



IFGH Annual Report 2015



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The Irish Forum for Global Health,
May 2016, Dublin.

Layout and Print by Printwell Design
Church Street East, North Wall, Dublin 3



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge the ongoing and continued support of **Irish Aid**, whose generous assistance makes it possible for us to connect our members with information, events, and opportunities, as well as to support our Student Outreach Group in its activities to network and share knowledge with their peers as well as experts in the field.



The Irish Forum for Global Health also gratefully acknowledges the support of the **Friends of the IFGH**, who have generously contributed expertise, financial resources, and their time to help make our activities such a success this year.



We also gratefully acknowledge the generous contribution of **Ronan Rooney** and the **Making Time Foundation**, who supported the **National Debate on Global Health** from 2013-2015.

The Making Time Foundation

DEDICATION IN MEMORY OF DR. NOEL MURPHY

This edition of the IFGH annual report is dedicated to the memory of our colleague, friend, and mentor, and IFGH Executive Committee member, **Dr. Noel Murphy** who sadly passed away in January 2015 following a short illness. His gentle nature, quick wit, vast experience and practical sense of how to get things done helped shape the IFGH into what it has become today. Noel had a particular strength in his willingness to recognise others' contributions, build consensus and bring people together to agree on how to move forward. When discussions sometimes became heated, we frequently turned to, listened to and accepted the calm advice that Noel had to offer.

Noel was a strong voice for working with young people, both inside and outside of the IFGH, for innovation, and for supporting the social and human aspects of global health. Among the many incredible contributions to global health made by Noel throughout his career as a molecular biologist and Head of Immunology at NUI Maynooth, Noel was particularly passionate in his support of the Young Scientists programme in Tanzania.

Noel is sadly missed by all of us, his colleagues and friends around Ireland, and across the world.



FOREWORD BY THE CHAIR OF THE IFGH

2015 was another busy year for the IFGH, bringing with it new partnerships, challenges, and perspectives from Ireland and abroad. Throughout the year, we have been working hard to deliver information, events, and opportunities, and this report highlights examples of the diverse ways in which we engaged with our members.

In our ongoing mission to bring together stakeholders from all sectors to collaborate and share knowledge in global health, we held events that focused on showcasing the new and innovative work being done across many fields. Our ongoing partnerships activities helped to push forward this agenda, and we were particularly enthusiastic to partner with the Development Studies Association of Ireland, which has seen a number of excellent events take place, as well as greater IFGH participation in joint activities, through the Nutrition Study Group, and the Joint DSAI/IFGH Child Health Study Group.

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Our Student Outreach Group (SOG) also continued to push the boundaries and create new opportunities for students to engage in Global Health activities, including supporting the newly-formed Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security Society at NUI Galway's first Climate Congress, which included the Annual Making Time National Debate on Global Health.

ESTHER Ireland also had a busy year, as our new Start-Up Grants Workshops drew in diverse participants in Dublin and Galway. We also awarded new Start-Up Grants to a broad range of potential partnerships, and look forward to seeing them flourish during 2016. We also continued to contribute in the context of the broader European ESTHER Alliance, participating in Working Groups and hosting meetings with country representatives. We were especially pleased to welcome a new full ESTHER Ireland partnership between Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin, and Muhimbili National Hospital in Tanzania, in collaboration with the NGO Tumaini La Maisha (TLM), in recognition of the brilliant work that they have done towards tackling children's cancers in Tanzania.

As an especially important fixture in partnership with Irish Aid and supported by RCSI, we held the Irish Aid Annual Professor Father Michael Kelly Lecture on HIV and AIDS on the 10th of December, which was well-attended by academics, students, NGO, private, and diplomatic representatives. This year marked the tenth annual lecture, and it provided us a great opportunity to look back at progress to-date against HIV, and also to reflect on the challenges that lie ahead in the post-2015 era.

On behalf of the IFGH Board, Executive Management Committee, and Secretariat, I would like to take this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge the support of Irish Aid, whose assistance enables the IFGH to serve our members. I would also like to sincerely thank the Friends of the IFGH: the Centre for Global Health, Trinity College Dublin; Concern Worldwide; Dublin City University; GOAL; Oxfam Ireland; the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland; Trócaire; and World Vision Ireland, for all of their support and assistance during 2015, and hope that we will continue to work together in 2016 to keep global health high on the agenda.

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A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "David Weakliam". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. David Weakliam
Chair, Irish forum for Global Health

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2015 Annual Report of the Irish Forum for Global Health, where we highlight our activities throughout this eventful year – one which marked the world's transition into the post-2015 period, with renewed global commitments to improve the lives of those most in need through the Sustainable Development Goals. The year also saw new challenges arise, such as the Humanitarian Crisis unfolding in the Mediterranean region, as well as great strides forward in Global Health progress, including the brilliant news at the end of June that Cuba had become the first country in the world to have eliminated maternal transmission of HIV and syphilis.

As part of our ongoing mission to better connect with our 750-plus members, we entered into a key partnership with the Development Studies Association of Ireland. This partnership enabled us to collaborate to co-host events that included an enlightening seminar on Nutrition and WASH, with Professor Robert Chambers, of the UK's Institute of Development Studies, as well as regular meetings of the Joint DSA Ireland / IFGH Child Health, and Nutrition, Environment, and Health Study Groups. In keeping with the spirit of continued development and keeping abreast of the most topical issues in global health, we also partnered with Friend of the IFGH Trinity College Dublin to host the first presentation in Ireland by the Access to Medicines Foundation, featuring both CEO and Chief Scientific Officer of the Foundation.

Our Global Health Writes training programme continued draw in Citizen Journalists from a diverse range of backgrounds, who attended training at our workshops, and produced excellent pieces across an enormous range of topics all relevant to global health, including the ethics of 'Big Data' for health, the great potential offered by 3D printing technologies, trans-disciplinary approaches to better deal with neglected tropical diseases, and many more. These are collected on the IFGH website, and are highly recommended reading.

The ever-dynamic IFGH Student Outreach Group also kept busy across the campuses around the country, and continued in their work to build their guidelines for ethical partnerships for overseas placements, additionally hosting a number of events which covered a broad range of topics, such as the Climate Summit held by the NUI Galway Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security Society, incorporating the Making Time National Debate on Global Health. In Dublin, the SOG group at the Centre for Global Health created an event to welcome the incoming class of the MSc. in Global Health, which aimed to raise awareness of health issues affecting refugees in the Mediterranean.

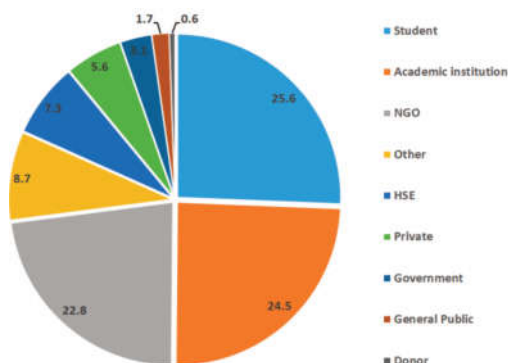
The IFGH also welcomed two new Board members in 2015: Professor Anne Matthews, and Dr. Greg Martin. In addition to this, we moved into a new stage of maturity governance-wise in 2015, commencing the process of registering compliance with the Governance Code, as well as receiving charity status.

As every year, our Professional Internship positions rotated, and we said farewell to our excellent Communications and Editorial Interns, Chiedza McClean and Bianca van Bavel, who continue to remain engaged with IFGH activities, particularly around the Global Health Writes programme, and we welcomed Megan Prado and Ellie Marley, who have made excellent contributions to the work of ESTHER Ireland and the IFGH and SOG.

We rounded off a great year by hosting the Annual Professor Father Michael Kelly Lecture on HIV and AIDS in partnership with Irish Aid, this year marking the tenth anniversary of the lecture series' creation. In recognition of this special event, we also produced a commemorative book collecting all of the past ten years' lectures in one volume, which stands as a tribute to Father Michael's dedicated work over the years, and a record of his great knowledge and compassion.

SUMMARY

The IFGH has over 750 members, representing 9 sectors, with interests spread across a diverse range of fields including Maternal and Child Health, Water and Sanitation Hygiene, and Non-Communicable Diseases.



NUTRITION
EMERGENCY **NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES**
MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH **WATER AND SANITATION HYGIENE**
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH **HIV AND AIDS**
REFUGEE HEALTH

We entered into two new strategic partnerships, with DSA Ireland and Comhlámh.



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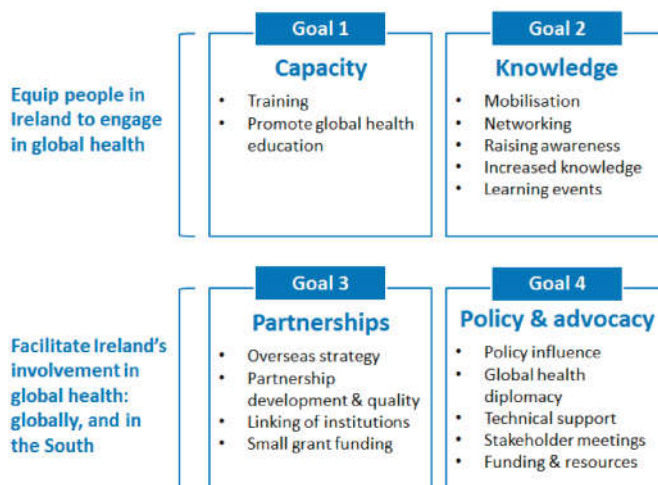
We held 16 Seminars / Training events, with information delivered across 9 different areas, including Access to Medicines; HIV and AIDS; Ebola; Climate change; and Refugee health.

14 topics were covered by our Global Health Writes Citizen Journalists, including Ethics of Healthcare Data; Sexuality, health, and human rights; Evidence-based practice; and Regulation of health products.

7 new Start-Up Grants were awarded through ESTHER Ireland.

1 new full ESTHER Ireland partnership was recognised.

We continue to implement our two-pronged strategy to maintain a focus on equipping people in Ireland to engage in global health, as well as to facilitate Ireland's involvement in global health: globally, and in the South



THE IFGH IN 2015

Joint Collaboration with DSA Ireland: Events, Child Health, and Nutrition, Study Groups

Our strategic partnership with DSA Ireland saw joint events take place, for example in collaboration with the Nutrition Study Group, as well as the co-convening of the newly-formed Child Health Study Group, led by Dr. Niall Conroy (on behalf of DSA Ireland) and Ms. Brynne Gilmore (on behalf of the IFGH). The group's quarterly meetings are an excellent setting for the diverse members – students, academics, and practitioners – to share the latest knowledge in the field of child health around the globe, and the group plans to increase its activities in 2016 via publications and advocacy.



Global Health Writes

In 2015, the IFGH Global Health Writes initiative commenced, initially spearheaded by the Student Outreach Group, aiming to target early-career professionals in the field of Global Health, Development, and Human Rights. Two workshops were held over the course of 2015 for our Global Health Writes programme, which guided our Citizen Journalists through the finer points of critical editing, targeting audiences, and writing and advocacy techniques. The first workshop was facilitated by Dr. Ian Hodgson, who has expertise in journalism and advocacy, in addition to experience working as consultant for the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, and the WHO, and is an adjunct professor with the University of Bradford and Trinity College Dublin. Our Editorial Intern, Bianca van Bavel, and our Communications Intern, Chiedza McClean, also assisted with facilitating the workshops.



The second GHW Workshop of the year was held in August, in partnership with Dochas' annual publication, "The World's Best News", and was facilitated by experienced WBN staff. The Citizen Journalists went on to produce two articles which were subsequently incorporated into the 2015 edition of WBN, which was distributed around the country on September 17th.

With the support of the Global Health Writes editorial team, the IFGH Citizen Journalists have gone on to create a wealth of excellent articles taking the form of written reports, event previews, opinion-editorial, and other media such as videologs. A great strength of GHW has been its diversity – for example, the Citizen Journalists have given perspectives on the humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean region; the implications of "big data" for health; ethical perspectives on 3D printing technologies in global health, and much more

Nutrition and WASH Integration, Research, and Future Challenges

On the 19th of May, the Development Studies Association Ireland, Irish Aid and the Irish Forum for Global Health hosted a half day seminar with keynote address from eminent academic, practitioner and WASH advocate, Professor Robert Chambers, Research Associate with the UK's Institute of Development Studies (IDS). The seminar was opened by DSA Ireland's Chairperson, Professor Sean Farren, and brought together academics, practitioners and policy makers working in the areas of nutrition and WASH. The session helped those present to build a common understanding of the challenges faced, highlight the research gaps, and stimulate collective action, to examine the use of an integrative approach to prevent diarrheal disease and under-nutrition, and improve health outcomes.



Ebola Learning Event

Towards the end of April, the Centre for Global Health at Trinity College Dublin hosted an event held in partnership with the Dochas HIV and AIDS, and Humanitarian Aid Working Groups, gathering stakeholders from across sectors to listen and learn from expert invited speakers during presentations and a Q&A session. Each speaker provided a unique perspective on the Ebola response, and parallels were drawn between it and the early days of the HIV pandemic – particularly where common solutions might be found. IFGH staff distilled the key lessons from the lectures and discussions at the event, producing a short article which is now featured at the website of the Dochas HIV/AIDS Working Group:

http://www.dochas.ie/sites/default/files/Distilling_expertise_from_the_Ebola_and_HIV_learning_event.pdf



“2 Billion to go”: Pharmaceutical Companies’ role in improving access to medicines

The IFGH, with Irish Aid and the Access to Medicine Foundation hosted the Seminar titled, 2 Billion to go: Pharmaceutical Companies’ role in improving access to medicine, in Trinity College Dublin in September 2015. Speakers for the seminar included Wim Leereveld, founder and CEO of the Access to Medicine Foundation, and Jayasree K. Iyer, Chief Scientific Officer. The seminar involved presenting the latest findings on how the research-based pharmaceutical industry is addressing access to medicine for people living in low and middle income countries, as well as discussing various global health priority topics such as, research and development, child health, maternal health and vaccines. The event was attended by over 30 individuals drawn from NGO, government, academia, and student backgrounds.



Collaboration with Comhlámh on training for overseas volunteers

Towards the end of the year, we commenced a new partnership with the overseas volunteer support organisation, Comhlámh, in order to deliver training for Irish professionals and students who intend to work overseas. A working group was formed, comprising staff of Comhlámh, NUI Galway, UCD, and the IFGH who have been working together to create training events and content. The first training workshop is planned for the second quarter of 2016.

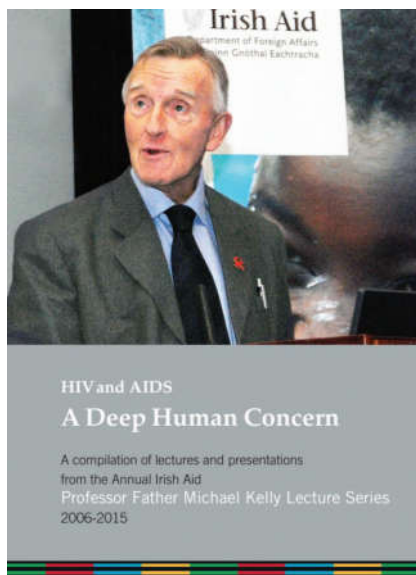


Irish Aid Annual Prof. Michael Kelly Lecture on HIV and AIDS and book 2015

In December 2015, Irish Aid in partnership with the IFGH hosted the Annual Professor Fr. Michael Kelly Lecture on HIV and AIDS at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. The theme of this year's lecture was 'Keeping HIV on the agenda: Women's unequal equality'. A pre-recorded introductory address from Lusaka by Fr. Michael



was played for the lecture attendees. Special guests on the night included, Professor Sheila Dinotshe Tlou from Botswana, the Regional Director of the UNAIDS support team in Eastern and Southern Africa, and Sister Dr. Miriam Duggan, founder of Youth Alive and recipient of the Presidential Distinguished Service award 2015. Opening remarks on the night were made by Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Professor Ruairi Brugha, followed by an introduction from Irish Aid's Director General, Michael Gaffey. The evening finished with a reception in the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland. More than 50 people attended, and among the guests were family members of both Professor Father Michael Kelly, and Sister Dr. Miriam Duggan. Guests also included the Ambassadors of the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Federal Republic of Ethiopia, the Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as well as the Honorary Consuls of the Republic of Cameroon, and the Republic of Sierra Leone.



To coincide with the Annual Lecture, the IFGH in partnership with Irish Aid produced a book collecting the past Father Michael Kelly lectures, titled "HIV and AIDS: A Deep Human Concern", which was given to attendees on the day. A limited number of copies of the book are also available on request from info@globalhealth.ie.

Dublin City University Screening of “Milk – A Film by Noemi Weis”

On the 16th of December, the School of Nursing and Human Sciences at Dublin City University, in partnership with Cuidiú Dublin North County branch and the IFGH, hosted a special screening of “Milk” – a documentary by Noemi Weis, which follows the stories of mothers from different countries on a world journey spanning 11 countries. The film brings a universal perspective on the politics, commercialization and controversies surrounding birth and infant feeding, with imagery and voices from around the globe.



Global Health Outreach

In June, for Irish AIDS Day, we created an online advocacy campaign, the Dublin Declaration on HIV Self-Stigma, calling for increased recognition, resources, research, and commitment to tackle the debilitating challenge of self-stigma among people living with HIV. The campaign was well-received, gathering over 140 signatures from organisations such as HIV Ireland, Trocaire, and notable individuals such as Father Michael Kelly.



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In November, the Centre for Global Health, Trinity College Dublin, in partnership with the Dochas HIV and AIDS Working Group, and the IFGH, hosted a special meeting with the Chiefs of UNAIDS’ Resource Mobilisation, and Aid Effectiveness Divisions, Mariangela Bavicchi and Pradeep Kakkattil. The meeting gathered representatives from

Irish NGOs including Concern Worldwide and ACET, and focused on strategic priorities from the upcoming UNAIDS 2016-2021 strategy.

IFGH staff were also requested to give occasional guest lectures during the year to help raise awareness of Global Health topics of importance, which included a presentation in October for doctors currently enrolled in the North Dublin GP training scheme. This presentation outlined the activities of the IFGH and ESTHER Ireland, and highlighted opportunities for Irish health services professionals to become involved in Global Health work.

THE IFGH STUDENT OUTREACH GROUP 2015

The Irish Forum for Global Health Student Outreach Group are remaining active and engaged across many third level campuses in Ireland. Growing in popularity each year, the SOG chapters across Ireland are bringing student voices to the area of global health, though hosting events and creating valuable networking opportunities for students. In the second half of 2015, at the beginning of the academic year, students from Dublin City University, University College Cork, and National University of Ireland, Galway, established new SOG chapters and have been holding on-campus events highlighting important issues of global health, interacting with students both within and outside of their own campuses. The IFGH supports SOG events as necessary, including the provision of funds to help cover costs, student travel to encourage participation, and linkage with expert facilitators and lecturers. Extra capacity is also afforded through our Operations Intern, Ellie Marley, whose position includes one day per week allocated to supporting SOG activities.



CCAFS Climate Congress and Making Time National Debate

In March 2015, NUIG SOG played host to the 2015 NUIG Climate Congress and Annual Making Time National Debate on Global Health, supported by the IFGH and the Making Time Foundation. The guest speakers at the Climate Congress included Tara Shine, from the Mary Robinson Climate Justice Foundation, Ian Lumely, from An Taisce and, Carla Sarrouy, from the University of Warwick. Throughout the day, students were provided with the opportunity to network and share ideas with a range of NGO representatives and societies.



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Following the Climate Congress, the SOG's from various 3rd level institutions, including NUIG, TCD, UCD and UL, took part in a debate on climate change. The debate, organised by Ph.D. candidate and NUIG SOG rep, Colm Duffy, followed the motion: *'This house believes that Climate Change will be the biggest driver of inequality in the developing world'*. The team from NUIG emerged victorious on the day, after a tense and challenging debate.

TCD SOG welcomes new MSc. Global Health Class 2015-2016

Members of the IFGH Student Outreach Group created an event at the Centre for Global Health, Trinity College Dublin, to help welcome the incoming 2015-2016 class of the Masters in Global Health, and introduce them to a very contemporary topic: The event focused around the experience of refugees, and was designed to raise

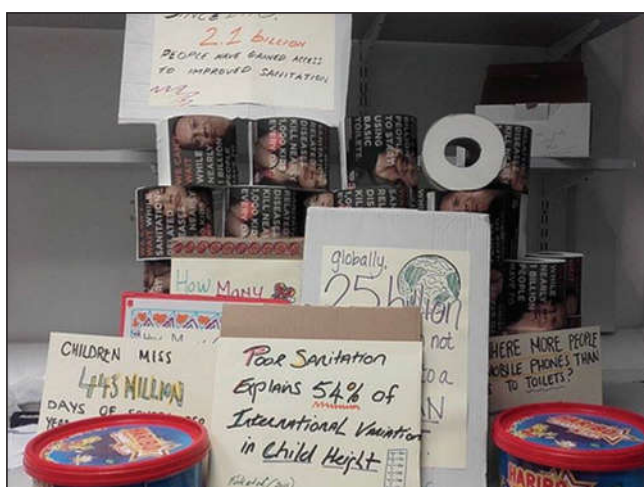


awareness of the key health risks and vulnerabilities among this group. Created by two of last year's MSc. students and SOG Representatives, Ruth Ceannt and Hanna Phelan, the session included the screening of two short documentaries, including TIME Magazine's film, "Syria's Lost Generation". The event also featured presentations by two of last year's class, Edith Aka and Chinenye Anameje, who conducted research with the NGO Spirasi, who work with asylum seekers, refugees, and other disadvantaged migrant groups.



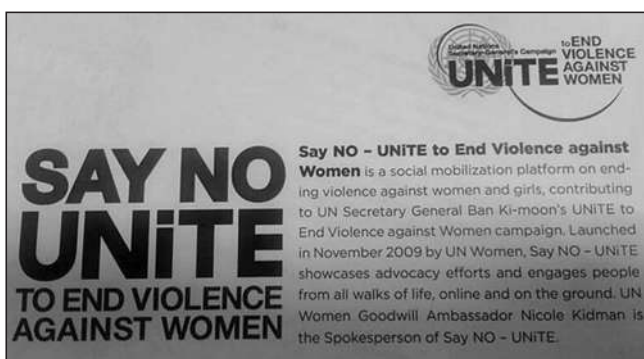
NUIG CCAFS Celebrate World Toilet Day 2015

Students in NUIG SOG and the Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security society held an event for World Toilet Day in November 2015, through providing information to students in NUIG campus. The aim of the event was to raise awareness about international issues related to the access of toilets and sanitation, among the student body in NUIG. An information stand was set up in the Concourse, which is a busy and vibrant student hub, where NUIG SOG representatives prepared interactive question and answer signs, and also provided information sheets, free toilet paper and refreshments to help engage students.



NUIG International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women

The NUI Galway SOG held an event on-campus to raise awareness for International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, on November 25th. The event took place on the NUIG Concourse, and aimed to attract a large number of NUIG students and staff, informing them about the day. The SOG did this by setting up an information stand, and distributing leaflets in relation to the elimination of violence against women.



Global Health Workshop for Transition Year Students at Donabate Community College

Student Outreach Group members worked in partnership with the IFGH, GOAL, and Trocaire to facilitate a workshop for transition year students at Donabate Community College, which was designed to introduce many core concepts in global health including WASH, HIV, and Health in Emergencies. The workshop was an opportunity for SOG members to learn key skills in facilitation, training, advocacy, and teaching complex concepts to a non-expert audience. Evaluations indicated that the transition year students both enjoyed and learned from the workshops, with many indicating a desire to learn more about global health and development.



DCU SOG Celebrates World AIDS Day 2015

Dublin City University SOG reps, Susan Ganon and Naoise Daly held their first IFGH SOG event on-campus at DCU on December 1st, to coincide with World AIDS Day. The aim of the event was to raise awareness to and promote open discussion of HIV and AIDS. The event took the form of an information session from Susan and Naoise, where students were also surveyed on their knowledge of HIV. The students also held a minute's silence for awareness, remembrance and solidarity for those who have died from AIDS in both Ireland and globally. A videolog of the event was also produced, which can be viewed at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yHm_tP9fByQ



COMMUNICATIONS

The IFGH Social Media

During 2015, we increased our presence across our social media channels, greatly adding to the volume and quality of postings on Twitter and Facebook, which are not only a rich source of content, but also are a brilliant way of delivering the most current information and news to our members. We have also been working on expanding our reach by strategically linking our social media outputs to other organisations and colleagues working around the world in global health and development. Our readership on Twitter has increased to over 1,200 'followers', whilst our Facebook page is 'liked' by over 630 individuals. In addition, we also used innovative tools such as Storify to compile information from across social media channels to report events to our members, such as Irish Aid's Africa Day.



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The IFGH newsletter and eForum

The newsletter and eForum have continued to reach over 750 members with upcoming opportunities, lectures, courses, global health news, conferences, and topics of interest. We also produced special issues to draw attention to topics such as the illicit trade of tobacco products (the theme of 2015's World No Tobacco Day on May 31st), as well as our end-of-year "Looking back on 2015" issue, which presented a snapshot of happenings from throughout 2015, including significant global events as well as news from IFGH, ESTHER Ireland, and the Friends of the IFGH.



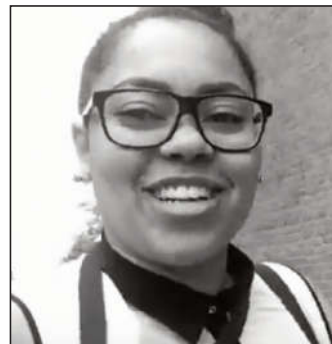
Global Health Matters.

THE IFGH PROFESSIONAL INTERNSHIPS

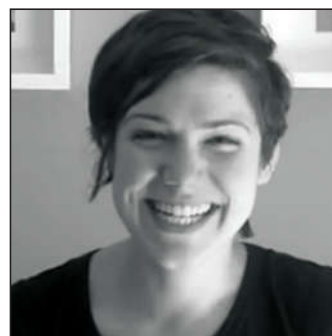
We remained committed to helping young professionals gain experience and skills working with partners and organisations in global health and development through our Professional Internships. The IFGH Professional Interns have made a tremendous contribution to the effectiveness and reach of our communications, and their dedication has made it possible to reach our members with a wide range of information, events and activities.

Outgoing Interns: Chi McClean & Bianca van Bavel

In September we said farewell to our Professional Interns, Chiedza McClean and Bianca van Bavel, who throughout their time with us were instrumental in helping create new initiatives such as the Global Health Writes Programme, as well as keeping up the momentum of regular IFGH fixtures, such as the Making Time National Debate on Global Health. Chiedza in particular made an excellent contribution to IFGH communications using her experience of vlogging to report from events such as the 2015 conference of the International Association for the Study of Sexuality, Culture and Society. Her personal videologs have also covered events such as Irish Aid's Africa Day, and World AIDS Day. Through our Global Health Miles Programme, which supports our Professional Interns to travel and attend a conference or event within Europe, we were able to support Bianca to attend the 2015 meeting of the European Leptospirosis Society in Amsterdam, fuelled by her own research interest in Neglected Tropical Diseases. Bianca's article written following the event enjoyed a huge reach through our social media channels.



Chiedza McClean



Bianca van Bavel

Incoming Interns: Ellie Marley and Megan Prado

We also took on two new interns who have made great progress in supporting IFGH and ESTHER Ireland activities. This year, in response to growing operational needs, we took on Ellie Marley as our Operations Intern, whose time is equally divided between IFGH and Student Outreach Group activities. We also took on Megan Prado, whose time is exclusively dedicated to operations of ESTHER Ireland.



Megan Prado



Ellie Marley

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Joint Collaboration Between ESTHER France and ESTHER Ireland: Supporting Infection Prevention & Control in Liberia

As part of a joint project between ESTHER France, ESTHER Ireland, and the HSE's Global Health Programme, Irish Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Nurse, Caoimhe Finn, took part in two separate week-long visits in May and June, during which she used her expertise to help guide Liberian partners in implementation of IPC measures at three hospitals in Monrovia. Her visits were part of a project led by two French hospitals in Paris and Rennes: "Continuity of care for TB and HIV patients and integration of IPC procedures in John Fitzgerald Kennedy (JFK) and Redemption Hospital, in Monrovia", which was created to help address IPC improvements, cultural perceptions of IPC in an Ebola context, and training of future participants of the project.



Visit to Ireland by Staff of Nepal's Lal Gadh Leprosy Services Centre

In March Dr. Mai Mannix (Director of Public Health, HSE Mid-West) and Dr. Anne Dee (Specialist in Public Health Medicine, Department of Public Health, HSE Mid-West) visited colleagues and partners at the Lalgadh Leprosy Services Centre (LLSC) in Nepal. In May 2015, their Nepalese colleagues came to Ireland on a reciprocal visit. During the visit, Dr. Krishna Bahadur Tamang (Medical Coordinator, LLSC) and Mr. Dambar Bahadur Aley (Programme Director, LLSC), took part in an interview with ESTHER Ireland, in which they reflected on their experiences of the partnership thus far against the backdrop of a longstanding working relationship and a recently- awarded ESTHER Ireland Start-Up Grant. The interview was written up as an article which featured in the May-June issue of Partnerships Panorama, which may be read online by visiting: <http://www.esther.ie/partnerships-panorama>.



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ESTHER Ireland Communications

ESTHER Ireland produces a regular newsletter "Partnership Panorama" to ensure members are kept up-to-date on partnership-related news and opportunities such as new publications, grants, training courses and progress learned from ESTHER Ireland grantees. In 2015 seven issues were produced, which can be read at <http://www.esther.ie/partnerships-panorama>.

As part of our standard monitoring and evaluation, we track all communications to better understand what members find interesting and useful. The ESTHER Ireland mailing list currently has 568 subscribers. Compared to the health industry average, we have a greater open rate for ESTHER communications.



PARTNERSHIPS PANORAMA 2015

Recurring items

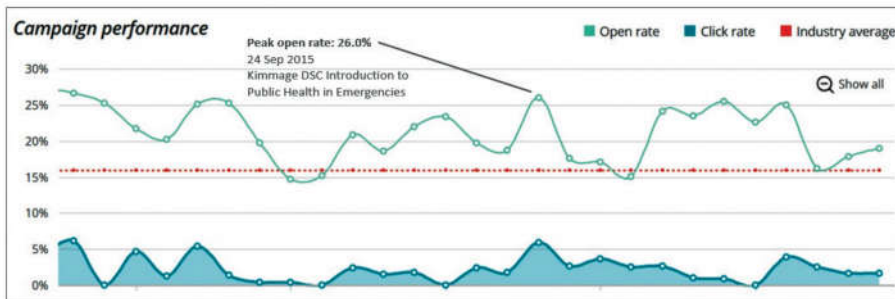
- International health and health partnerships news items
- Start-Up Grant rounds
- Education & professional development opportunities
- Grant opportunities
- Cross-posting of relevant items from the Irish Forum for Global Health

568 Subscribers

Average Open Rate: 20.2%

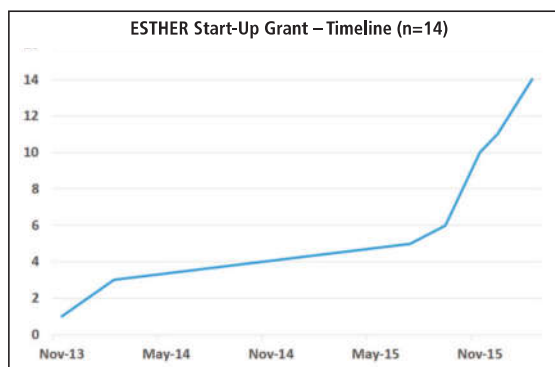
(Health Industry Average 15.9%)

58.6% Desktop; 41.4% Mobile



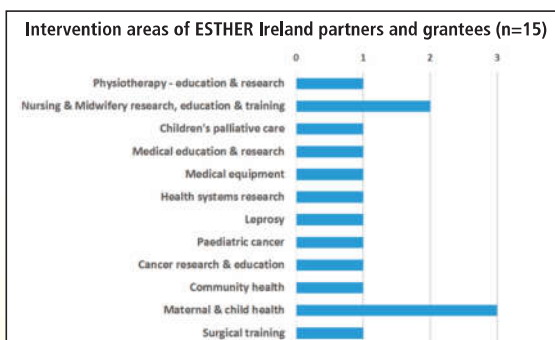
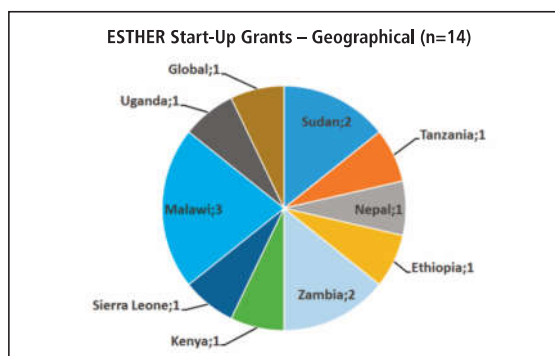
ESTHER IRELAND START-UP GRANTS

2015 saw an increase in the number of applications to ESTHER Ireland for Start-Up Grants. The grants of up to 6000 Euros are intended to support the development of partnerships, including initial exchange visits to develop shared vision and the development of Memoranda of Understanding. To date, ESTHER Ireland has disbursed 14 grants supporting the development of partnerships in 14 countries.



A Start-Up Grant was awarded to a partnership between the **Centre for Global Health, Trinity College Dublin and Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia (HFE)**, with cooperation from the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems, University College Dublin. The partnership aims to help strengthen a sustainable research environment at HFE, and to engage in research into maternal care in the Ethiopian context. It is hoped that this new partnership will contribute to broad improvements in women's health, and the Start-Up Grant will facilitate several activities, including exchanges to help identify key needs on the ground, priority research areas, and development of a finalised Memorandum of Understanding between the three institutions.

In order to help facilitate the ongoing reciprocal training of clinicians between **Mayo General Hospital, and Londiani**



District Hospital in Kenya, a Start-Up Grant was awarded to facilitate the development of improved communications infrastructure. As a part of their ongoing activities, the partnership conducted a needs assessment and discussions between the institutions, with respect to communications. This revealed a significant need for improved systems, training, and hardware links that would enable the best levels of support and collaboration. Once in place, the new system will act as a conduit enabling monthly remote conferences to facilitate shared learning, and help serve Continuing Medical Education needs.



A further Start-Up Grant was awarded to support partnership visits to Zambia by team of clinical engineers from the **EQUALS Initiative** (a collaboration between the HSE and the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland), who will conduct an assessment of equipment needs at **Northern Technical College (NORTEC)** in Ndola, Zambia, and identify opportunities for collaboration, with special focus on training capacity and equipment. The team will work closely with the Director, senior staff, and trainers at NORTEC, as well as having the opportunity to interact with current students of NORTEC's Biomedical Engineering programme. During the visit, the team will also meet with staff of THET Zambia in Lusaka, to ensure that external support and collaboration can be delivered in a coordinated manner.



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Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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A Start-Up Grant was awarded to the developing partnership between the **NUI Galway College of Medicine, Nursing, and Health Sciences**, and the **Saolta University Healthcare Group**, and their counterparts in Zambia's Copperbelt province: **Copperbelt University School of Medicine, Ndola Central Hospital, and the associated School of Nursing in Ndola**. This partnership will focus on building capacity in healthcare, education, and research, and the Start-Up Grant will aid reciprocal exploratory visits from Zambia to Ireland, and vice versa, by key senior management and operations staff.



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh



UCD's **Centre for Emergency Medical Sciences (CEMS)** and **Bo Government Hospital in Sierra Leone** have been awarded a Start-Up Grant to help develop their partnership, which aims to improve educational support for staff in Bo to overcome deficits in training for maternal and newborn care. The partnership also aims to provide training in data interpretation for better evaluation and management of patients, as well as research. Eventually, the partnership will add capacity for local staff to act as trainers and mentors. The grant will enable CEMS staff to conduct a partnership visit to Bo Government Hospital, and sign a formal Memorandum of Understanding with the District Health Department.



Lauralynn Children's Hospice aims to build a reciprocal learning partnership with the **Palliative Care Support Trust in Malawi**, whose objectives include the development of staff members' psychosocial skills, resilience, and coping in working with children with palliative and life-limiting conditions, and their families. The Start-Up Grant will assist in the initial visits to establish formal links between the institutions, needs assessments, and workshops to facilitate reciprocal learning and experiences around Clinical Debriefing, and the use of activity adaptation to enhance engagement, social interaction, and quality of life.



October European ESTHER Alliance (EEA) Meeting Held by ESTHER Ireland



The formalisation of the OLCH Crumlin + Muhimbili partnership was announced at a European ESTHER Alliance (EEA) meeting, which took place in Dublin in October. The meeting was hosted by ESTHER Ireland, and gathered representatives from EEA member countries, as well as OLCH Crumlin, Tumaini La Maisha, Irish Aid, and ESTHER Ireland, pictured left.

Start-Up Grants Workshops

In March, 2015, ESTHER Ireland hosted its first Start-Up Grants workshop. Attendees to the workshop ranged from individuals experienced in international partnerships, individuals looking to begin a new relationship with an overseas institution, and those working on their own initiative. An overview of ESTHER Ireland objectives and activities to date was given by Dr. David Weakliam, Chair of ESTHER Ireland and current chair of the European ESTHER. Operations Director Nadine Ferris-France then introduced past partnerships and the Start-Up Grants, then participants were given a run-down of the steps in the grants process. Time was allocated for participants to share their own experiences and thoughts on strategies for successful partnerships. The second ESTHER Ireland grant workshop was held in Galway in April of 2015. This workshop included the same information as the workshop previously held in Dublin, while also including talks on partnerships from Dr. Ann Dee, from the Department of Public Health, Health Service Executive partnership with Lal Gadh Leprosy Service Centre (LLSC), Nepal; and Méabh Ni Bhuinneáin, Mayo General Hospital partnership with Londiani District Hospital, Kenya. The workshops were a successful means to gather individuals interested in creating and working in International Health Partnerships, and they will continue in 2016.



ESTHER Ireland Steering Group

The ESTHER Ireland Steering Group, comprising members drawn from health service and academic backgrounds, met in April and November 2015, to review progress and formulate ESTHER Ireland's ongoing strategy to support international health partnerships work. The Steering Groups input is also vital to assessing Start-Up Grants applications, helping to ensure that the partnerships supported are of the highest quality.



GOVERNANCE

In 2015 the IFGH entered our next stage of maturity as an organisation, completing registration as a Charity. We are currently undergoing the process of becoming a signatory to the Governance Code for Community and Voluntary Organisations in Ireland.

Against this backdrop, the IFGH Board and Executive Management Committee have continued to support the Operations Team to work as efficiently as possible, providing direction, formulating strategy, and giving insight drawn from their wealth of experience. In particular, we have welcomed the addition of two new Board Members to add to the diversity of perspectives, Dr Anne Matthews and Dr Gregory Martin. Members of the IFGH Board are: David Weakliam (Chair), Diarmuid O'Donovan (Secretary), Ruairi Brugha, Enida Friel, Brynne Gilmore, Eilish McAuliffe, Anne Matthews, Gregory Martin and Niall Roche.

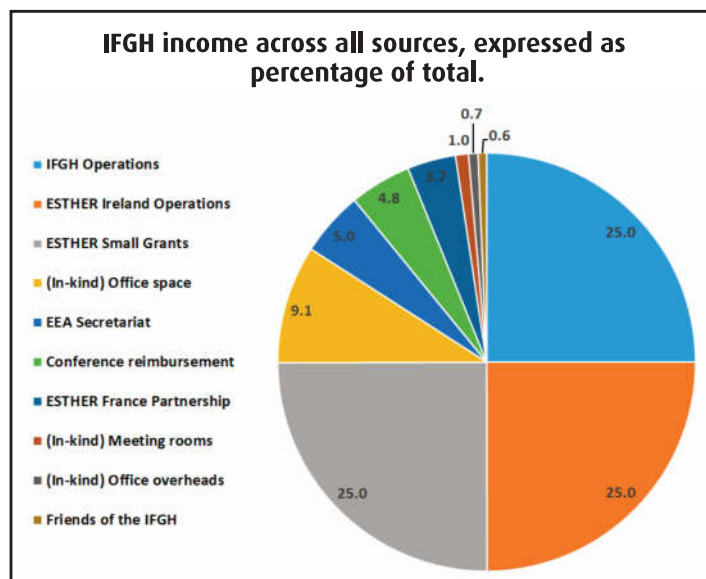
Ongoing challenges

We continue to operate as efficiently as possible, making sure that our staff and interns are supported with resources and advice to ensure that operations run smoothly. However, with two part-time staff, and two part-time interns, in total adding up to the capacity equivalent of just over two full-time positions (11 days per week in total), we continue to face the ongoing challenge of making sure that our time is spent most efficiently to serve our members. The positive growth of ESTHER Ireland in particular has created a demand for capacity.

The Student Outreach Group also faces loss of organisational memory as its members complete their studies, and go on to take up positions domestically and abroad. However, in spite of this, the remaining members continue to work together excellently to create events that engage their peers in global health-focused activities. New members also continue to join, and we look forward to observing the group evolving as 2016 unfolds.

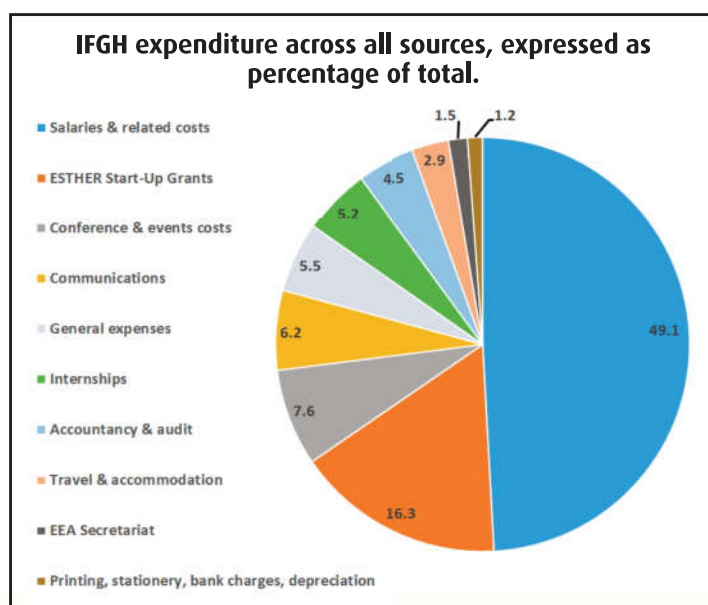
FINANCIALS

Our total income for 2015 was €178,346, with the largest proportion coming via a grant from Irish Aid, the Department of Foreign Affairs, divided across IFGH Operations, ESTHER Ireland Operations, and the ESTHER Ireland Small Grants fund. We also received funds as part of cooperation with ESTHER France (now known as “EXPERTISE France”), to support Irish participation in a post-ebola project in Liberia to train hospital staff there. The Friends of the IFGH also contributed funds towards our operating costs, enabling us to do more to support our members.



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Alongside monetary contributions, IFGH would like to acknowledge and thank its partners for the large amount of in-kind contributions it receives. In 2015 we received additional in-kind contributions including hosting and office space, meeting rooms, and office overheads, totalling €21,779. The IFGH also benefits and gratefully acknowledges approximately 1000 voluntary working hours, or 125 working days, per year contributed by IFGH Members, IFGH Board Members, IFGH Executive Management Committee and the ESTHER Steering Group.



Total expenditure for 2015 was €141,872. Costs were spread over a range of areas contributing towards our overall function, including salaries for our operations staff, disbursement of small grants via ESTHER Ireland, events costs, and communications, among others.

We are dedicated to transparency with respect to our funding sources, and our audited accounts can be found at www.globalhealth.ie

