



GLOHRA
German Alliance for
Global Health Research



GLOHRA 2021 Annual report

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Foreword

A Foreword 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. As GLOHRA closes out its second year, operations are reaching full swing. Research projects have officially begun work in many corners of the world, and initiatives such as the Global Health Academy have taken shape. GLOHRA's mission gained additional traction as its launch coincided with the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic in February 2020. GLOHRA has harnessed this momentum in support of global health and used this to bring together the research community in Germany.

Germany's global health strategy continues to grow and evolve. In this context we see GLOHRA as a key enabler of research "made in Germany" that addresses pressing issues in global health – whether concerned with infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases or mental health, health system strengthening or climate change or other critical determinants of health.

GLOHRA contributes to new ways of organizing and funding research that reflect the research community's needs, that promote scientific rigor and that seek to enable research at eye level – across different disciplines, institutions and the Global South.

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 improving and becoming more comprehensive.

Highly specialized research will always have a place in global health, but it is only the collaboration across multiple disciplines that can solve pressing global health problems. With regards to the ongoing pandemic, great minds in biomedicine have developed a range of tests and innovative vaccines but fully exploiting their potential requires a practicable and equitable vaccine roll-out across the world.

Modelers have predicted how school closures, travel restrictions and other so-called public health and social measures will help control the pandemic, but whether such measures are effective in real-life depends on their appropriate and context-sensitive implementation and good communication. More than the sum of its parts - successfully managing a pandemic requires joint research across biomedicine, public health, social sciences and natural sciences!

It was an inspiration to see so many of our members, from a wide variety of research institutions and backgrounds, come together to exchange and build partnerships at our in-person symposium this past October in Berlin. Participants at this eagerly awaited face-to-face meeting as well as the many GLOHRA events held online provide a hopeful glimpse into the interdisciplinary, engaged, and impact-oriented future of global health research in Germany. 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.



Prof. Dr. Walter Bruchhausen



Dr. Meral Esen



Prof. Dr. Eva Rehfuss

“With its support of the German Alliance for Global Health Research, the BMBF wants to address scientists in the field of global health across all disciplines. One aim of this measure is therefore to strengthen and, where necessary, **build up the entire German global health research scene in this field.** Precisely so that holistic approaches can be better conceived of and implemented in the future.”



Prof. Dr. Veronika von Messling, Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF), speaking at the GLOHRA launch

“Biomedical interventions are never just technical or pharmaceutical – many social factors actually determine whether something is implemented, carried out, whether the effectiveness is reduced or a target is achieved. **Networks such as GLOHRA in the German context are obviously vitally important platforms to bring together scholars from these different disciplines** as the next generation grapples with current challenges.”



Prof. Dr. Johanna Hanefeld, Robert Koch Institut, GLOHRA SC

10 Achievements from our first two years

Ratified Statutes that bind us to our goals and commitment to interdisciplinary global health research

Elected an interdisciplinary, gender balanced **19-member Steering Committee**

Attracted a membership of over **750** researchers affiliated with more than **150** public research institutions in Germany

Awarded **1.4 million euros** in funding for global health research projects

Supported seven active research projects with **47 team members**, including collaborators in **17 countries**

Hosted or played an active role in **24 events**, reaching more than **2000 participants**

Published **two joint statements** – one in support of the WHO and another advising the incoming German government on measures to support global health research

Launched the **Global Health Academy** and hosted **7 trainings** involving more than **200 participants**

Developed an **active social media presence** on Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube, with a combined total of **1173 followers, 426 posts** and **286,000 impressions**

Sent **14 newsletters**, featuring the research profiles of **28 members**, reaching our subscribers **9000 times**

At a Glance

About Us

- The German Alliance for Global Health Research (GLOHRA) is an association of researchers from publicly-funded 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 Aims



- Steering Committee**
- 19 elected experts
 - speaker trio
 - interdisciplinary representation
 - gender balanced

German Alliance for Global Health Research
globalhealth.de

Secretariat
hosted by Charité -
Universitätsmedizin
Berlin

- Members**
- over 750 researchers
 - all disciplines
 - affiliated with over 150 research institutions



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.

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.

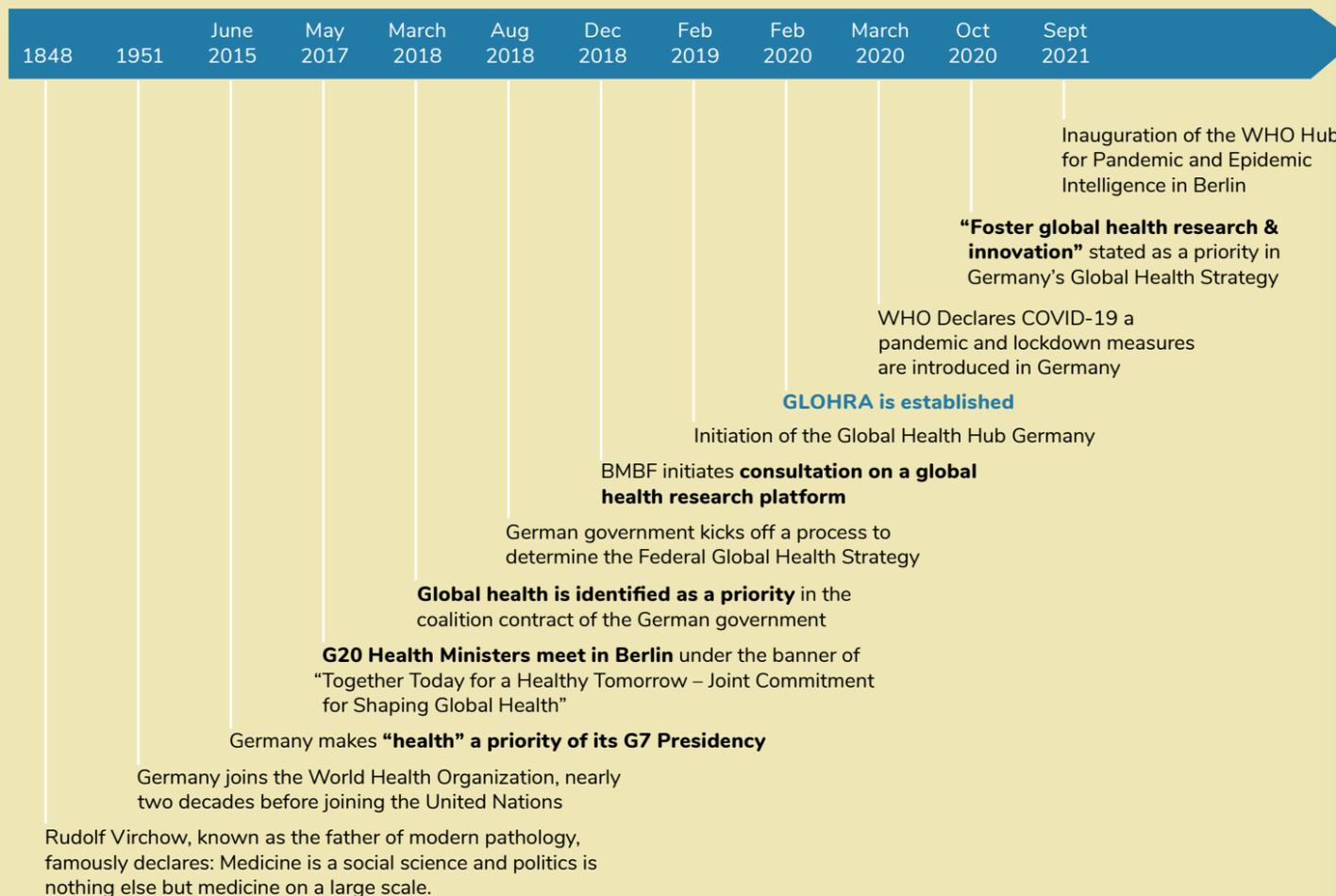
GLOHRA is one piece of this larger mission, with an explicit focus on strengthening and expanding global health research. By uniting the research community in Germany under a common cause of a healthier world, GLOHRA holds great potential to develop evidence and tools to tackle today's global health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



Global Health Strategy of the German Federal Government, October 2020

"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."

Germany's Role in Global Health



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.



Prof. Dr. Clarissa Prazeres da Costa, Technische Universität München

"Most interdisciplinary projects require long term perspective but also the willingness to dedicate time and effort into activities that are tedious and sometimes outside of your direct research topic. **GLOHRA really tries to transition from disease focus to more comprehensive programs** which we need in NTD research."

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 to link 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 Koplan 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."

Koplan, J. P., Bond, T. C., Merson, M. H., Reddy, K. S., Rodriguez, M. H., Sewankambo, N. K., & Wasserheit, J. N. (2009). Towards a common definition of global health. *The Lancet*, 373(9679), 1993-1995.

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.

Support the next generation of global health researchers in Germany

With the Global Health 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.

Boost the German contribution to global health research

GLOHRA actively supports global health research with funding for interdisciplinary, cross-sector and global health postdoc 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.

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.

Values

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.

Throughout this report, we will introduce you to some GLOHRA members and their research!



Prof. Dr. Sandra Ciesek

Director of the Institute for Medical Virology, Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universität Frankfurt

Research: Sandra began her career focusing on Hepatitis C and has since expanded her research expertise. During the pandemic, her research on the novel SARS-Cov-2 virus proved that asymptomatic transmission was possible, and she has regularly communicated scientific evidence to the public.

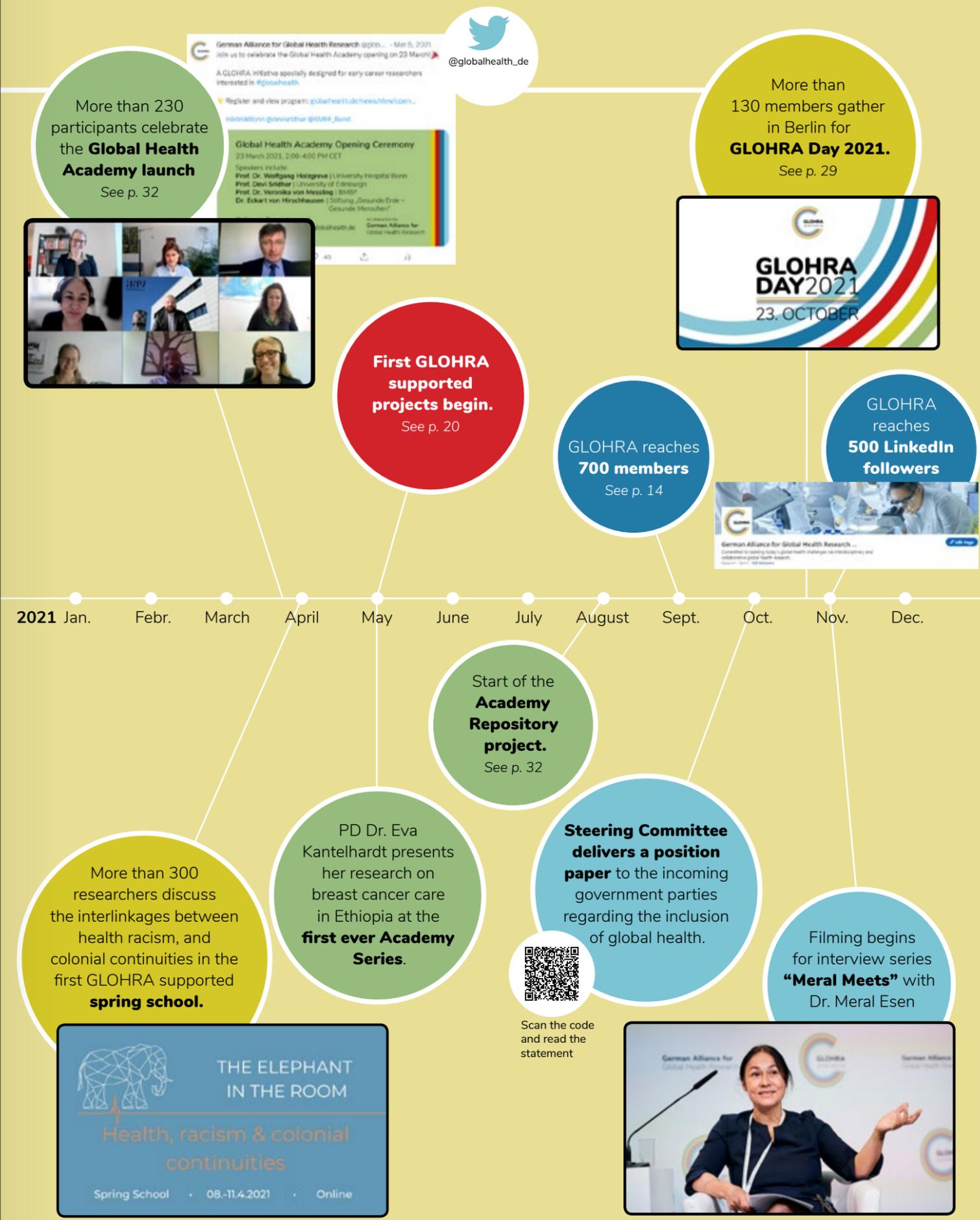
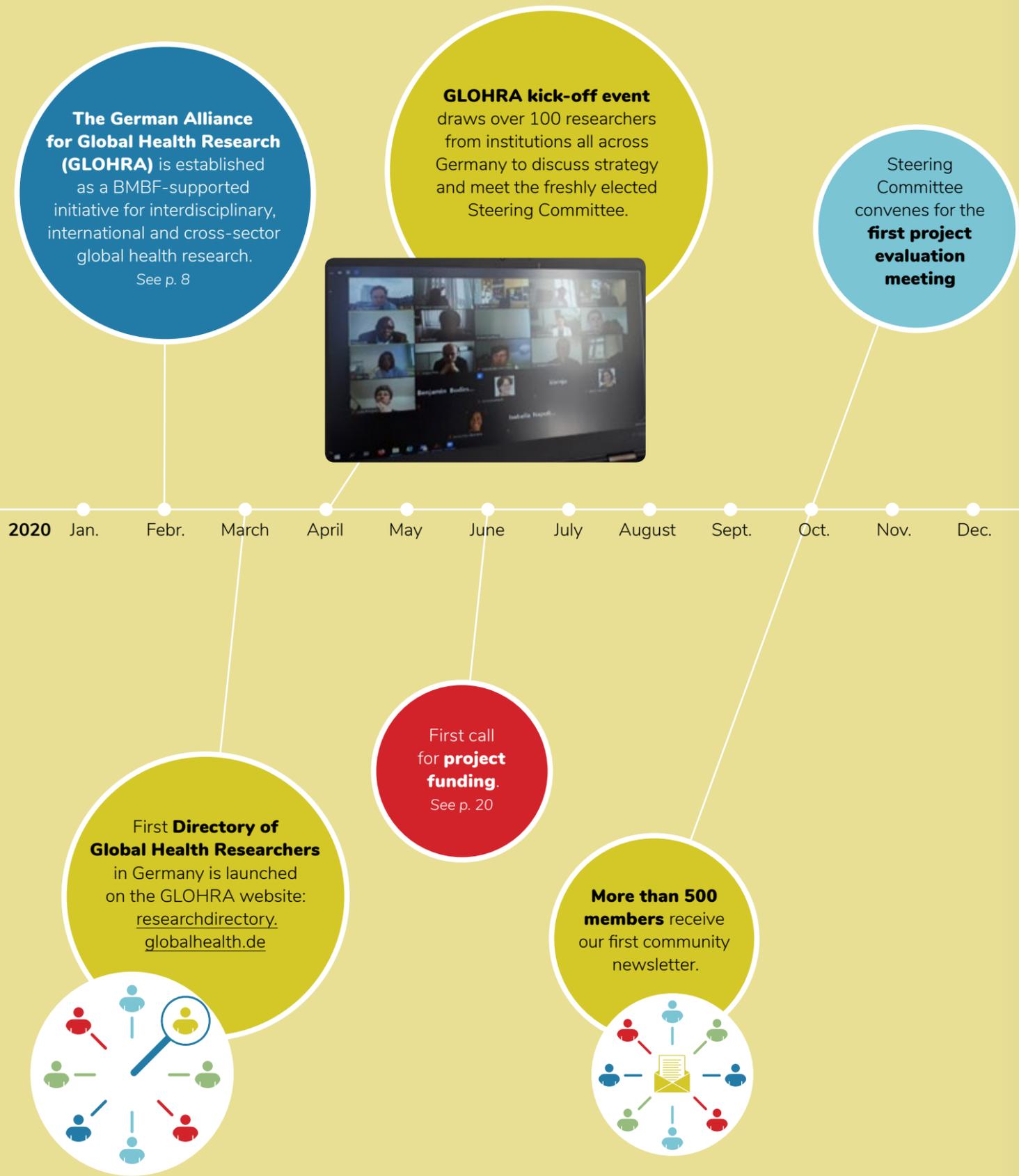
What advice do you offer to aspiring researchers?

Leave all dreams and paths open and always try to achieve what you want.

Sandra is a member of the German Alliance for Global Health Research. See full profile at researchdirectory.globalhealth.de

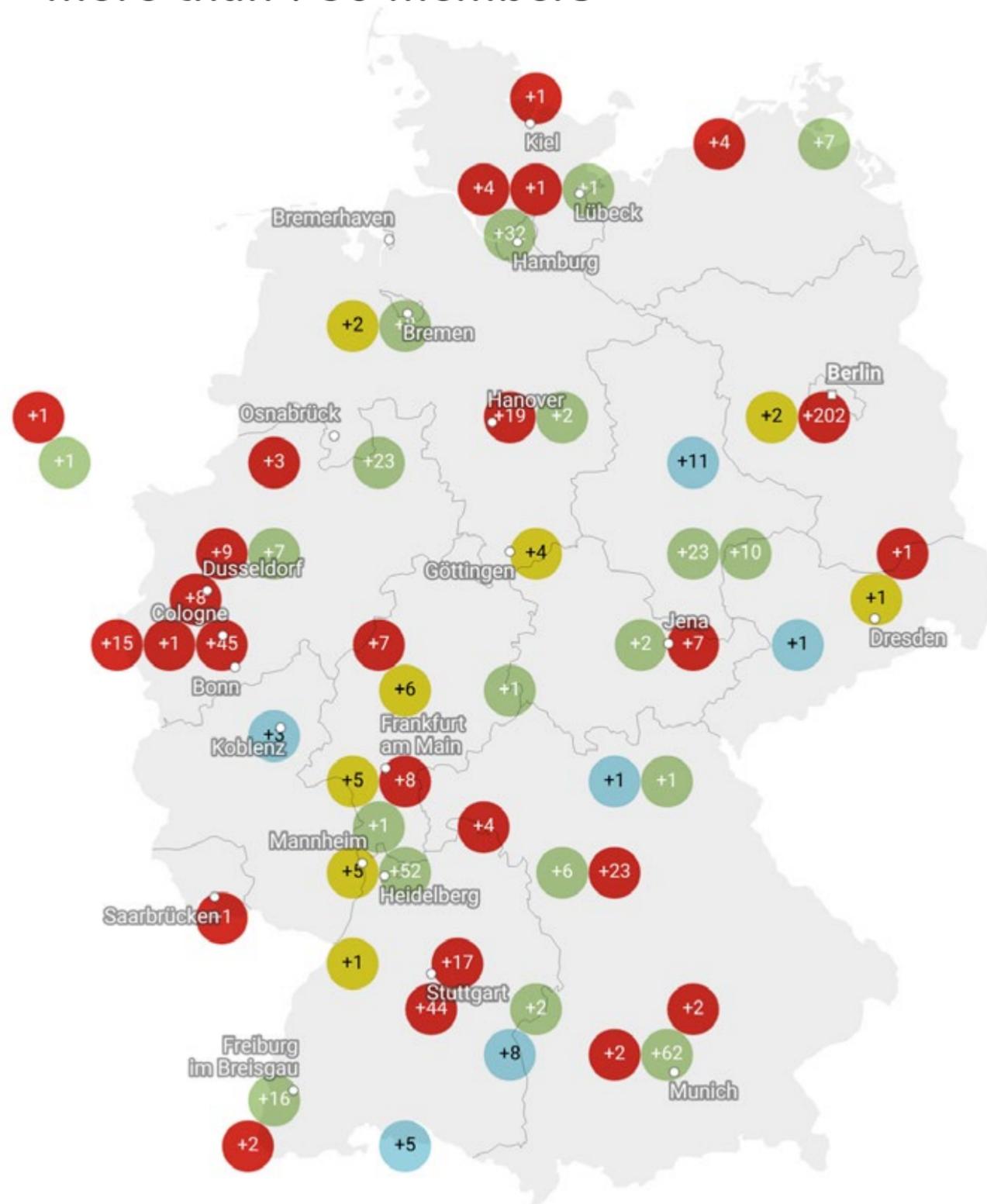


Milestones



GLOHRA Member Map

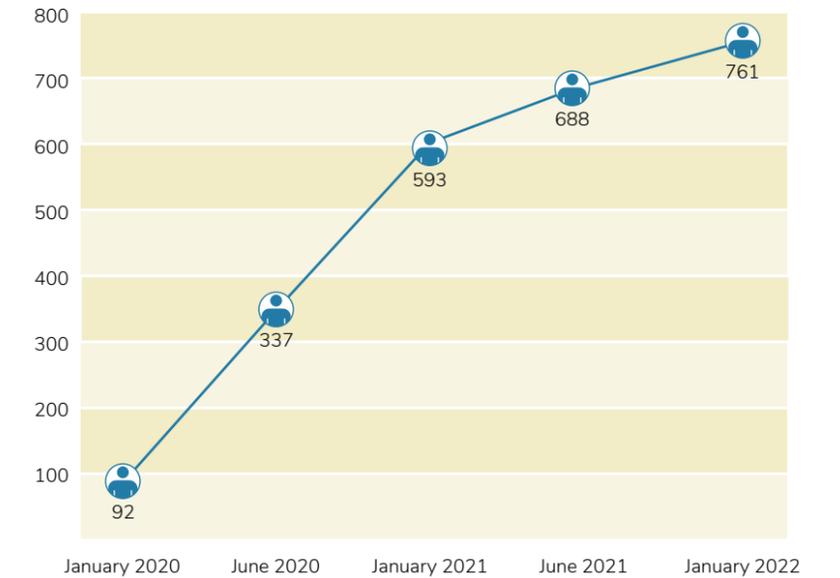
more than 750 members



Members

Since our inception, GLOHRA membership has expanded rapidly to include **more than 750 members** from **more than 150 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.



Dr. Wolfgang Sunder

Head of Research Health Care Architecture, Technische Universität Braunschweig



Research: Wolfgang's research aims to improve the architecture of health care buildings, to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Taking a thoroughly interdisciplinary approach, his team considers everything – from hygienic materials, to the placement of disinfectant dispensers – in making hospitals more efficient.

What advice do you offer to aspiring researchers?

It is important to be convinced that you can manage a task successfully. You have to realise that you have already achieved other things. It also helps to set small interim goals, get feedback from other researchers and celebrate successes.

Wolfgang is a member of the German Alliance for Global Health Research. See full profile at researchdirectory.globalhealth.de

Network

Institutions of our Members



Institutions of our Members



Institutions of our Associate Members



Steering Committee

2020–2022

Co-Speakers



Prof. Dr. Walter Bruchhausen
Universitätsklinikum Bonn



Dr. Meral Esen
Universität Tübingen



Prof. Dr. Eva Rehfuss
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

Representatives of Biomedicine



Prof. Dr. Detlev Ganten
Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin



PD Dr. Eva Kantelhardt
Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg



Dr. Dr. Carsten Köhler
Universitätsklinikum Tübingen

Representatives of Public Health



Prof. Dr. Kayvan Bozorgmehr
Universität Bielefeld



Dr. Ellen Kuhlmann
Medizinische Hochschule Hannover



Prof. Dr. Jürgen May
Bernhard-Nocht-Institut für Tropenmedizin

Representatives of Social Sciences and Humanities



Dr. Dr. Kerem Böge
Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin



Prof. Dr. Johanna Hanefeld
Robert Koch-Institut



Maike Voss
KLUG – Deutsche Allianz Klimawandel und Gesundheit e.V.

Representatives of Engineering and Other Sciences



Dr. Benjamin Leon Bodirsky
Potsdam Institut für Klimafolgenforschung



Prof. Dr. Mizeck Chagunda
Universität Hohenheim



Prof. Dr. Ruth Müller
Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universität Frankfurt



Prof. Dr. Julia Pongratz
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

Representatives of the Host Institution of the Secretariat



Prof. Dr. Christian Drosten
Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin



Dr. Jörg Heldmann
Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin

Early Career Researcher Representative



PD Dr. Thi Minh Tam Ta
Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin

Steering Committee Quick-Stats:

19 members

13 research institutions

9 female

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

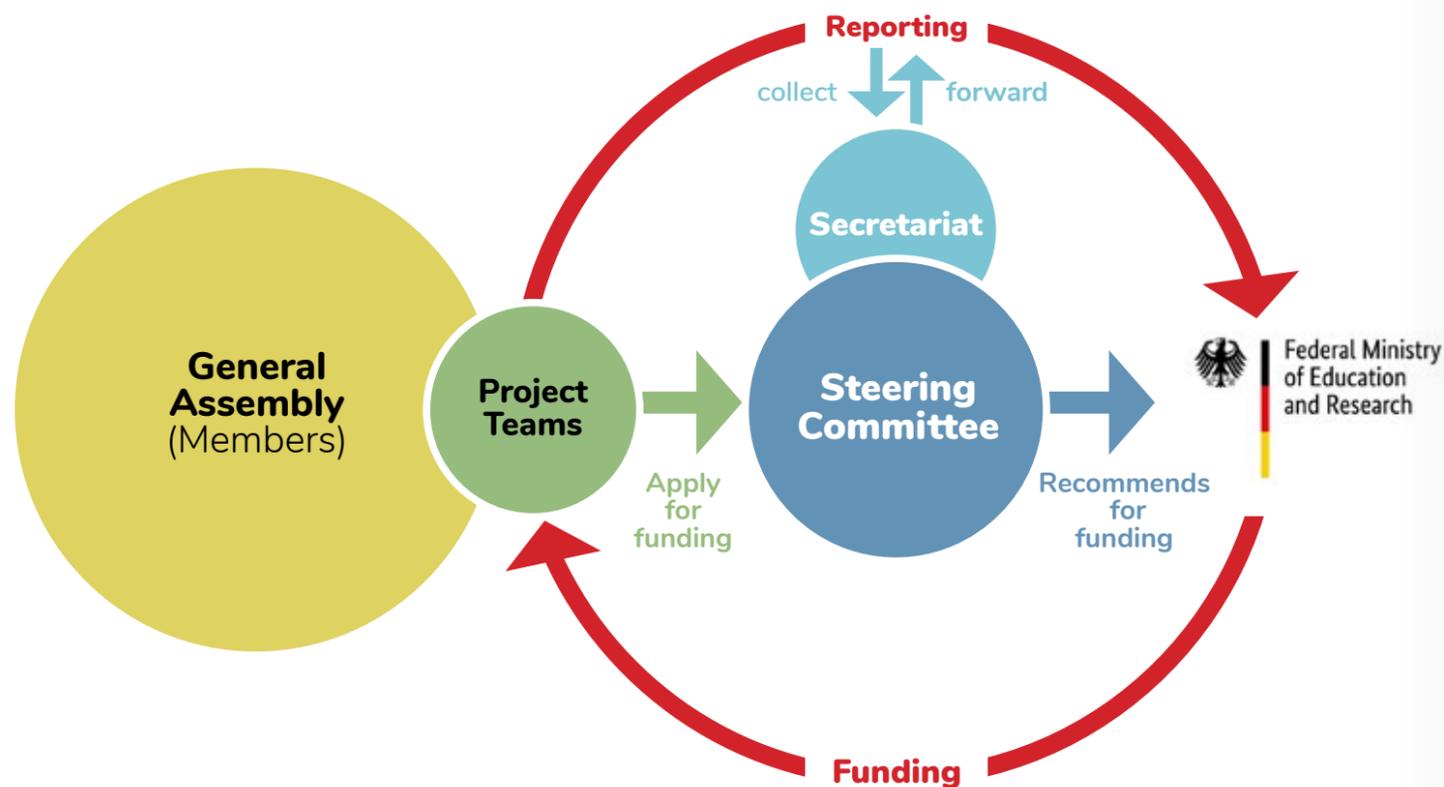
Projects

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

The Steering Committee evaluates and recommends projects for funding. BMBF as the funder takes the final funding decisions.



Types of Projects

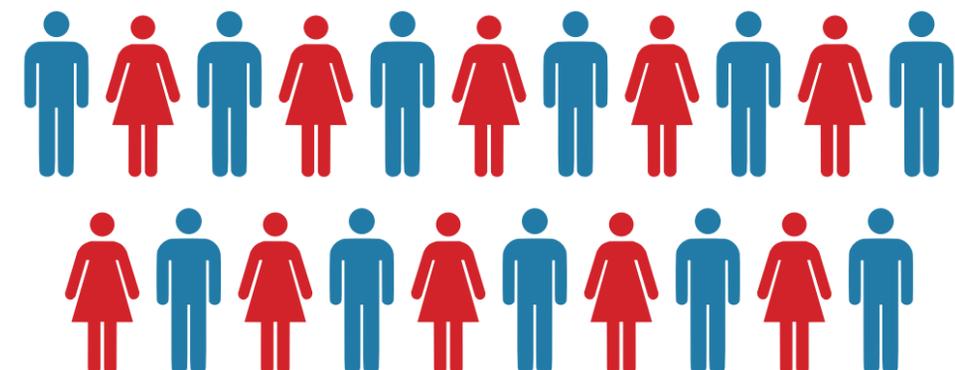
GLOHRA currently supports the following types of research projects:



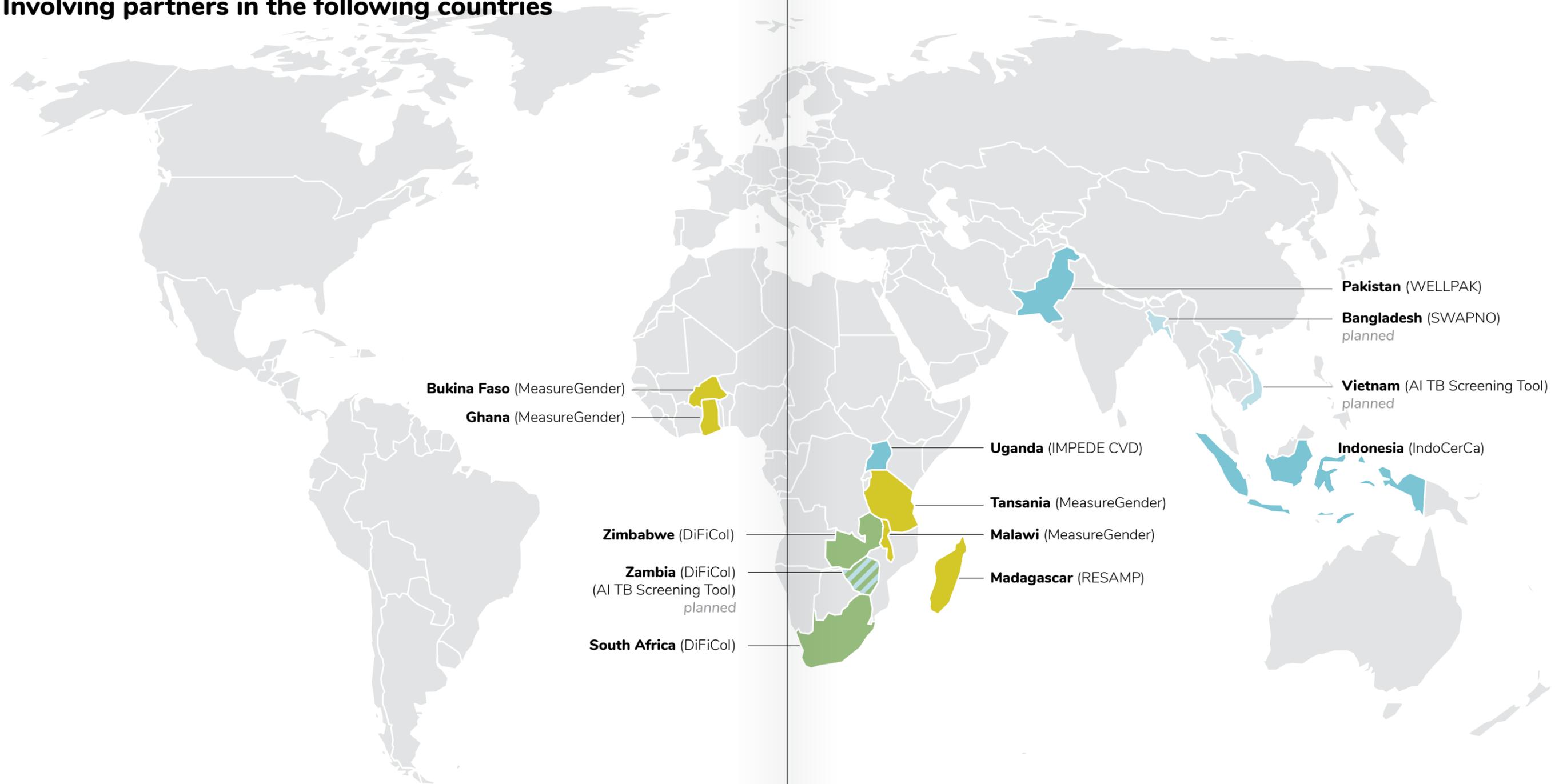
All GLOHRA research projects



Gender of Project Team Leaders



Involving partners in the following countries



Involving researchers from the following institutions

Institutions of members



Institutions of international and cross-sector partners



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 Universitätsklinikum Heidelberg; Dr. Julius Emmrich, Dr. Samuel Knauss, both mTOMADY gGmbH

International collaborators: Dr. Robert Kalyesubula, Makerere University & ACCESS

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.



“Through IMPEDE-CVD, we will combine expertise to tackle the growing burden of non-communicable diseases by integrating innovative mHealth technologies in a rural Ugandan setting.”
IMPEDE-CVD team

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

Project type: Interdisciplinary Pilot Project

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

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.

“The goal of this project is to lay the foundation for future analyses of the relationship between gender discrimination and various aspects of maternal health, including maternal mortality, by developing an instrument to measure gender discrimination.”
MeasureGender team

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

Project type: Global Health Postdoc 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.

“This exciting project enables us to challenge the way we think about prevention of non-communicable diseases associated with a Western lifestyle, such as colon cancer. It will also question our perspective on how detrimental environmental factors like poor hygiene and nutrition in sub-Saharan Africa actually may provide a benefit in terms of diseases prevalent in Western populations.”
Sören Ocvirk

“This systematic review is a novel endeavor that will help fill in a persistent knowledge gap. The outcomes of this project have important implications for revisiting mass vaccination strategies to improve efficacy of not only current but future vaccines. In the long term, this will help optimize resources and increase cost-effectiveness of such interventions in resource-poor settings.”
HelmSys team

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

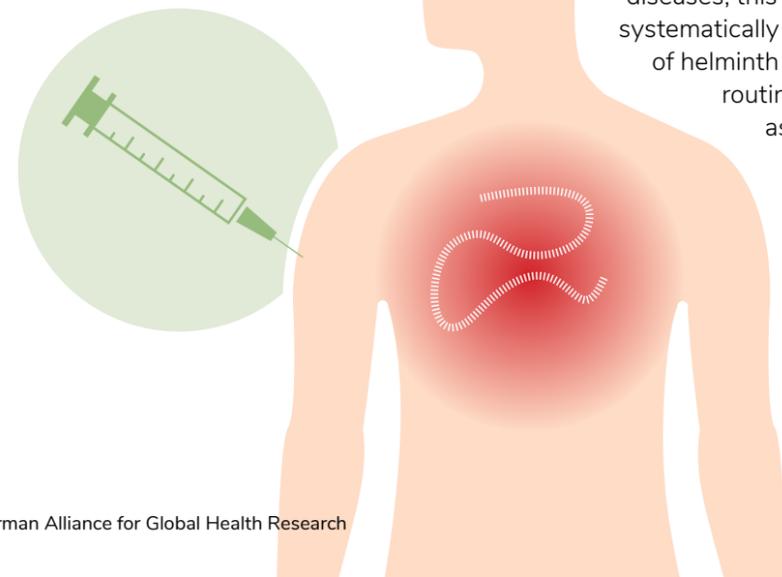
Project type: Interdisciplinary Pilot Project

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: November 2021—February 2023

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 co-infections on the efficacy of routinely used and novel vaccines such as COVID-19. Insights from this project will help generate knowledge-translation resources to inform clinical and public health practice guidelines, design studies investigating optimal vaccination schedules and formulate strategies for optimal anti-helminthic regimens.





RESAMP: Reducing schistosomiasis through aquaculture interventions in Madagascar: a pilot study

Project type: Interdisciplinary pilot project

Research Areas: Public Health, Biomedicine, Engineering and other sciences

Applicants: Dr. Daniela Fusco, Dr. Ralf Krumkamp, Bernhard-Nocht-Institute für Tropenmedizin (BNITM); Prof. Amena Almes Ahmad, Juliane Boenecke, Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften Hamburg

International partners: Nicolas Jouanard, Université de Fianarantsoa, Madagascar; Prof. Rivo Andry Rokotoarivelo & Dr. Tahinamandranto Rasamoelina, Université d'Antananarivo, Madagascar; Prof. Raphaël Rakotozandrindrainy, Centre d'Infectiologie Charles Mérieux (CICM), Madagascar

Planned Duration: September 2021—February 2023

In a nutshell: The RESAMP research project aims to assess the feasibility of implementing an aquaculture intervention in rice fields in Madagascar as a potential infection control measure to reduce the transmission of schistosomiasis. The project is organized around three thematic areas i.e., aquaculture, public health and ecology. Ultimately the experienced European-African team seeks to collect sufficient data to serve as a proof of concept for scaling up the novel farming intervention to achieve broader health, social and ecological benefits.

“Given the direct economic benefit for the population we are convinced that addressing a public health issue with a profitable agro-ecological intervention can sustainably reduce the schistosomiasis burden.”

RESAMP Team



IndoCerCa: Community Cervical Cancer Screening and Prevention in Indonesia

Project type: Cross-sector

Research Areas: Biomedicine, Public Health

Applicants: Prof. Dr. Jörg Haier, Prof. Dr. Peter Hillemanns, Medizinische Hochschule Hannover (MHH); Prof. Dr. Ralph Lellé, Universitätsklinikum Münster

International Collaborators: Supriyatningsih Wenang, Muhammadiyah University of Yogyakarta/PKU Muhammadiyah Gamping Teaching Hospital (Indonesia); Dwi Astuti, Gadjah Mada University (Indonesia)

Planned Duration: November 2021—October 2023

In a nutshell: This research project will involve designing, implementing and testing a community-based screening approach for HPV in Indonesia. The team includes more than 10 individuals from academic and non-academic institutions in Germany and Indonesia. The overarching and long-term goal of this research project is to establish clinically effective, cost-effective and desirable community strategies to make possible the elimination of cervical cancer.



“Our aim is to help prevent cervical cancer by designing and testing a community-based HPV-screening program. If successful, the results of this project may be transferred to other regions within and outside of Indonesia.”

IndoCerCa team

WELLPAK: Integration of digital mental health intervention at community level in Pakistan

Project type: Cross-sector

Research Areas: Public Health, Social Sciences & Humanities

Applicants: Prof. Dr. Hajo Zeeb, Dr. Maham Saleem, Leibniz-Institut für Präventionsforschung und Epidemiologie – BIPS; PD Dr. Markus Kösters, Universität Ulm

Planned Duration: August 2021—July 2023

In a nutshell: Bringing together academic, civil society and policy actors in both Germany and Pakistan, this project aims to digitally adapt the WHO transdiagnostic intervention for common mental health disorders and pioneer this digital intervention in Islamabad, Pakistan. If proven feasible and acceptable this project will not only harness digital technologies for mental health issues but will also positively impact the uptake of these technologies for other health issues of the country.

“With the health system in Pakistan undergoing transformational changes, it is the right time to implement initiatives at the community level that address the high mental health burden.”

WELLPAK Team

Scientific Events in 2021

GLOHRA Academy Series

The Academy Series exposes early career researchers to global health research with special attention to the added value of interdisciplinary and international cooperation.

Sessions take place via Zoom every month and are open to early career researchers and GLOHRA members. So far, in six Academy Series, including one Journal Club edition, established researchers presented a wide range of topics - from One Health to migration to cardio metabolic disease.

Speakers:

PD Dr. Eva Kantelhardt | Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg

A decade of collaboration to improve breast cancer care in Ethiopia

Prof. Dr. Sebastian Vollmer | Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

Access to care for cardiometabolic disease in the Global South

Dr. Daniela Fusco | Bernhard-Nocht-Institut für Tropenmedizin
Prevention and control of schistosomiasis through a global health approach

Prof. Dr. Mizeck Chagunda | Universität Hohenheim
(Re-) thinking one health in agriculture sciences

Dr. Maya Adam and Prof. Dr. Till Bärnighausen | Universitätsklinikum Heidelberg
Evaluation of a community-based mobile video breast-feeding intervention in Khayelitsha, South Africa: The Philani MOVIE cluster-randomized controlled trial

Prof. Dr. Kayvan Bozorgmehr | Universität Bielefeld
Health system resilience and migration: from heterotopia to health equity



See the past Academy Series sessions



GLOHRA Day



Our first annual symposium included over 130 participants in Berlin and 60 more attended virtually from 10 different countries.

Date: 23 October 2021

External Speakers:

Birgit Pickel | Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung

Richard Hartlaub | Wellcome Trust

Melinda Moree | Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

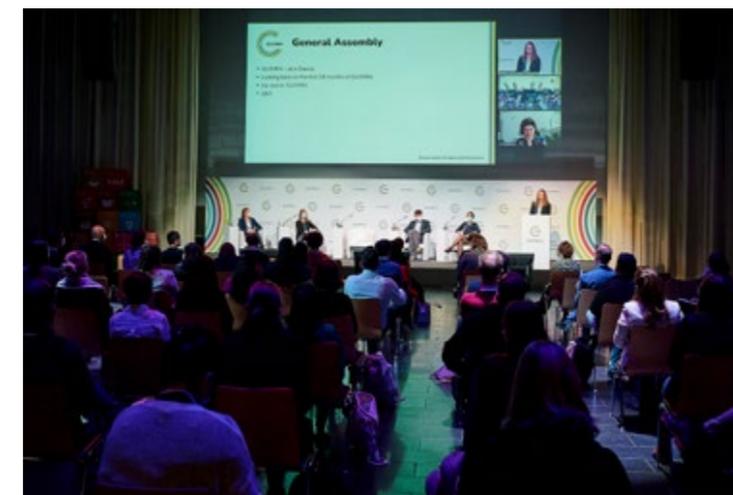
Markus Sauerhammer | Social Entrepreneurship Netzwerk Deutschland (SEND e.V.)

Roland Göhde | German Health Alliance

MinDir'in Prof. Dr. Veronika von Messling | Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung

After the General Assembly, the GLOHRA funded project teams presented their ongoing research. These presentations showcased the variety of topics, disciplines and regional focus areas at the center of GLOHRA projects as well as the diversity of gender and nationality represented within project teams. A number of experts from outside of the research community then spoke about cross-sector perspectives for global health research in policy, industry and civil society. Following these inspiring talks, participants weighed in on the German global health strategy in three interactive workshops which provided results for the ongoing GLOHRA Engaged initiative (see p. 34).

This day provided a special and long-awaited opportunity for GLOHRA members to interact and collaborate with others from the research community and beyond.



World Health Summit in Berlin



A session exploring Germany's role in interdisciplinary and cross-sector global health research.

Date: 25 October 2021

Chairs (GLOHRA Steering Committee members):

Prof. Dr. Johanna Hanefeld | Robert Koch-Institut

Prof. Dr. Jürgen May | Bernhard-Nocht-Institut für Tropenmedizin

Speakers:

Dr. Garry Aslanyan | World Health Organization

Prof. Dr. Henrique Barros | University of Porto

Prof. Dr. Ulrike Beisel | Freie Universität Berlin

Prof. Dr. Clarissa Prazeres da Costa | Technische Universität München

Dr. Nathalie Strub-Wourgaft | Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi)

Research on neglected and poverty-related diseases offered a poignant focal point for this discussion, as this is a clear example of where societal and structural factors play as much of a role as the bacterial or virological infectants themselves. Panelists agreed that to effectively study these diseases, we need input from biomedical as well as social and other sciences. Both barriers to and potential enablers of interdisciplinary research were presented by Prof. Dr. Prazeres da Costa as she called for more inter-faculty professorships and comprehensive global health education programs to bridge disciplinary divides within universities.

Dr. Aslanyan, Prof. Dr. Barros and Dr. Strub-Wourgaft pointed out the need to strengthen implementation research and engage experts, not just from other disciplines, but from other sectors, such as policy makers, healthcare professionals as well as local stakeholders embedded in specific contexts. Overall panelists presented hopeful visions of global health research as interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral, collaborative and community-oriented.



“We need new partners to complement what R&D alone cannot do which is to understand the mental health, nutrition conditions, water sanitation and hygiene as well as more social sciences.”

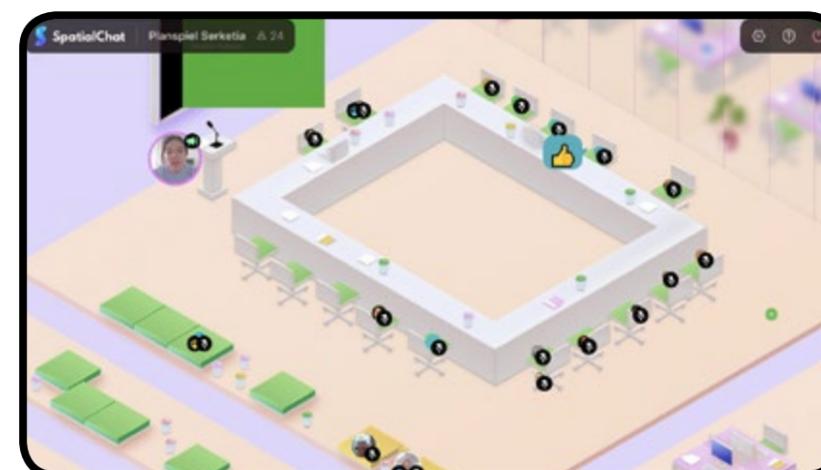
Dr. Nathalie Strub-Wourgaft

Simulation Game to address a global health challenge: Neglected Tropic Diseases (NTDs)

This simulation game invited early career researchers to explore the complexity of cross-sector, multi-stakeholder dialogues around neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in the fictional country of Sekertia.



Participants were allocated different roles – from local school teacher to traditional healer to World Health Organization representative – and challenged to come up with a national strategy incorporating their different and at times conflicting agendas. This exercise enabled 27 participants to gain insights into processes in which a variety of actors with different backgrounds and conflicting priorities must negotiate and cooperate with one another to realize a collective aim, such as the prevention, management and treatment of NTDs.



The game was designed and moderated by CRISP-Berlin e.V. using an interactive online platform.

Global Health Academy

a GLOHRA initiative



The Global Health Academy was proudly launched on 23 March 2021. The Academy is specifically committed to supporting early career researchers, namely PhD students and post-docs.

The Academy targets individuals from all disciplines who have demonstrated an interest in global health research, but who could use assistance in gaining competencies and networking opportunities to assist their career progression

in global health research. Prof. Dr. Walter Bruchhausen has been assigned special responsibility by the Steering Committee to oversee and develop the Academy together with Academy Coordinator Dr. Esther Evang. Further support is

provided by the Academy Advisory Board, made up of Steering Committee representatives from all four GLOHRA research areas to ensure that early career researchers across the disciplines are included in academy activities.

Academy Advisory Board



Prof. Dr. Walter Bruchhausen
Universitätsklinikum Bonn



Dr. Meral Esen
Universität Tübingen



Prof. Dr. Eva Rehfuss
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München



Prof. Dr. Mizeck Chagunda
Universität Hohenheim



Dr. Eva Kantelhardt
Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg



Dr. Esther Evang

Academy coordinator



At GLOHRA Day the Global Health Academy hosted the Career Corner to promote exchange between early career researchers and their more senior counterparts. Additionally a special guest from the World Health Organization joined us to connect with interested members about possible career opportunities in UN organizations.

Global Health Academy Activities

Repository of current global health research trainings in Germany

Activity: collection, presentation and linking of current training offers that are relevant for global health researchers

Planned output: a web-based repository of existing training offers that is searchable by research discipline, methodology, location, etc.

Progress so far: A team of GLOHRA members at Universitätsklinikum Heidelberg, Universität Bielefeld and Global Health Alliance Deutschland began work on the Repository in August 2021. They have already conducted a number of preliminary interviews with key informants from the German global health education landscape and a survey to be completed by GLOHRA members is underway. Moreover they are conducting extensive online research into existing trainings offered.

Ultimately the team will provide a comprehensive overview of the education and training opportunities available to early career researchers in Germany by bringing together existing activities and materials in an online database. This tool will enable postgraduates, doctoral students and postdocs to easily access information about the global health research trainings offered throughout Germany.

Catalogue of competencies for global health research

Activity: mapping and analysis of skills necessary for practicing global health research via an extensive literature review and expert-consultations

Planned output: a report that delineates different domains of “hard” and “soft” research and professional competencies in different disciplines, sectors and contexts.

Innovative and complementary research trainings and events

Activity: development, organization, and implementation of formats that support competencies and networking opportunities for early career global health researchers

Planned output: training and event offers with strong interdisciplinary and international components that are innovative, best practice transfer or scale-up, or a consolidation of existing training activities.

Concept for a cross-institutional, interdisciplinary and international graduate school for global health research

We envision a graduate level concept in Germany with a curriculum that cuts across research areas, regions, and topics. Ultimately, this will support the next generation of researchers with the requisite competencies and perspectives to approach global health challenges.



Dr. Daniel Opoku

Sr. Research Fellow, Department Health Care Management, Berlin University of Technology

Research: Daniel recently completed his doctoral thesis, which was concerned with improving non-communicable disease management using innovative digital health technologies as well as strengthening the health systems in his home-country Ghana. His ongoing research concentrates on illuminating the potential and feasibility of mHealth interventions, with a main focus on managing NCDs in sub-Saharan Africa.

What piece of advice has stuck with you?
Question everything.

Daniel is a member of the German Alliance for Global Health Research. See full profile at researchdirectory.globalhealth.de



GLOHRA Engaged

VACCINE and DEVELOPMENT



GLOHRA ENGAGED PERSPECTIVES ON THE GLOBAL HEALTH STRATEGY

PROMOTING HEALTH AND PREVENTING DISEASE GLOBALLY

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

NEGLECTED AND POVERTY RELATED DISEASES

HEALTH LITERACY AND SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

GLOHRA DAY OCTOBER 23, 2021 BERLIN + ONLINE

HEALTH SYSTEM, HEALTH FINANCING AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT

UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE AND SERVICE DELIVERY

GLOHRA ENGAGED PERSPECTIVES ON THE GLOBAL HEALTH STRATEGY

HEALTH SYSTEMS AND UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

HEALTH MANAGEMENT



Perspectives on the Global Health Strategy

The Global Health Strategy of the Federal German Government, published in 2020, cemented Germany's political commitment to global health. The federal strategy set out key objectives and focus areas – from strengthening health systems to mitigating the health impacts of climate change. “Global health research and innovation” has been included as a strategic priority, as research on global health topics is critical to the achievements of the stated political goals. We aim to make a tangible contribution to the Global Health Strategy by harnessing the expertise of the GLOHRA community.

A representative of each subtopic presented their discussions and identified emerging themes across subtopics.

Across all three workshops, common themes of access, monitoring and integration were identified. Participants emphasized, among other things, the need to strengthen implementation research, improve human or patient-centered research systems, account for social contexts and marginalized communities, increase digitalization efforts and identify mechanisms for integration such as standardized databases.

Systematic Analysis

Additionally, GLOHRA is conducting an analysis of the current global health research landscape in Germany and gathering information on opportunities and barriers based on our members' expertise.

The study draws on in-depth desk research, stakeholder mapping and case studies as well as structured, hour-long interviews with more than 30 GLOHRA members and other global health experts. Further evidence comes from an anonymous, multiple-choice survey completed by more than 100 GLOHRA members. Value for Good, a Berlin-based social impact consultancy, has been enlisted to carry out this study. We are in the process of finalizing the results and hope that these will provide useful policy feedback to drive the implementation of the federal strategy.



The GLOHRA Engaged initiative draws on input from the community in a variety of formats.

Workshop sessions at GLOHRA Day

At GLOHRA Day in October the 130 on-site participants split into three, interactive workshops. Each workshop group represented one of three priorities from the federal strategy. Participants chose subtopics – such as health financing, One Health or vaccine development – from the overarching themes of the federal strategy to ground their discussions of the specific research topics, actors and policy implications necessary to realize the priority.

Steering Committee Meetings

21 and 29 January 2021

- The Steering Committee convenes to evaluate the project proposals submitted in the December call. After discussing the strengths and weaknesses of each proposal, the Steering Committee votes to recommend two projects, conditionally recommend one project and not recommend the remaining projects.
- The Steering Committee agrees on a number of technical improvements concerning the project application and evaluation process.



12 March 2021

- The Steering Committee approves the Vision, Mission and Values statement with minor modifications.
- The Steering Committee agrees on the program for GLOHRA Day and the speakers and thematic focus of GLOHRA's session at the World Health Summit titled "Germany's role in interdisciplinary and cross-sector global health research about neglected and poverty-related diseases".
- Possible avenues to inform and support the implementation of the Global Health Strategy of the Federal German Government are discussed. These discussions are the basis of the GLOHRA Engaged initiative (see p. 34).
- The Steering Committee agrees on an adaptation of GLOHRA's Regulations for Bodies and Committees aiming to establish a certain continuity of operations after Steering Committee elections. At the end of every two-year term, the Steering Committee may now nominate no more than one representative from each research area to stay for an additional two-year term.
- The Steering Committee approves a monitoring and evaluation framework to assess GLOHRA's progress and growth.

2 November 2021

- The Steering Committee reflects on GLOHRA Day and the WHS session in Berlin.
- A position paper highlighting the relevance of global health research for the ongoing government coalition negotiations is approved by the Steering Committee.
- The Steering Committee initiates a methodology forum for GLOHRA funded projects to share good practices and exchange ideas.

15 and 22 June 2021

- The Steering Committee evaluates 16 project proposals. After discussing the strengths and weaknesses of each proposal, the Steering Committee votes to recommend one project, conditionally recommend two projects and not recommend the remaining projects for funding.
- The Steering Committee furthermore agrees on some additional technical improvements of the project application and evaluation process and relevant documents.

Behind the Scenes at the Secretariat

The German Alliance for Global Health Research is the result of years of work and 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 some of the work that has gone into developing GLOHRA.

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 previously did not exist. We have tried, even amidst the worst of the pandemic, to create a sense of community amongst our researchers, who are scattered across Germany. We do so through our Global Health Research Directory, monthly



GLOHRA Secretariat Team

From left to right: Dr. Jörg Heldmann, Maeve Cook-Deegan, Nora Anton, Leah Goodman (Not pictured: Dr. Esther Evang)

newsletters, active Twitter and LinkedIn accounts and by showcasing the variety of expertise represented by our members in the #MeetOurMembers campaign.

Reflections from the past year

This year brought new possibilities to strengthen our community. With cautious in-person meetings resuming, we welcomed more than 130 participants on-site in Berlin for our first annual symposium. The day was filled with interesting presentations and much longed for face-to-face interactions. Meeting so many members of the GLOHRA community, including hearing from the project teams and their international collaborators, was a particular highlight of our year. Especially since all activities in our first year took place online, we were thrilled to also come together with the Steering Committee, which has been a guiding force to ensure our exceptional development. With regular meetings and evaluations of projects, workshops, and new initiatives, they have stepped up to no small number demands. We are grateful for their work.

Another major development this year was the addition of two team members to the Secretariat team: Dr. Esther Evang joined as the Academy Coordinator (see p. 22) based at the Universitätsklinikum Bonn, and Leah Goodman joined the Berlin team as a project assistant. These welcome and hard-working reinforcements have accelerated the pace of our activities, allowing us to refine and devise new ways to support global health researchers in and outside of Germany.

Through word of mouth and our online presence, our membership has continued to steadily grow. Seeing new constellations of cooperation and receiving regular feedback from members and the community has been a strong motivation for our ongoing development. We are proud of all that has been achieved despite the uncertainties of the ongoing pandemic. 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.

Looking Ahead

GLOHRA Engaged: perspectives on the Global Health Strategy

We look forward to sharing the final results of the GLOHRA Engaged initiative. We are currently wrapping up and will soon be able to share the findings of the study with our members and wider community. You can read up on the process so far on p. 34. Whether you submitted a written statement, participated in the lively workshop discussions at GLOHRA Day, filled out the online survey, or sat for an hour long interview, we would like to say thank you for providing such valuable input!

Meral Meets – an interview series with global health trailblazers in Germany

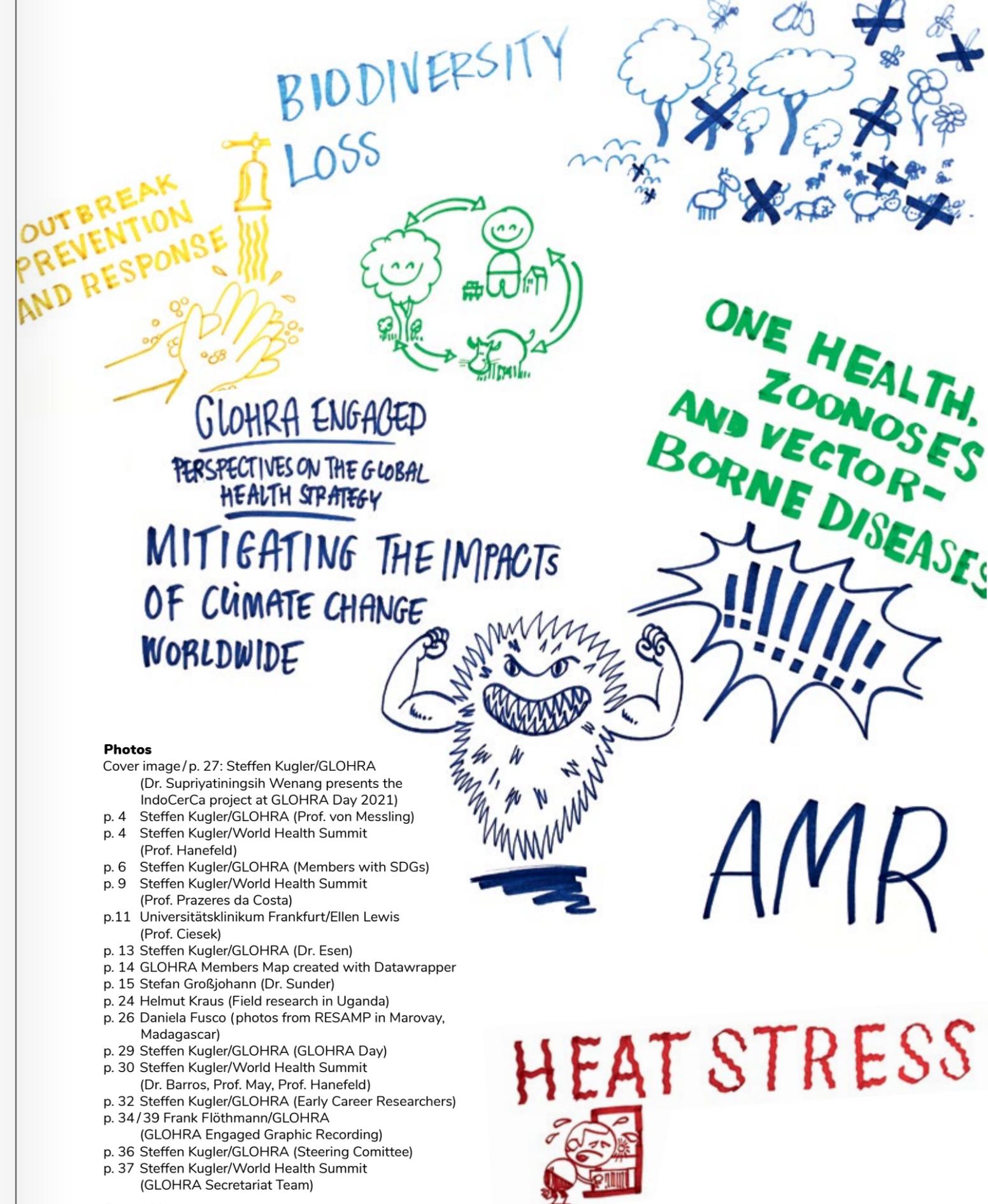
GLOHRA Steering Committee member Dr. Meral Esen, Universität Tübingen has begun work on an exciting new video interview series. In the series Meral Meets, Dr. Esen engages a number of notable German global health experts in conversation. Her interviews will shed light on researchers' professional careers and personal motivations as well as how they perceive the past, present and future of the field. Filming for Meral Meets is currently underway and we will be sure to share episodes widely as they become available!

Global Health Academy project to develop a catalogue of competencies

In order to meet the needs of early career researchers in global health, we must better grasp the research and professional skills demanded by the field. The catalogue of competencies sets out to map the essential skills demanded of global health researchers through a systematic study conducted by GLOHRA members on behalf of the Global Health Academy. We look forward to beginning work on this important project.

GLOHRA funding and networking opportunities

We have a number of exciting opportunities to get involved in GLOHRA activities coming up—from networking events, to interactive scientific workshops to funding opportunities. Keep an eye out for our newsletter as we'll be sharing information as it becomes available.



Photos

- Cover image/p. 27: Steffen Kugler/GLOHRA (Dr. Supriyatningsih Wenang presents the IndoCerCa project at GLOHRA Day 2021)
- p. 4 Steffen Kugler/GLOHRA (Prof. von Messling)
- p. 4 Steffen Kugler/World Health Summit (Prof. Hanefeld)
- p. 6 Steffen Kugler/GLOHRA (Members with SDGs)
- p. 9 Steffen Kugler/World Health Summit (Prof. Prazeres da Costa)
- p.11 Universitätsklinikum Frankfurt/Ellen Lewis (Prof. Ciesek)
- p. 13 Steffen Kugler/GLOHRA (Dr. Esen)
- p. 14 GLOHRA Members Map created with Datawrapper
- p. 15 Stefan Großjohann (Dr. Sunder)
- p. 24 Helmut Kraus (Field research in Uganda)
- p. 26 Daniela Fusco (photos from RESAMP in Marovay, Madagascar)
- p. 29 Steffen Kugler/GLOHRA (GLOHRA Day)
- p. 30 Steffen Kugler/World Health Summit (Dr. Barros, Prof. May, Prof. Hanefeld)
- p. 32 Steffen Kugler/GLOHRA (Early Career Researchers)
- p. 34 / 39 Frank Flöthmann/GLOHRA (GLOHRA Engaged Graphic Recording)
- p. 36 Steffen Kugler/GLOHRA (Steering Committee)
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Secretariat c/o Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin
Dr. Jörg Heldmann, Nora Anton, Maeve Cook-Deegan, Leah Goodman

Charitéplatz 1, 10117 Berlin, Germany
e: secretariat@globalhealth.de
t: +49 30 450 572 1100
f: +49 30 450 7572 118

 [@globalhealth_de](https://twitter.com/globalhealth_de)

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