams came from Chinese University of Hong Kong and Yonsei University.

We are very appreciative of the interdisciplinary panel of judges who reviewed all of the videos to select the finalists: Jonathan Guillemot (USFQ), Brian Hall (Macau), Masamine Jimba (Tokyo), Judith McCool (Auckland), Mu Li (Sydney), Ms Tina Lin (APRU), Leander Marquez (Philippines), Haytham Sheeran (Osaka), Sanjay Rampal (Malaya), Christina Schöneleber (APRU), Tasdidaa Shamsi (Malaya), Erlinda Palaganas (Philippines), Hiroki Nakatani (Keio), Martin Wong (CUHK), and Mellissa Withers (USC).
DISTANCE EDUCATION COURSE OVERVIEW

International education is critical to students’ success in the 21st century; international education encourages personal and professional growth. The benefits include developing intercultural communication and leadership skills, bridging cultural gaps and broadening world views. Our distance education courses leverage virtual platforms to allow students to connect with peers from around the world to learn new knowledge and skills, exchange ideas and cultures, and develop and expand connections and networks.

Once again, we offered two graduate-level distance education courses bringing together students from across APRU universities. The courses are taught for 11 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. One of the major benefits of the course is the opportunity to interact with guest speakers who are renowned global health leaders from WHO, government, NGOs, and the private sector. Students also work across disciplines and countries in group projects. 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, with no additional cost to students or their universities to participate.

GLOBAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP DISTANCE EDUCATION COURSE

In 2020, we significantly expanded our partnership with other APRU member universities for the distance education course on global health leadership. This course included a record SEVEN universities, five of which were new participants. Over 90 students and 14 professors were involved from USC, Fudan University, Peking University, Osaka University, Tohoku University, Nanyang Technological University, and Tec de Monterrey. You can see the instructors’ bios are in Annex 1. The APRU GH case studies book published by APRU GHP members was used as the textbook.

The 14 guest speakers for this course included renowned global health leaders such as:
**Alfred Sommer** is a Gilman Scholar and University Distinguished Service Professor at Johns Hopkins University; and Dean Emeritus of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He received his MD from Harvard Medical School, and Master of Health Science in Epidemiology from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. He is credited with discovering that Vitamin A can prevent blindness and child death, which has saved millions of lives.

**Lisa Bohmer** leads the Conrad N. Hilton Foundations Young Children Affected by HIV and AIDS Initiative, working with partners to improve early childhood development outcomes in East and Southern Africa. Past positions include Director of Program Partnerships with the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, UNICEF, the Nike Foundation, IPAS and the Pacific Institute for Women’s Health.

**Vanessa Kerry** is the founder and CEO of Seed Global Health, a non-profit that invests in health system strengthening by training health professionals in resource limited settings. She directs the Program in Global Public Policy and Social Change in the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School. She is a physician and the associate director of Partnerships and Global Initiatives at the hospital’s Center for Global Health.

**Jeffrey P. Koplan** is Former Director (1998-2002) and 26-year veteran of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as currently Vice President for Global Health at Emory University. He established and served as the Director of the Emory Global Health Institute. Dr. Koplan began his public health career in the early 1970s as a member of the CDC’s Epidemic Intelligence Service.

**Adeeba Kamarulzaman** is the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Adjunct Assoc. Professor at Yale University, and a member of the Health Advisory Council, Ministry of Health Malaysia. She directs the Centre of Excellence for AIDS Research at the University of Malaya and is Chairman of the Malaysian AIDS Foundation. She was a Co-Chair of the WHO Strategic and Technical Advisory Committee on HIV. She is currently the President of the International AIDS Society.
**Takashi Izutsu** is the Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Sciences and Arts, University of Tokyo. He is Co-chair of the UN Flagship Report on Disability and Development Task Team on SDG10. Previously he was the Senior Knowledge Management Officer at the World Bank Tokyo Development Learning Center, and worked at the UN for more than 10 years on sexual and reproductive health, gender-inequality, mental health and rights of persons with disabilities.

**María del Rocio Sáenz Madrigal** is an MD and former Minister of Health of Costa Rica. She is also a member of PAHO/WHO Health Emergency Response Team with emphasis on Central America. Between 1998-2002, she was the director of Planning of the Ministry of Health. Dr. Sáenz has worked at the School of Medicine and School of Public Health at the University of Costa Rica. She is an expert on health systems.

**GLOBAL HEALTH ETHICS**

This course also had a record 84 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.) The instructors’ bios are listed in Annex 2. Topics included anti-vaccination movements, pre-natal genetic testing, access to essential medicines, commercial surrogacy, the ethics of PrEP, migration, human genome editing, privacy and research via social media, and many others.

Examples of guest speakers for the ethics course are:

**Euzebiusz Jamrozik (PhD)** is a member of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Bioethics at the Monash Bioethics Centre. He was a Research Fellow on a Wellcome Trust project on ethical and regulatory issues related to human challenge studies. He works mainly on ethical issues related to infectious diseases, including vaccination ethics, drug-resistant infection, and vector-borne disease.

**Angus Dawson (PhD)** is Professor of Bioethics and Director of Sydney Health Ethics at the University to Sydney, Australia. His main research interests are public health ethics,
research ethics, and methodology in bioethics. His work is focused on working with organisations to embed ethics into policy and everyday practice. He is the joint editor-in-Chief of the journal *Public Health Ethics* and was one of the editors of the *Global Perspectives on Public Health Ethics*.

**Sarah Chan (PhD)** is a Chancellor’s Fellow at the Usher Institute for Population Health Sciences and Informatics, and Deputy Director of the Mason Institute for Medicine, Life Sciences and Law, University of Edinburgh. She was a Research Fellow in Bioethics at the University of Manchester and served as the Institute for Science Ethics and Innovation. Her research focuses on ethics of new biomedical technologies, such as stem cell and embryo research; gene therapy and genetic modification; and human enhancement.

**Udo Schuklenk (PhD)** is Professor of Philosophy at Queen's University in Canada. He also worked at Monash University’s Centre for Human Bioethics and at the University of Central Lancashire Centre for Professional Ethics. He has published several books, including *Access to Experimental Drugs in Terminal Illness: Ethical Issues; AIDS: Society, Ethics and Law*; and *The Power of Pulls: Social, Ethical, and Legal Issues in Drug Development, Marketing, and Pricing*. He is a Joint Editor in Chief of *Bioethics* and also the founding editor of the journal *Developing World Bioethics*.

**COVID-19 WEBINAR SERIES**

Our webinar series featured eight weekly one-hour webinars from experts from our network, each from a different APRU member university. It was a good opportunity for the GHP to respond to the pandemic and showcase the remarkable and diverse talent within our network. The eight speakers included: Karen Grepin (University of Hong Kong), Angus Dawson (University of Sydney), Haidon Kan (Fudan University), Jean Encinas-Franco (University of the Philippines), (Jill Murphy, University of British Columbia), Woutrina Smith (UC Davis), Sofia Gruskin (USC), and Pramon Viwattanakulvanid, (Chulalongkorn University). Topics were: cross-country responses to COVID-19, bioethics, environmental impact, migrant workers, mental health, One Health, governance and human rights, and technology and innovation to combat COVID-19.
More than 1,250 people registered. Many of the participants came from the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia, but also from numerous other countries. Participants were sent a certificate of participation for their attendance for each webinar. To watch the recordings or learn more, please visit: APRU WEBINARS

Examples of webinar speakers and topics are below:

**APRU**

*The Philippines’ Modern-day Heroes and COVID-19*

**Speaker:**
Dr. Jean Encinas-Francisco  
Associate Professor, College of Social Sciences and Philosophy  
University of the Philippines, Diliman

**Date & Time:**
Friday, June 26 11 am (Sydney)/9 am (Hong Kong)/8 am (Bangkok)  
Thursday, June 25 6 pm (US & Canada)

**Global Health, Global Governance and Human Rights– A Complicated Convergence in a Complicated Time**

**Speaker:**
Professor Sofia Gruskin  
Director of USC Institute on Inequalities in Global Health, Chief of Policy and Global Health Division,  
Professor at USC Keck School of Medicine and USC Gould School of Law  
University of Southern California

**Date & Time:**
Friday, July 17 11 am (Sydney)/9 am (Hong Kong)/8 am (Bangkok)  
Thursday, July 16 6 pm (US & Canada)

**The Use of Technology and Innovation to Combat COVID-19 in Thailand**

**Speaker:**
Dr. Praman Viwattanakulvanid  
Lecturer of College of Public Health Science  
Chulalongkorn University

**Date & Time:**
Friday, July 24 11 am (Sydney)/9 am (Hong Kong)/8 am (Bangkok)  
Thursday, July 23 6 pm (US & Canada)
TEACHING IN VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENTS TRAINING SERIES

In 2020, the Teaching in Virtual Environments webinar series included six interactive 90-minute sessions organized by the APRU Global Health Working Group on Education and Technology in collaboration with University of Oregon. Due to COVID-19, faculty were asked to convert courses to online formats in a very short period of time, with little previous experience in online instructional design. Participants developed and practiced skills, as well as shared experiences with other participants in virtual breakout sessions and full group discussions as they prepared for the fall of remote instruction. Workshops were facilitated by Elly Vandegrift (University of Oregon), along with Victor Hoe (University of Malaya), Vivian Lee (Chinese University of Hong Kong), César Alberto Lucio Ramírez (Tecnológico de Monterrey), Julie Clarke (University of Melbourne), Michael Antonio Mendoza (University of the Philippines), Fun Man Fung (National University of Singapore), and Mona Monfared (UC Davis). Certificates of participation were offered. We had over 225 people attend and over 500 registered. For more details, visit: https://apru.org/event/apru-global-health-working-group-webinars-teaching-in-virtual-environments/
OTHER ACTIVITIES

NEW STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Since establishing new strategic partnerships are a priority for the GHP, we actively solicited ways to build new collaborations. We developed three new partnerships this year:

- **APEC Digital Hub on Mental Health**, which is hosted by the University of British Columbia, an APRU member. The chair of this group, Jill Murphy, spoke about mental health in our webinar series on COVID-19. We also invited one member of the group from the Ministry of Health in Chile to speak at our annual conference, and another from Japan was a speaker in our distance education course on leadership. In our first joint activity, this group received a grant from the government of Canada to examine digital mental health resources available during the pandemic. As part of these activities, several of the members of our Working Group participated in the interviews, including the chair of the Working Group on Mental Health. The group has applied for another grant to continue this year. The benefit of this partnership is the opportunity to develop new research on mental health and build our network on mental health experts.

- **WHO Collaborating Centre on Digital Health**, which is hosted by Nanyang Technological University, an APRU member. We recently formed a new working group of 15 people from 9 APRU member universities to explore research opportunities. We will have our first meeting in January 2021. The Centre has also agreed to share a survey that was developed and implemented at Nanyang on workplace wellness.

- Dr Withers joined the **Commission on COVID-19 Response** of the *Journal of Global Health Science*. This commission consists of numerous high-level government officials and academics from many Asia-Pacific economies. We invited some of the members to speak at our annual conference and in our distance education courses. This journal also published the Working Group on Bioethics paper on COVID-19 as part of this work. There will be additional opportunities to develop white papers and collaborative research projects in the future. To learn more, visit: :: JGHS :: Journal of Global Health Science (e-jghs.org)

- We actively sought ways to engage **new APRU member universities** in the GHP through the following:
  - The president of **Universidad de los Andes (Colombia)** was a keynote conference speaker
0 Nanyang Technological University (Singapore) participated in one of the distance education courses. In addition, one of the faculty moderated a session at the annual conference.

0 Two faculty from Universidad de San Francisco de Quito (Ecuador) were part of the Bioethics webinar and publication. One faculty was invited to speak at the conference. One faculty is part of the Working Group on COVID-19. And another faculty was a guest speaker in our distance education course on global health leadership. We also featured this university in the University Spotlight of the quarterly newsletter.

0 One faculty from the University of Queensland (Australia) moderated a session at the annual conference.

0 One faculty from Monash University (Australia) was a guest speaker in our distance education course on bioethics

2020 APEC 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. As developing more partnerships between APRU and APEC is one of the priorities of the APRU network, Dr Withers has been part of this initiative since 2017. 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 again 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. One of the runners-up came from National Taiwan University, and was asked to speak at the 2021 annual conference. For more information, visit https://www.apec.org/healthywomen

PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES

Despite the fact that many conferences and meetings were cancelled due to COVID-19, Dr Withers represented the APRU GHP at several conferences in 2020. 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:
• In March 2020, Dr Withers traveled to Australia for three meetings with APRU institutions to explore ways for further engagement in the GHP.
• She had planned to travel to Ecuador for meetings with a new APRU member, the University of San Francisco, Quito, to develop a plan for involvement with the GHP but this trip was cancelled.
• She was invited, along with an APRU GH Advisory Board member Juhwan Oh, to speak virtually on the response to COVID-19 at the University of Auckland in Sept 2020.
• Dr Withers attended the virtual APRU Senior International Leaders meeting hosted by FEFU in October in order to inform senior leaders about the GHP achievements and learn more about the direction of the network. The meeting featured a special session for SILs on the GHP distance education courses with a panel of previous participants (faculty and students) discussing their experiences, as well as the opportunity to observe one of the courses in real time.
• Dr Withers was also invited to participate in a new virtual Visiting Professor Program at the University of Indonesia. She spoke about the APRU GHP, along with the US response to COVID-19.

MEDIA PUBLICATIONS FEATURING THE APRU GHP
Two media publications (USC News and University World News) featured the work on the APRU Global Health Program:


CONCLUSION
In conclusion, in 2020 we were well-prepared to pivot our activities to a virtual environment, since many of our activities were already online. We were successful in meeting the program goals. We continued to grow, reaching thousands of people. We focused on developing more strategic partnerships. We advanced our scholarly output by developing new collaborative research, holding numerous webinars that reached as well as publishing 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, and student membership on working groups that produce publications.
2021 PRIORITIES

OVERVIEW

We will continue to build on the momentum developed over the past several years to develop new activities, as well as expand our flagship activities and events, and to increase the visibility and impact of the GHP on our members, academic institutions, and societies. In 2021, the planned major activities will include the continuation of the annual conference, the annual virtual global health case competition, two distance education courses, the quarterly newsletter and the working groups.

2021 ADVISORY GROUP

The 2021 Advisory Group consists of 13 people, including two new members, from Indonesia and Mexico. One long-time member of our Group, Richard Taylor (University of New South Wales) retired this year.
The new research activities planned for 2021 include:

- **The 2021 annual conference** with the theme of Urban Health will be hosted by the University of Hong Kong. It will take place virtually from Nov 15-17, 2021.

- **Paper on Content Analysis of 2019 case competition challenge.** The topic was the use of social medial to promote physical activity among young people in urban environments. Dr Withers is working with a USC student and two experts in motivational theory from CUHK on this paper.

- **Joint publication from Teaching in Virtual Environments.** The eight facilitators from the previous six sessions were invited this year to contribute to a publication based on these webinars, which will be submitted to the journal. Their contributions are due to Dr Withers by Feb 15, 2021.

- **COVID-19 Survey.** A new working group on COVID-19 was formed by Dr Withers and Martin Wong, the co-chair of the Working Group on NCDs, who is based at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. It is made up of 20 key members from 12 APRU member universities and 4 other universities. The members represent 10 economies. The group developed a comprehensive survey on COVID-19, and received IRB approval in December. The survey will be conducted in 2021.

- **Book chapter.** The APRU GHP will contribute a chapter to a new book titled *Safety and Resilience of Higher Educational Institutions: A post pandemic analysis.* Higher educational institutions have also had to undergo tremendous transformation, in particular, changing a conventional educational, teaching, and learning system to a digital and online mode and cancelling or postponing important events such as graduation and entrance ceremonies and entrance examinations. All while facing financial constraints due to reduced enrollment, particularly from overseas. However, simultaneously, the situation has provided a good opportunity for universities to consider their preparedness to respond to this and future crises in innovative ways. Dr Withers is working with Elly Vandegrift from the University of Oregon to highlight numerous examples of innovation and resilience around teaching at universities in the US. The chapter will be submitted by April 1, 2021.
EDUCATION

The new educational activities for 2021 include:

- **This year, we will continue our Teaching in Virtual Environments Series.** Due to high demand, we will organize a new set of three interactive, 90-minute sessions (one per month in Feb, March, and April) on new related topics to teaching, using facilitators from APRU member universities.

- **Virtual Mini Course on Ethics in Health Research.** We plan to hold a free two-part training totaling six hours for students at APRU member universities to build capacity to conduct ethical health research. A number of universities in the network have not established an ethics training for their students, which has been identified as an important gap in their programs. The first session of this training will focus on the basic principles of ethics, and the second will focus on their practical application in health research. The trainings will be led by members of the Working Group on Bioethics and will incorporate a number of interactive group activities, review of case studies, and small group discussions.

- **Case Studies Book.** There is no greater teacher than failure. Publications about health-related interventions that *did not succeed* in achieving their objectives are rare. Yet, these examples provide an important opportunity for students to use critical thinking skills to analyze why interventions might fail. We seek 10-15 case studies from around the world on a variety of subjects for inclusion in a case studies book to be published by Springer Publishers in electronic and hard copy format. The cases will emphasize both practical lessons learned (timing, investment, implementation), as well as assumptions that underpinned the interventions.
ANNEX 1
INSTRUCTOR BIOS
GLOBAL HEALTH LIVE- FALL 2020

Alejandra Almeida-Velasco, MD, is a Global Health Professor and expert in social innovation and development in health, and digital health entrepreneurial. She is a health industry consultant and solutions generator. She earned a Master in Global Health from Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden. She also obtained a diploma on Global Health from Tecnológico de Monterrey and Partners in Health and has taken a course in Epidemiology at Harvard. She works with medical associations and companies in the field of digital health.

Fernando Botello-Villagrana, MD, graduated from Tecnológico de Monterrey. He is currently doing a year of social service that is required by Mexican law in order to be licensed as a general physician. He was granted the opportunity to do this service in the department of global health, where he helps coordinate the course logistics, classes and assessments. He also coordinates international meetings and courses with partnerships of Tec de Monterrey.

Mariko Hosozawa MD, PhD, is a Senior Researcher at the Department of Global Health Metrics and Evaluation, Institute for Global Health Policy, Bureau of International Health Cooperation, National Center for Global Health and Medicine in Tokyo, Japan. Her research focuses on understanding modifiable factors to promote mental health and development of children, particularly among the vulnerable population. She is a board certified supervisory paediatrician of the Japanese Paediatric Society.

Aya Ishizuka is a Project Researcher at the Department of Global Health Policy, The University of Tokyo; a Research Fellow at the Institute for Global Health Policy Research in National Center for Global Health and Medicine, She has over 10 years of experience working in improving health systems of post-conflict and post-disaster countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and Asia. She
worked as a Health Specialist at the World Bank; and an Associate Health Expert at Japan International Cooperation Agency previously.

Yinzi Jin, PhD is assistant professor and associate researcher of the Department of Global Health at Peking University School of Public Health. Dr. Jin’s research areas include global health, health systems, and implementation Science. Her studies focus on implementing evidence-based interventions to improve the quality of care and outcomes for patients with chronic noncommunicable disease and its acute episodes in LMICs, from the perspectives of health systems strengthening, using the tools of implementation science.

Konstadina Griva, FEHPS, PhD is an Associate Professor of Health Psychology and Behavioural Medicine, Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, Nanyang Technological University. She earned her MSC from Kings College London & University College, and her PhD from University College London. A Health Psychologist and health services researcher, she is an advisor for the Singapore Ministry of Health and serves as the inaugural President of Society of Behavioural Health Singapore.

Sierin Lim, PhD is Associate Professor of Bioengineering, School of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering, Nanyang Technological University. She is also the Associate Dean (Global Partnerships) at the NTU Graduate College and the co-Deputy Executive Director of the NTU Institute for Health Technologies. She runs the Bioengineered and Applied Nanomaterials Laboratory. She received the L'Oréal-UNESCO Singapore for Women in Science National Fellowships and the Inaugural Singapore 100 Women in Tech List.

Marie Loh, PhD is an Assistant Professor in Molecular Epidemiology, Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore and an Honorary Senior Lecturer at Imperial College London. She is a molecular epidemiologist with a long-standing interest in the role of genetics and epigenetics underlying ethnic differences in risk and outcome observed in complex diseases.
János Négyesi, PhD is an Assistant Professor at Tohoku University Graduate School of Biomedical Engineering and performs scientific research in the field of motor control and learning. He studied Human Kinesiology at Semmelweis University, and was the director of a Biomechanics Lab where they prepared the Hungarian Olympic Team for Rio2016 Olympics. He received a scholarship which funded his PhD at Tohoku University.

Jingyi Wang, PhD trained in public health at Zhongnan University, and psychiatry and mental health at Shanghai Jiaotong University. She obtained a PhD in Mental Health Research at University College London and works as a Lecturer in the School of Public Health at Fudan University. Her research interests are in mental health and psychological wellbeing, including the impact of loneliness and social isolation on mental health, social interventions, associations between cardiovascular disease and mental health, and the impact of COVID-19 on wellbeing.

Mellissa Withers, PhD, MHS is Associate Professor at the Keck School of Medicine in the Department of Preventive Medicine and director of the APRU Global Health Program. She is based at the USC Institute on Inequalities in Global Health. She received a PhD from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, a Master’s in International Health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and a BA in international development from UC Berkeley. Her research areas are CBPR, gender-based violence, and global sexual and reproductive health.

Fei Yan MD, PhD, is Professor at the School of Public Health, Fudan University. Her research covers health services and health system research, especially primary health care, equity on health and health care for the vulnerable groups, health human resource development, and program assessment of TB and some diseases. She has played a leading role in dozens of projects funded by the Ministry of Health of China, EU, WHO, UK DFID, China Ministry of Science and Technology, Shanghai Municipal Health Bureau and other agencies.
Hui Yin, MD, PhD, is an assistant professor in Department of Global Health, School of Public Health, Peking University, as well as the Youth Commissioner of Global Health, Chinese Association of Preventive Medicine. Her research focuses on tobacco control, global health governance, culture and health, and health-related SDGs. She also provides technical consultation to government, including the National Health Committee.

Zhi-Jie Zheng, MD, MPH, PhD is a Head of the Department of Global Health, School of Public Health, Peking University. He received his MD from Shanghai Medical University, and MPH and PhD in Epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has worked at the US CDC, US National Institutes of Health, and as Dean of the School of Public Health at Shanghai Jiao Tong University in China. Dr. Zheng’s research focuses on public health emergency preparedness and responses and global health strategies and governance.

ANNEX 2
INSTRUCTOR BIOS
GLOBAL HEALTH ETHICS- FALL 2020

King L Chow, PhD, as Professor of Life Science, Chemical & Biological Engineering, and the Director of Interdisciplinary Programs Office overseeing Environment and Sustainability, Public Policy, Risk Management, and Technology Management. He heads the Dean of Students Office supporting various student-oriented schemes, including exchange program, career development and experiential learning. He received the inaugural School of Science Teaching Award and the Michael G. Gale Medal of distinguished teaching.

Leonardo D. De Castro, PhD, is a professor in the Department of Philosophy, University of the Philippines, where he was Department Chair for 9 years. He was Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Biomedical Ethics, National University of Singapore and Editor-in-Chief of the Asian Bioethics Review. He chairs the Philippine Health Research Ethics Board.
He served on the National Bioethics Advisory Committee, the National Transplant Ethics Committee the Asian Bioethics Association, the UNESCO International Bioethics Committee, the Forum for Ethics Review Committees in Asia and the Pacific and UNESCO Inter-Governmental Bioethics Committee.

**María de Jesús Medina-Arellano, PhD** obtained her law degrees from the Autonomous University of Nayarit, Mexico and the National Autonomous University of Mexico. She obtained her PhD in Bioethics and Medical Jurisprudence from the University of Manchester. She is now a full-time researcher at the Institute for Legal Research at UNAM. She is also Deputy of the College of Bioethics, a member of the advisory board at the National Commission of Bioethics in Mexico, and coordinates the Diploma on Bioethics, Health and Law.

**Anamara Ritt-Olson, PhD** is Assistant Professor of Preventive Medicine, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California. Her research broadly focuses on factors that promote mental health among culturally diverse adolescents and young adults. Her research work covers cancer prevention, control and survivorship as well as substance abuse prevention.

**Mellissa Withers, PhD, MHS** is Associate Professor at the Keck School of Medicine in the Department of Preventive Medicine. She is based at the USC Institute on Inequalities in Global Health. She received a PhD from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, a Master’s in International Health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and a BA in international development from UC Berkeley. Her research interests are gender-based violence, community participatory research, and global sexual and reproductive health.

**Catherine Zhou, PhD** is a Teaching Associate at the Office of the Dean of Engineering, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. She previously worked at the Centre for Learning Enhancement And Research at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She has a PhD degree in computer science and engineering and currently focuses on research postgraduate student education, including research integrity, emotional resilience and intelligence, and mentorship.