CUGH 2024, Global Health without borders: Acting for impact





ED of AFREhealth representng AFREhealth at CUGH 2024

The Consortium of Universities of Global Health (CUGH) held its annual conference at Westin Bonaventure, Los Angeles, California Conference: March 7th - 10th, 2024. The theme was Global Health without borders: Acting for impact. There were 1400 global health practitioners, from more than 50 nations, from academia, NGOs, government and the private sector that met to present, learn and collaborate to address some of the pressing challenges the world faces. A wide range of medical and non-medical disciplines were represented throughout the in-person pre-conference satellite sessions and the March 7-10th conference. Attendees were inspired and challenged to learn new skills, gain new contacts and find ways they can improve the health of people and the planet. Seven subthemes were crafted to reflect many of the contemporary global health challenges. These varied covering Social Determinants of Health, planetary earth, pandemic prevention, decolonisation, Translation and Implementation Science, Politics and Governance, and Non Communicable diseases. These were delved into through interesting satellite sessions, panels, and break away sessions. The speakers represented multiple disciplines. This aligned with the idea of promoting equitable, effective, interdisciplinary collaborations as the way forward to address threats to both people and the planet.

AFREhealth was represented by members of its executive council, governing councils and other members of the team.

Each year CUGH acknowledges the accomplishments and commitment of outstanding individuals who contribute to the advancement of global health worldwide via the CUGH Global Health Leadership. The Distinguished Leadership Award honors global health leaders who have made an exceptional contribution to improving global health, through interdisciplinary activities across research, education, advocacy and/or service. Awardees would have also shown outstanding leadership resulting in lasting global health outcomes. Two members of the AFREhealth Governing Council, myself included, received the CUGH Distinguished Leadership award, along with Dr. Abebe Bekele Zerihun, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Global Health Equity in Kigali, Rwanda. I believe these accolades were partly in recognition of the work that AFREhealth is

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doing in the region and globally.

While AFREhealth presented at many plenaries, I'd like to highlight one titled 'Building a Resilient Global Health Workforce: Training for the Challenges. The objectives of the panel were:

- To discuss diverse Training Models including inclusive and flexible training models that empower individuals from diverse backgrounds to contribute to healthcare solutions as well training across borders, inter-professional education and online education
- To examine adaptability and innovation of how training programs can foster adaptability, technological fluency, and a spirit of innovation among health workers.
- To explore global collaboration and opportunities for international collaboration in health workforce training, sharing best practices and lessons learned.
- To Bridge gaps by sharing strategies for training health workers specifically to address gaps in underserved regions and marginalized populations.

The panelists included, Georgina Yeboa, Executive Director of AFREhealth, Judy Khanyola , the Chair of the Center for Nursing and Midwifery at the University of Global Health Rwanda, Stefan Wisbauer, Co-CEO of Lecturio, and Keith Martin, the CEO of CUGH. The panel was moderated by me.

Georgina Yeboa gave an overview of the strategies that AFREhealth has used to train health workers in the region that included using an interprofessional approach, working across borders, implementing interprofessional South to South student exchanges and training leaders for the next generation. She noted that so far AFREhealth has trained over 16,054 Health professionals (medical, nursing, pharmacy, allied health sciences etc) on HIV and COVID 19 using a case based approach either virtual ,face to face or hybrid. These are from 182 institutions across Africa. AFREhealth has also trained 61 fellows under a leadership program that was developed by AFREhealth named James Hakim Leadership and Development Program.

Judy Khanyola gave a presentation on Interprofessional education and collaborative practice in AFREhealth. She defined what Interprofessional Education is and also pointed out what it is not. She defined IPE as occasions when two or more professions learn with, from and about each other to improve collaboration and the quality of care" (CAIPE, 2002). She emphasized that it was not just about students from different health professions attending a class together, a faculty member from a different profession leading a classroom with students from different professions or students from different health professions participating in a patient care setting led by an individual from another profession without sharing of decision-making or responsibility for patient care. She highlighted that AFREhealth was addressing IPE through an IPE technical Working group, conducting IPE student exchanges and offering IPE courses.

Stefan Wisbauer gave an overview of the work done by Lecturio by describing their uniquely comprehensive and high quality medical education platform put together by several partners for faculty and students. He noted that the different packages could be adopted and adapted locally giving an example of work that has been done in Ethiopia.

Keith Martin underscored the role of collaboration in Global health and thanked all members for their contribution in different aspects to the improvement in global health education and referred to the fact that working together was the way forward if we are to achieve health for the population globally.

The session emphasized the fact that a strong human infrastructure is fundamental to closing today's gap between health promise and health reality and anticipating the health challenges of the 21st century as reported by the World Health Report 2006 – Working Together for Health.



The president of AFREhealth Recieving the CUGH Leadership Award



The Executive Director of AFREhealth (center) representing AFREhealth at CUGH 2024