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“In Germany, excellent scientists are conducting research on very different aspects of global health issues. In order to solve the problems of the future, we need to build bridges between the disciplines. In addition to medical expertise, it is also important to understand why people make certain health decisions, such as the use of vaccinations, or how the various actors in the health system cooperate. Only in this way can we master the complex challenges in global health.”

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Foreword

A message from the Speaker Trio

The German Alliance for Global Health Research (GLOHRA) was initiated to forge new links and mechanisms of cooperation – across research disciplines, institutions, sectors and countries. The importance of this mission has gained additional traction as GLOHRA was established in February 2020, just as the SARS-CoV-2 virus started spreading around the world.

We see GLOHRA as part of the evolving global health strategy of Germany, with a broad-reaching commitment to global health equity and scientific rigor.

The mere exchange of information via scientific publications and conferences, focused collaborations and multi-center studies is clearly not enough to find joint solutions to pressing global health issues, whether concerned with infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases, mental health, health system strengthening, climate change or other critical determinants of health.

It is in this broad context of new ways of organizing and funding research that GLOHRA can contribute.

As a part of GLOHRA’s leadership, we are committed to paving the way for research that keeps the bigger picture in sight. Our deliberate focus on bringing in perspectives from many disciplines distinguishes GLOHRA from other initiatives. The process often takes more time and energy – we use different languages and methods – but the result is continually becoming more comprehensive and better.

Specialized research will always have a place in global health, yet we seek to build bridges to connect specialists. In this era of globalization we are seeing how closely health outcomes and their determinants are interconnected. Viruses and diseases do not respect borders. As researchers, we should reflect this reality in our approaches in the lab, in the field and in the implementation of our findings.

At a time where in-person contact has not been possible, the strong sense of community at GLOHRA and fully operational governance is no small feat. Our team at the Secretariat has been foundational in establishing the structural and procedural aspects of GLOHRA. By facilitating elections of the Steering Committee and devising our operational guidelines, we were able to get straight to work. Ties between members have still been possible with regular virtual meetings, the member Research Directory and introductions in the newsletter.

A big thanks to the wonderful team at the Secretariat for helping to drive GLOHRA’s momentum.

In less than a year, GLOHRA has sent a clear message that researchers across Germany – from different cities, institutions and research disciplines – are committed to joining forces to tackle global health challenges. We are proud to be a part of this community and look forward to the many research, capacity-building and implementation activities in the making.

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At a Glance

About Us

- The German Alliance for Global Health Research (GLOHRA) is an association of researchers from public research institutions in Germany
- GLOHRA was launched in February 2020 with funding and support from the German Federal Ministry of Research and Education (BMBF)
- Our community embraces representatives from all research areas relevant for global health i.e., biomedical sciences, social sciences and humanities, public health, and engineering and other sciences
- Together we are committed to tackling today’s global health challenges via interdisciplinary and collaborative global health research

Our Goals

GLOHRA aims to strengthen global health research in Germany by

- connecting a community of qualified researchers
- funding groundbreaking research projects and scientific events
- supporting the next generation of researchers
- enhancing cross-sector collaboration

11 Achievements from our First 11 Months

1. Established a fully-operational organization with ratified Statutes that bind us to our goals and commitment to interdisciplinary global health research
2. Attracted membership of around 600 researchers from over 100 public research institutions across Germany
3. Members elected an interdisciplinary, gender-balanced 19-member Steering Committee, with a notable 72% voter turnout
4. Created a visual identity and established our website globalhealth.de, which hosts Germany’s first Global Health Research Directory of ca. 600 researcher profiles
5. Hosted two exceptional sessions with over 300 attendees at the World Health Summit 2020
6. Published a joint statement in support of the WHO
7. Developed a mechanism for evaluating interdisciplinary research projects, launched a call for proposals and evaluated 14 applications in the first evaluation round
8. Awarded over 650,000 € in project funding to four interdisciplinary teams comprising more than 12 researchers from 9 research institutions across Germany
9. Reached 35,350 impressions on Twitter from 89 tweets and 224 followers
10. Sent over 1,500 newsletter deliveries to our community’s inboxes
11. Initiated the development of an information repository to benefit early career researchers

The German Alliance for Global Health Research consists of three organizing bodies:

The General Assembly is made up of the members and associate members that have been accepted following our application process.

The Steering Committee is the key decision-making body of GLOHRA. The 19 Steering Committee members include female and male representatives from four research areas i.e., biomedical sciences, social sciences and humanities, public health, and engineering and other sciences. Elections are held every two years.

The Secretariat supports the operations and coordination of GLOHRA. The team is based at Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin.

GLOHRA is supported by the BMBF with over three million euros in funding from 2020 to 2025. Additional funds are reserved for selected research projects of GLOHRA members and their partners

Sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research
Background

Supporting Germany’s Mission to Improve Global Health

GLOHRA is part of a growing global health ecosystem in Germany. Over the past decade, global health strategy and action has steadily gained momentum in Germany as it becomes increasingly clear that the global community must do more to ensure health for all.

GLOHRA is one piece of this larger mission, with an explicit focus on strengthening and expanding global health research. By uniting the research community in Germany under a common cause of a healthier world, GLOHRA holds great potential to develop evidence and tools to tackle today’s global health challenges.

Scientific Collaboration to Face Global Health Challenges

Addressing the complex challenges we face today – neglected tropical diseases and antibiotic resistance, but also mental illness and diabetes together with achieving universal health coverage and the human right to health – requires research approaches that defy traditional boundaries. GLOHRA seeks to foster exchange and forge new mechanisms of cooperation across institutions, disciplines, sectors and countries.

Global health is determined by inseparable biological, cultural, political, economic, environmental, and behavioral determinants of health.

Accordingly, interdisciplinary global health research and cross-sector collaboration is needed to understand the specific components and interplay of these factors.

Germany’s Role in Global Health


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- German Alliance for Global Health Research
- “The 2030 Agenda requires a holistic and cross-sectoral approach to implementation. Interdisciplinary cooperation and research are needed to create a robust foundation that will allow us to identify priorities and avoid negative interactions.”

Building Bridges to Connect Researchers

Global health research is being carried out at numerous universities and research institutions across Germany. GLOHRA offers a platform for researchers to step beyond the confines of their institution or specialty to connect with one another in their attempt to better understand and solve global health challenges.

Acting as a bridge tolink and support our members, we hope that these connections will not only lead to more awareness about global health activities and research, but also strengthen Germany’s contribution to this field, for researchers both today and tomorrow.

A Global Perspective on Health

Global health is an emerging discipline which addresses health issues in a transnational and global perspective and focuses particularly on the interdependencies between globalization, health and the individual, societal and environmental factors that determine people’s health.

GLOHRA uses the definition proposed by Kaplan et al. as a starting point for conceptualizing global health:

“Global health is an area for study, research, and practice that places a priority on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide. Global health emphasizes transnational health issues, determinants, and solutions; involves many disciplines within and beyond the health sciences and promotes interdisciplinary collaboration; and is a synthesis of population-based prevention with individual-level clinical care.”

Equity
GLOHRA acts in support of health equity for all people, all over the world. This ambition motivates strategic and funding decisions. We also reflect this value in our operations, which ensure gender equity and fair representation of all disciplines that contribute to global health.

Excellence
We propel research that adheres to the highest standards of quality and scientific rigor. We expect that GLOHRA-supported research and activities demonstrate exceptional value as well as interdisciplinarity when addressing health challenges.

Partnership
Confident in the power of shared knowledge, we relentlessly encourage collaboration, especially among people from different disciplines, institutions, sectors and countries. Among our members as well as collaborators in low- and middle-income countries, we expect partnerships that stand on equal footing, demonstrate joint ownership and share recognition for achievements.

Transparency
We maintain ongoing exchange in our community, prioritizing honesty, openness and clear communication. Our leadership as well as our members are held to high standards of ethical conduct and professionalism.

Impact
Our work is grounded in our vision of improving health. We go above and beyond to foster cross-sector dialogue and translate research into policy and practice. This means considering impact from the design phase until well after the completed experiment, workshop, event, etc.

Sustainability
We acknowledge that healthy people need healthy social and natural ecosystems. As a research community, we call for creative ways to reduce our environmental impact and think long-term. We also ensure longevity by embracing initiatives that demonstrate genuine engagement from multiple stakeholders.

About GLOHRA

Vision
A healthier world supported by global health research

Mission
Tackle today’s global health challenges via interdisciplinary and collaborative global health research

Objectives

Build an interdisciplinary global health research community in Germany
Our community of researchers is committed to improving global health via evidence-based research. This notion unites our members, who hail from diverse disciplines and institutions in- and outside of Germany. Our ever-expanding Global Health Research Directory offers a unique resource for finding and connecting researchers based on specialty, while our scientific events and workshops provide a space for substantive exchange on topics relevant for global health research. Together we are developing a joint understanding of global health.

Boost the German contribution to global health research
GLOHRA actively supports global health research with funding for interdisciplinary, cross-sector and global health fellowship research projects. Research proposals are evaluated by our elected Steering Committee for their novelty, feasibility and impact-potential. By testing new models of cooperation, we seek to develop new links between disciplines and communities within Germany and internationally. Our activities and events further support better research for pressing health challenges.

Support the next generation of global health researchers in Germany
With the GLOHRA Academy, we seek to prepare early career researchers with the competencies, information and training they need to address global health challenges. We are also supporting the development of an information repository to make it easier for researchers to identify educational and other opportunities. Our funding for global health fellowships is specifically designed to support early career researchers. We are also working to develop career and research opportunities in the global health field in Germany so today’s students have greater opportunities tomorrow.

Enhance cross-sector research collaboration in global health
GLOHRA acknowledges that research must be translated into policy and practice to have an impact. In addition to encouraging this collaboration in our cross-sector projects, our events and engagements prioritize exchange involving civil society, policymaker and industry perspectives. We are active in communicating major developments with our research community and seek new and innovative ways to generate dialogue between the research community and policymakers.

Throughout this report, we will introduce you to some GLOHRA members and their research!
The German Alliance for Global Health Research (GLOHRA) is established as a BMBF-supported initiative for interdisciplinary, international and cross-sector global health research. See page 3.

First Directory of Global Health Researchers in Germany is launched on the GLOHRA website: researchdirectory.globalhealth.de

GLOHRA members deliver a joint statement in support of the WHO.

More than 500 members receive our first community newsletter.

Information repository for early career researchers is set in motion by an interdisciplinary team of GLOHRA members.

The World Health Organization operates based on science: A plea to support the global health body during the COVID-19 pandemic

Some of its member states accuse the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations specialized agency for health, of mismanaging the COVID-19 pandemic, caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. The newly founded German Alliance for Global Health Research opposes that view. Instead, it strongly advocates for evidence-based decision making in general, and for supporting the WHO as one of the most critical institutions tasked with protecting and promoting global health.

The world is in the midst of a global health emergency. The drastic measures taken by governments to contain the COVID-19 pandemic restrict freedom and fundamental human rights. They also lead to a range of unwanted adverse effects on health, and cause damage to the economy, nationally as well as internationally. There is a temptation for national governments to blame such collateral damage on others.

While the response to health threats always has to be adapted to local conditions, the COVID-19 pandemic requires strong and coordinated global action. The German Alliance for Global Health Research acknowledges that the WHO’s leadership and technical expertise is essential for supporting countries in implementing strategies to prevent and manage the further spread of the virus, reduce case fatality, and establish coherent public health responses. It emphasizes that the WHO’s guidance is based on the best available evidence.

No other organization has the mandate or ability to take on the important global coordinating role of the WHO. Only with the political and financial support of its member states can the WHO fulfill its role: to preserve and improve the health and well-being of people around the globe. With the International Health Regulations, the member states of the WHO have put in place a strong and legally binding instrument to contain and manage a pandemic. This instrument should be recognized and strengthened as the global community aims to control COVID-19.

Recent announcements by the US Government to withhold funding, and by other governments that question the integrity of the WHO are likely to have deleterious effects on WHO’s work in many areas of global health, predominantly in low and middle-income countries. In the current crisis, these countries need particular solidarity and support, including research cooperation, coordination support and evidence-based technical advice. These countries are now faced with severe consequences of drastic cuts to the WHO budget.

We call upon the German and all European governments to support the WHO to the best of their means while actively engaging in a critical constructive dialogue in order to ensure transparency, accountability, and possibly further reform. And we call upon the Global Health community to firmly stand by the WHO in this time of crisis.
Since our inception, GLOHRA membership has expanded rapidly to include nearly 600 members from more than 100 research institutions.

This community includes global health researchers representing specialties across the spectrum, from anthropology to ophthalmology, microbiology and beyond.

Our membership is open to researchers who are
- affiliated with public research institutions in Germany, and
- demonstrably active in research relevant for global health.

We offer associate membership to individuals who only partially fulfill these criteria.

Expert profiles of our members are added to the Global Health Research Directory, hosted by GLOHRA: researchdirectory.globalhealth.de

This database is the first of its kind in Germany. Searchable by name, institution and research specialty, we intend this as a resource for both academics and non-academics to encourage collaboration and exchange.

#MeetOurMember

Prof. Dr. Nils Hoppe, Professor of Ethics in Law in the Life Sciences, Director of the Centre for Ethics and Law in the Life Sciences and Dean of Research, Leibniz University Hannover

Focus: Bioethics, health law, health policy, research governance

Research: Nils’ interdisciplinary expertise has informed his work as a long-standing external ethics expert for the European Commission as well as his research concerning bioethics and law in the practice of science. Nils has a particular interest in the construction of governance frameworks that reconcile conflicting rights in science and technology.

If you could live two lives what would your non-research career be?
I do live two lives! I have a non-research career as a lawyer in London and very much enjoy helping to solve complex legal problems.
Network

Institutions of our Members

Institutions of our Members

Institutions of our Associate Members
### Steering Committee Co-Speakers

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<th>Representative</th>
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<tr>
<td>Prof. Dr. Walter Bruchhausen</td>
<td>Universitätssklinikum Bonn</td>
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<td>Dr. Meral Esen</td>
<td>Universität Tübingen</td>
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<td>Prof. Dr. Eva Rehfuess</td>
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### Representatives of Biomedicine

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<td>Prof. Dr. Detlev Ganten</td>
<td>Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Eva Kantelhardt</td>
<td>Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Dr. Carsten Köhler</td>
<td>Universitätsklinikum Tübingen</td>
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### Representatives of Public Health

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<td>Prof. Dr. Kayvan Bozorgmehr</td>
<td>Universität Bielefeld</td>
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<td>Dr. Ellen Kuhlmann</td>
<td>Medizinische Hochschule Hannover</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof. Dr. Jürgen May</td>
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### Representatives of Social Sciences and Humanities

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<td>Dr. Kerem Böge</td>
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<td>Prof. Dr. Johanna Hanefeld</td>
<td>Robert Koch-Institut</td>
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<td>Maike Voss</td>
<td>Stiftung für Wissenschaft und Politik</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Benjamin Leon Bodirsky</td>
<td>Potsdam Institut für Klimafolgen-forschung</td>
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<td>Prof. Dr. Mizeck Chagunda</td>
<td>Universität Hohenheim</td>
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<td>Dr. Sonia Díaz Monsalve</td>
<td>Albert-Ludwigs Universität Freiburg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof. Dr. Julia Pengratz</td>
<td>Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München</td>
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### Representatives of Early Career Researchers and the Host Institution of the Secretariat

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<td>PD Dr. Thi Minh Tam Ta</td>
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### Quick-Stats:

- **19** members
- **13** research institutions
- **9** female
- **5** under 40 years
- **3** born on another continent

**Balanced representation** from biomedical sciences, public health, social sciences and humanities, and other sciences

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**Steering Committee**

German Alliance for Global Health Research

2020–2022
Research Projects

GLOHRA Project Funding

GLOHRA especially intends to support projects that

- address transnational health issues, determinants, and solutions
- contribute to the improvement of health and health equity worldwide
- develop and implement groundbreaking ideas, test new models of cooperation and create new links between disciplines and communities
- are interdisciplinary and link GLOHRA members from different institutions and cities
- link scientific excellence with the domains of capacity building, science-based policy advice, teaching, implementation and/or clinical practice
- promote active, eye-level partnerships with national and international partners, including the Global South

Types of Projects

In 2020, GLOHRA supported the following types of research projects:

- **Interdisciplinary pilot projects**: seed funding, 120,000 € for 12 months
- **Cross-sector projects**: collaborative research, 240,000 € over 24 months
- **Global health fellowships**: post-doc fellowship, 100,000 €/year, 12–24 months

Overview of Projects Selected in 2020

- **14** projects proposals submitted
- **2** interdisciplinary pilot projects
- **1** cross-sector project
- **1** global health fellowship
- **4** project proposals recommended for funding (29% acceptance rate)

Central focus of accepted projects

Gender of Project Team Leaders

Involving researchers from the following institutions

- Charité
- Universitätsklinikum Heidelberg
- Technical University of Munich
- Deutsches Institut für Ernährungsforschung Potsdam-Rehbruecke

14 projects proposals submitted
1 global health fellowship
4 project proposals recommended for funding (29% acceptance rate)
Selected Projects at a Glance

IMPEDE-CVD: Human centered design to adapt and inform an integrated chronic disease management

**Project type:** Cross-sector

**Research Areas:** Biomedical Sciences, Public Health, Engineering and Other Sciences

**Applicants:** Prof. Dr. Felix Knauf, Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin; Dr. Shannon McMahon-Rössle, Prof. Dr. Dr. Till Bärnighausen, both Universitätssklinikum Heidelberg; Dr. Julius Emmrich, Dr. Samuel Knauss, both mTOMADY gGmbH

**Planned Duration:** May 2021—April 2023

In a nutshell: Research meets implementation in this digital health project in Uganda. The team aims to assess the feasibility, acceptability, perception, and usefulness of a mobile phone-based program, IMPEDE-CVD, to detect and manage cardiovascular disease in Uganda. This will ideally improve the detection and management of chronic diseases and reduce their financial burden in resource-poor communities.

MeasureGender: Measuring gender-based discrimination to better understand maternal mortality

**Project type:** Interdisciplinary Pilot Project

**Research Areas:** Biomedical Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities, Public Health

**Applicants:** PD. Dr. med. Wilm Quentin, Technische Universität Berlin and Prof. Dr. Manuela De Allegri, Universität Heidelberg

**Planned Duration:** May 2021—April 2022

In a nutshell: Drawing on sociological and medical perspectives, this project aims to develop a culturally adapted tool for measuring gender-based discrimination. The team hopes that the tool, Measure-Gender, developed via field research and interviews, can be used in future surveys to improve our understanding of the relationship between gender-based discrimination and maternal health outcomes.

Diarrhea, fiber and colon cancer: Environmental contributions to low colon cancer risk in sub-Saharan Africa

**Project type:** Global Health Fellowship

**Research Areas:** Biomedical Sciences, Public Health

**Applicants:** Dr. Sören Ocvirk, Deutsches Institut für Ernährungsforschung Potsdam-Rehbrücke

**Planned Duration:** May 2021—April 2023

In a nutshell: This study proposes a novel mechanism for colorectal cancer (CRC) prevention. The team will examine a population with low risk for colon cancer, individuals in sub-Saharan Africa, with special attention to the role of dietary fiber consumption and pathogenic intestinal bacteria. Insights could have implications for targeted prevention of CRC in high-risk groups.

Vaccines and helminths: The impact of helminth infections on vaccine outcomes in humans – a systematic literature review

**Project type:** Interdisciplinary Pilot Project

**Research Areas:** Biomedical Sciences, Public Health

**Applicants:** Prof. Dr. Clarissa Prazeres da Costa, Prof. Dr. Stefanie Klug, Technische Universität München; Dr. Meral Esen, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen

**Planned Duration:** June 2021—November 2022

In a nutshell: Reflecting on the pivotal role of vaccines in prevention and control of infectious diseases, this interdisciplinary project seeks to systematically review and analyze the impact of helminth infections on the immune response to and efficacy of vaccines. Insights from this project will lead to the generation of knowledge-translation resources to inform clinical and public health practice guidelines, set the basis for the design of new studies investigating new vaccination strategies and eventually formulate scientific consensus statements.
**Events**

**Scientific Events**

**Evidence-Based Decision-Making in Global Health – What is Evidence and how is it used in Making Decisions about COVID-19?**

**Date:** 26 October 2020  
**Chairs:**  
Prof. Dr. Eva Rehfues | Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, GLOHRA Steering Committee  
Maike Voss | Stiftung Wissen­schaft und Politik, GLOHRA Steering Committee  
**Speakers:**  
Prof. Dr. Yvonne Doyle | Public Health England  
Frode Forland | Norwegian Institute of Public Health  
Dr. Fernando Simón | Ministry of Health Spain  
Dr. Soumya Swaminathan | World Health Organization (WHO)

In this session, the speakers addressed how decisions have been made during the evolving phases of the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting successful collaboration and challenges of uncertainty. Our speaker panel represented a range of health institutes and exchanged their experiences of decision making amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. They noted the challenges of implementing policy in absence of complete evidence, the importance of behavioral insights, and the benefits of shared experience and collaboration among both health scientists and policy makers.

Mr. Forland described Norway’s approach involving intense exchange between three major institutions and elaborated on newly established methods for evaluating early-stage research. Dr. Swaminathan reflected on the actions of the WHO and emphasized the importance of exchange among countries from the six WHO regions, especially in the early stages of the pandemic. She also voiced concerns about the insidious nature of the so-called “infodemic.” Final reflections led some speakers to speculate that the investment in primary health care may help to explain better-than-expected outcomes in some lower income countries and noted, as ever, the importance of functioning health systems.

**Multi Stakeholder Collaboration in Global Health Research – Science meets Implementation**

**Date:** 26 October 2020  
**Chairs:**  
Prof. Dr. Walter Bruchhausen | Universitätsklinikum Bonn, GLOHRA Steering Committee  
Prof. Dr. Johanna Hanefeld | Robert Koch-Institut, GLOHRA Steering Committee  
**Speakers:**  
Prof. Dr. Achim Hörauf | Universitätsklinikum Bonn, GLOHRA Member  
Prof. Dr. Francis Omaswa | African Center for Global Health and Social Transformation  
Birgit Pickel | Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development  
Caroline Schmutte | Wellcome Trust

This conversation-style session delved thoughtfully into bridging the gaps between research and practice, decolonizing partnerships and positive examples of multi-stakeholder collaboration. There was an acknowledgement of the gaps between research and practice but also positive examples of international research collaboration, in particular the bilateral partnerships that exist between universities in Germany and various universities in Africa. A speaker-consensus emerged that effective global health research and initiatives must fully integrate local partners, from goal setting to joint-funding commitments.

Dr. Omaswa argued for funding national research institutions in Africa, which are already in line with national agendas and Ms. Schmutte noted the evolving stance of the Wellcome Trust to ensure fuller integration of local partners. Participants were finally asked to confront some more existential questions: Is our research truly being designed for the people we seek to serve? How do we best clarify the goals of our research? And, to what degree are private and public funders willing to give up control to local partners? These are ongoing matters that our funders and scientific community will face as global research collaboration and multi-stakeholder participation develops.
Behind the Scenes at the Secretariat

The German Alliance for Global Health Research is the result of years of work by countless contributors. We were born out of a desire for meaningful networking among colleagues in the global health community. Below you’ll get a bit of insight into the story of how the Secretariat came to be based at Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and a glimpse into how GLOHRA was transformed from a dream to a reality.

An Idea was Born
In February 2019, around 50 global health researchers from universities and research institutes across Germany gathered in Berlin to discuss the role of universities in global health research and policy. Around the same time, BMBF was preparing a call for proposals to initiate and fund a networking platform for global health research.

The interdisciplinary group decided to seize the opportunity and submit an application, which they jointly prepared in several follow-up meetings and phone conferences. The application was to be submitted by Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, which had been asked to host the Secretariat in the German capital. In January 2020, the BMBF formally approved the proposal.

The Secretariat took up work in February 2020.

Building a Community
From the beginning, we wanted to send the clear message that we aren’t “just another research funder” but part of a bigger movement within the global health community in Germany. We are thinking BIG – aiming for collaboration in the field on a scale that currently does not exist. This means that we have tried, even amidst the pandemic, to create a sense of community amongst our researchers, who are scattered across Germany.

To this end, we set up the GLOHRA website and the Global Health Research Directory, introduced a monthly newsletter for members, started and grew a very active Twitter account and launched the campaigns #MeetOurMembers and #OurImpact to make our members and their expertise visible. We have also been hard at work to get the word out about GLOHRA and invite members.

First-Year Reflections
Looking back we are awed at the progress that we have made in less than one year. Our development is mainly thanks to the dedication of our Steering Committee and support from our extended community. Over time, the Steering Committee has developed trust and understanding for one another’s approaches, and dedicated a lot of time and effort to ensuring our exceptional development. Exchange across disciplines is not always simple, but we have seen first-hand how the knowledge and outcomes generated are greater than the sum of their parts.

Behind the Scenes

The German Alliance for Global Health Research

German Alliance for Global Health Research

Behind the Scenes
Looking Ahead

GLOHRA is part of a growing movement – in the scientific community, it is a testament to the importance of collaboration and interdisciplinarity. As part of Germany’s global health strategy, GLOHRA also makes an important contribution to new mechanisms of cooperation and avenues of thinking. Our fateful launch at the start of the pandemic has increased the awareness of our mission. We will build on the momentum from our first year to continue to transform global health research. Here’s a sneak-peak of just a few things that are on the agenda for the upcoming year. Excited? So are we.

Launch of the Global Health Academy

The Global Health Academy is a GLOHRA initiative specifically committed to supporting early career researchers. The target audience is primarily PhD students and post-docs – individuals who have demonstrated a clear interest in global health research, but who could use assistance in gaining competencies and networking opportunities to assist their career progression in global health.

The organizing team of the Academy is based at Bonn University, where Prof. Dr. Walter Bruchhausen has been awarded special responsibilities for overseeing its development. Further, a team of GLOHRA members is currently developing a repository to assist early career researchers to identify educational and other opportunities.

GLOHRA-Supported Research Projects to Face Global Health Challenges

GLOHRA-supported projects from the first funding round begin in 2021. These projects range in their scope – from creating a tool for measuring gender discrimination, to investigating a novel mechanism for colorectal cancer, to innovative mHealth technologies in Uganda and finally, a systematic review on the impact of helminth infections on vaccine efficacy – yet are united by their mission to improve global health. We look forward to ongoing exchange with the respective teams and will provide updates on their progress to the community.

The Steering Committee reviews and decides on future projects in two project evaluation meetings in January and June 2020. As ties deepen among researchers across institutions and disciplines, we anticipate new partnerships and innovative ways of approaching global health challenges.

GLOHRA Engaged: Perspectives on the Global Health Strategy

The latest Global Health Strategy has set out key objectives and focus areas – from strengthening health systems to mitigating the health impacts of climate change. This year we will engage our GLOHRA community members, tapping into their expertise to shed light on how research perspectives can bolster the strategy. In true GLOHRA style, we will ensure diverse disciplines and viewpoints are represented.

Community Growth

In our first year we have been impressed by the enthusiasm for this initiative and the researchers from all disciplines that are contributing to our growth. We will continue to carry on with our efforts to increase awareness about GLOHRA and our mission. We will expand our communication activities and expand networking opportunities. Not only to reach more researchers from additional research institutions and disciplines, but also to deepen existing ties within the community.

GLOHRA Day 2021 at the World Health Summit

We hope, pandemic-permitting, to host our annual symposium in Berlin on 23 October, 2021. This will be a day for members to get to know one another, share research results and ideas and find new collaboration opportunities. We will also host a session at the World Health Summit, bringing in cross-sector perspectives from the WHO to academia to discuss research and training in tropical diseases.

Photos
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p.2 (Prof. Drosten): Wiebke Peitz / Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin
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