



ANNUAL REPORT



2014



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The IFGH gratefully acknowledges **Irish Aid**, Friends of the Forum **Concern Worldwide**, **Dublin City University**, **GOAL**, and **Trócaire**, as well as **The Making Time Foundation**, **The Ireland Funds**, and **The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland**. Without their generous support, it would be impossible to provide our service to the IFGH members as Ireland's Global Health Network. We also thank the members of our **Student Outreach Group** for their brilliant and dynamic work, and all those among the growing global health community in Ireland and overseas.



The Making Time Foundation



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Except where specifically stated otherwise, photography was produced by members of the IFGH Student Outreach Group and Secretariat.

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The Irish Forum for Global Health, March 2015, Dublin.

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LOOKING AHEAD TO NEW HORIZONS



Message from the Chair

2014 has been a busy, landmark year for the Irish Forum for Global Health, as we moved through our tenth year of operations. Since the start of the IFGH, it has been our mission to create a vibrant, dynamic network of like-minded individuals who are linked by their interest and work in the field of global health. As we have matured as an organisation, we now hope to build on past achievements to continue to serve our members as a valued resource not only for information and training, but also as a space where members can come together to share their experiences and collaborate to build new partnerships that can have a real impact on health.

Responding to recommendations made in the 2013 independent evaluation of the IFGH commissioned by Irish Aid, we continued to refine our strategic objectives during 2014, through consultation with board members and other stakeholders, culminating in our new 2014-2017 Strategy. In it, we not only reaffirm our previous objectives to **Build Capacity to Engage in Global Health**, and **Provide a Platform for Increased Knowledge, Dialogue, and Networking**, but we have added new goals to **Support Engagement in Global Health Through Facilitation of High Quality Partnerships**, and **Influence Global Health Policy Both in Ireland and Internationally**.

In keeping with these goals, we also continue in our work to support international health partnerships through ESTHER Ireland and the European ESTHER Alliance, adding new partnerships, and disbursing a start-up grant fund to help interested organisations and institutions take the initial steps towards cementing truly sustainable partnerships. ESTHER Ireland also continues to facilitate meetings at a high level, to forge new relationships that improve health service provision in partner countries.

2014 also heralded the hosting of our Bi-annual International Conference in partnership with the Centre for Global Health at Trinity College Dublin, and Concern Worldwide, supported by Irish Aid. Our conferences continue to go from strength to strength, and the event at Trinity was one of the best attended yet, with over 200 registered. A wealth of research and practice was showcased, and dedicated sessions on ESTHER Ireland and the Irish response to the Ebola crisis were highly attended – testament to the Irish global health community's commitment towards responding to health needs overseas. In addition, our Student Outreach Group held an important discussion and workshop, supported by The Ireland Funds, to ensure a strong student perspective is integrated into the development of guidelines on ethical behaviour during overseas placements.

This report contains many more highlights of the past year, showing the diverse ways in which the IFGH works to serve our members, and I hope that we will continue to grow and diversify as the world enters the post-2015 era, responding to the new challenges that will undoubtedly arise.

On behalf of the IFGH Board and Secretariat, I would like to thank Irish Aid its ongoing support to the IFGH, and the different initiatives in global health which the IFGH facilitates.

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

Dr. David Weakliam
Chair

INTRODUCTION

In 2014, the IFGH celebrated its tenth year. Since its inception, many changes have taken place across the globe, with fresh challenges arising, and emerging diseases, economic instability, conflict, and social justice issues all taking their toll on the health of populations and individuals.

Against this backdrop, the IFGH continues its work to help educate, inform, and gather its members, to network, collaborate, and share knowledge and expertise. During the 2013-2014 period, the IFGH delivered to its members timely global health news, reportage, events, and opportunities using our eForum and newsletter, as well as growing our use of social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook to reach an even wider audience. In addition, the ever-dynamic Student Outreach Group (SOG) continued its excellent work in conducting campus outreach events, as well as the popular Annual Making Time National Debate on Global Health.

The biggest fixture in our calendar for 2014 was the IFGH International Conference, held in partnership with the Centre for Global Health, Trinity College Dublin, and Concern Worldwide, supported by Irish Aid. The culmination of several months of planning and organisation by the conference committee, this event showcased the great work being done by IFGH members at home and abroad. It also provided a staging ground for building new partnerships, as well as giving a space for the next generation of global health workers and advocates to interact with the highest-level professionals in the field.

In 2014, the IFGH also developed its ongoing three-year strategy, aided by a 2013 external evaluation of the Forum commissioned by Irish Aid. The new strategy aims to continue our successes in building capacity and providing a platform for knowledge and learning, as well as adding new efforts to support engagement of Irish Institutions and their partners at a country level.

To facilitate this theme, the IFGH also hosts the ESTHER Ireland Secretariat, who throughout 2014 continued their work in promoting and supporting International Health Partnerships and best practice in the reciprocal exchange of knowledge and skills between staff among health institutions in Ireland, and abroad in countries such as Sudan and Kenya, as well as administering a start-up grants fund to support initial meetings and visits to build new partnerships.

This report aims to give a brief summary of the IFGH's achievements of the past year, and highlights notable successes.

SUMMARY OF PAST EVENTS

- For **World Toilet Day in November 2013**, the IFGH Student Outreach Group (SOG) held awareness events at campuses in Belfast, Cork, and Dublin, in conjunction with Concern Worldwide and the Environmental Association of Ireland.
- In March 2014, at 5 campuses in Belfast, Cork, Dublin, Galway and Limerick, the SOG held preliminary rounds of the **Annual Making Time Global Health National Debate**, followed by the National Final at the University of Limerick Graduate Entry Medical School held in April.
- In addition, **International Women's Day 2014** events which took place around Trinity College Dublin campus were covered by IFGH Key Correspondents and the SOG in March.
- For **World TB Day 2014**, the IFGH, the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland (RCPI), and Irish Aid co-hosted a guest lecture by Dr. Mel Spigelman, CEO of the TB Alliance, at the RCPI, attended by over 36 registered individuals, and more arrivals on the day.
- Our **International Conference 2014** was held at Trinity College Dublin on the 5-6th November 2014, in partnership with the Centre for Global Health, Trinity College Dublin, and Concern Worldwide, supported by Irish Aid. The Conference also hosted the **Annual Father Michael Kelly HIV/AIDS Event** in conjunction with Irish Aid, and the **Annual Professor John Kevany Memorial Lecture**. The Conference drew in more than 200 attendees over the two days.
- The IFGH also supported and promoted the launch of the temporary 'pop-up' installation, **The Malaria Museum**, at the Tropical Medical Bureau, on Grafton Street in Dublin.
- For **World Toilet Day 2014**, the IFGH SOG partnered with Concern Worldwide and NUI Galway's Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security Society to hold an awareness event.
- The SOG attended and presented their work on ethical guidelines for overseas placements at the **"Making a Difference? Perspectives on International Volunteering in Higher Education"** conference at University College Dublin in November.

OUTREACH

- In September 2014, an IFGH representative attended the **Annual Conference of the UK's Tropical Health Education Trust (THET)**, to promote both the IFGH and ESTHER Ireland, and make strategic networking connections. A representative of THET also attended the IFGH International Conference.
- The Student Outreach Group was represented at the **UCD Social Justice Conference** in October, with several health equity focused attendees joining the SOG as a result.
- The IFGH partnered with iheed to publicise the **2014 GETHealth Summit**, held at Dublin Castle in November, organising a breakout session with USAID and the Global Health Workforce Alliance (GHWA), on the role of ICT in the new global strategy on human resources for health, which will be developed by the WHO. This generated input to the global consultation facilitated by the GHWA.

NEW DONOR RELATIONSHIP

- In 2014, we engaged with **The Ireland Funds** to help better support the SOG. We successfully applied for a 1000 EUR grant to create student-focused activities during the IFGH International Conference 2014, to build ethical behaviour guidelines for students on placements abroad. These are now being refined via workshops in conjunction with the Development Studies Association of Ireland and Comhlámh, and are expected to form a key guide for the many Ireland-based students who will carry out global health work overseas in 2015 and beyond.

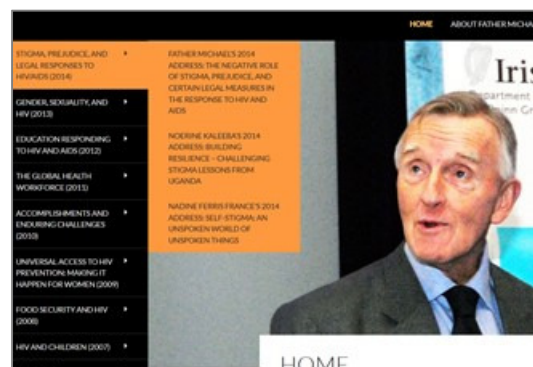
KEEPING MEMBERS UPDATED ON GLOBAL HEALTH

- Our regular communications continued to be refined; regular **eForum** mailings covered significant world days, events, and courses around Ireland, whilst special **extended eForum editions** included an information issue directing readers towards trusted resources on Ebola, as well as a 'year-in-review' issue looking back at major global health events throughout 2014.
- We also produced our regular **Global Health Matters** newsletters, which are released quarterly, covering a range of topics from the current global health sector as well as highlighting items such as courses, activities of the SOG, and featuring articles and editorial from current IFGH members



A NEW ONLINE RESOURCE ON HIV/AIDS ADVOCACY

- As a part of programming around World AIDS Day 2014, the IFGH International Conference included the Annual Irish Aid Father Michael Kelly HIV/AIDS Event. To accompany this, a **new dedicated online resource** was created, which archives past Father Michael Kelly Event lectures, photography and presentations, from its inception in 2006, up until the present day. The resource can be found at: www.fathermichaelkellyzambia.org



THE ESTHER IRELAND NEWSLETTER: "PARTNERSHIPS PANORAMA"

- In addition to the regular IFGH communications, a new email channel was created, and launched in April 2014: **Partnerships Panorama** is published monthly and reaches over 570 subscribers from across academic, health services, and NGO backgrounds, with news from activities within ESTHER Ireland, and the broader international health partnerships sphere.



EXPANDING OUR REACH

- Throughout the 2013-2014 period, and continuing in 2015, we have been increasing our use of social media and email channels to deliver items of interest to our networks of subscribers. This has resulted in increased engagement by users across each platform.

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- On **Twitter**, the IFGH has now produced over 3,000 tweets, reaching more than 940 followers around the globe, covering topics such as HIV/AIDS, Gender-based violence, World Toilet Day, human rights, and much more.



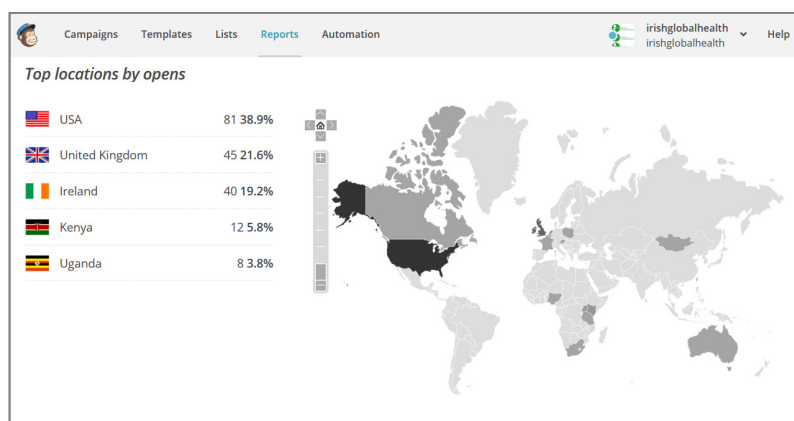
>500

- More than 500 individuals follow the IFGH's communications on **Facebook**, highlighting websites, videos, and other contemporary global health news.



>710

- The **IFGH eForum and Global Health Matters Newsletter** reaches over 710 subscribers, across Ireland, the UK, and the USA, with members also present in Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and further afield in Taiwan and Australia.



IFGH PUBLICATIONS IN 2013-2014

- As the IFGH continued its work throughout 2013-2014, we produced a number of key documents which were distributed to our members:

CHARTING OUR PROGRESS

- The **2013 activities report** highlighted the many ways in which the IFGH and its members came together throughout the 2012-2013 period to raise awareness and work together in Global Health in Ireland and overseas.



LINKING MEMBERS

- Circulated only to IFGH members, the **Membership Directory** enables like-minded individuals to connect with each other for collaboration and knowledge exchange.



NEW GROWTH; NEW CHALLENGES

- During 2014, the IFGH developed its new strategic vision for the next three years, which is laid out in the **Strategy 2014-2017** Document.





The **IFGH International Conference 2014**, in partnership with the Centre for Global Health, Trinity College Dublin, and Concern Worldwide, supported by Irish Aid, was our largest event to-date, with **over 200 attendees registered**. High-profile international guest speakers were invited, including writer, advocate, and Aspen Institute New Voices Fellow **Sisonke Msimang**; the UNPRPD's **Emanuele Sapienza**; **Vanina Laurent-Ledru** of MSD; and Irish Times Columnist and Healthy Ireland Council Member, **Jacky Jones**.

The Conference also hosted the **Professor John Kevany Memorial Lecture**, given by University College Dublin's Professor of Health Systems, **Eilish McAuliffe**, as well as the **Annual Irish Aid Father Michael Kelly HIV/AIDS Event**, with addresses given by **Father Michael** himself (via video); TASO Founder and Chair of Uganda's National Health Research Organisation **Noerine Kaleeba**; and Irish HIV Researcher **Nadine Ferris France**.

This year prominently featured a session on **ethical guidelines for overseas placements**, created and led by the IFGH's Student Outreach Group, generously supported by a grant from **The Ireland Funds**.

Date:
Nov. 5-6, 2014

Venue:
Arts Block, Trinity
College Dublin





PARTNERSHIPS FOR HEALTH

- The IFGH International Conference 2014 focused on **The Role of Partnerships in Realising Health-Related Development Goals**, showcasing research and perspectives from the Academic side, through NGOs and Civil Society organisations, to the private sector, and gathered delegates from across the global health and development sphere.
- The first day featured a session demonstrating the full **Spectrum of Partnerships**, with talks given by researchers covering topics such as accountability, sustainable capacity building, and inter-sector collaboration.
- Parallel sessions explored work being done by ESTHER Ireland partners in **Partnerships Panorama**, including presentations on topics such as Cork University Maternity Hospital's partnership with Omdurman Maternity Hospital in Sudan, and lessons learned from evaluation of international health partnerships through the European ESTHER Alliance, whilst the **Public-Private Partnerships** session explored private sector engagement to achieve health outcomes.
- The student led session on **Ethical Partnerships** (see page 20) gathered the brightest minds to build guidelines for ethical behaviour during overseas work. The **Snapshot Oral Presentation Session** gave attendees a rapid glimpse of the sheer diversity of partnerships being carried out in countries including Burundi, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and many more, focused on areas such as HIV education, neonatal intensive care, and sanitation.
- Day one closed with the **Annual Father Michael Kelly HIV/AIDS Event**. Father Michael spoke via video, discussing ongoing injustices affecting those living with HIV in his address, "The Negative Role of Stigma, Prejudice, and Certain Legal Measures in the Response to HIV and AIDS". Two of Father Michael's long-term collaborators also spoke: Dr. Noerine Kaleeba, who drew on her personal experience as an HIV/AIDS advocate in "Building Resilience – Challenging Stigma: Lessons from Uganda", and Nadine Ferris France, who delivered a talk based on her research into the phenomenon of self-stigma among persons living with HIV in "Self Stigma – An Unspoken World of Unspoken Things". The event also launched the new web resource collecting all of the Father Michael Kelly HIV/AIDS Event lectures, video, and photography: www.fathermichaelkellyzambia.org

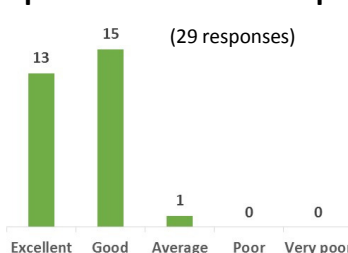


PARTNERSHIPS FOR HEALTH (CONTD.)

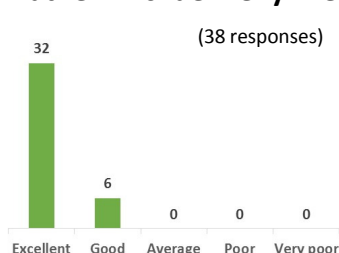
- Day two featured a dedicated session on **The Role of Partnerships in Tackling the Ebola Crisis**, featuring input from David Weakliam (presenting the Irish contributions towards the Ebola response) in addition to the HSE's Diarmuid O'Donovan (presenting lessons for Ireland from the Ebola Emergency Operations Centre in Nigeria) and Margaret Fitzgerald (presenting her work with the WHO in Liberia), and Concern Worldwide's Anne O'Mahony, all three of whom had recently returned from assisting in managing the crisis in West Africa.
- 
- This was followed by **Parallel Oral Abstract Sessions**, which focused on thematic areas of **Information and Communications Technology for Global Health**; **Health Systems Strengthening**; and **Emerging Voices – Early Career Perspectives**. Further research was showcased in the second oral abstract session, which covered **Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health**; diversity of partnerships in **Partnerships Medley**; and **HIV, Disabilities, and Inclusive Health**.
 - The final parallel sessions then highlighted **Partnerships in Emergency Situations**, as well as a **Follow-up Discussion on Ethical Partnerships**, which documented progress made, and future plans arising from the first day's Student-led workshop. The day ended with Professor Eilish McAuliffe delivering the **Annual Professor John Kevany Memorial Lecture**, titled "Rethinking Research Partnerships: Purpose, Process and Conduct". The conference then closed with the final session, **Reflections on Partnerships**.
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- Feedback from participants at the Conference was extremely positive; attendee evaluation of some of the highlight sessions can be seen here. The full evaluation can be found at www.globalhealth.ie

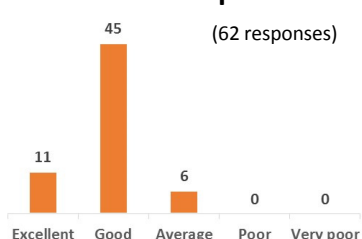
Spectrum of Partnerships



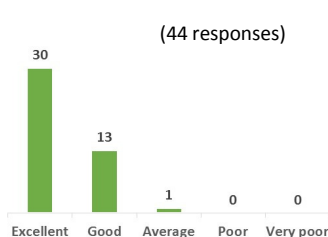
Father Michael Kelly Event



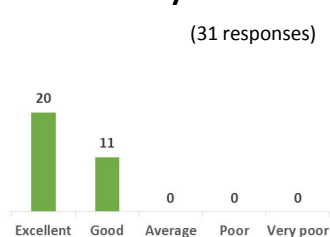
ESTHER Partnerships Panorama



Ebola Session



Kevany Lecture





ESTHER Ireland: Building Institutional Health Partnerships Between Ireland and Overseas

Members of the IFGH Secretariat also work to support international health partnerships through ESTHER Ireland. In late 2013, ESTHER Ireland, the IFGH, and the Department of Foreign Affairs hosted a gathering of representatives from European ESTHER Alliance member countries, opened by then **Minister of Trade and Development, Joe Costello T.D.**, to help build the EEA's 2015-2020 strategy. Delegates from **France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Switzerland**, and the **UK** gathered to report on progress that has seen improvements in healthcare capacity across over 40 countries across Africa, Asia, and Central and Southern America to-date.

June 2014 saw a **State Visit to Ireland by President Guebuza of Mozambique**, which saw the **signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** between the Quality and Patient Safety Division of the Irish Health Services Executive and the Government of Mozambique, to explore options for strengthening Mozambican health systems. The MOU signing was followed in September 2014 by a visit to Ireland by a team of senior health officials from Mozambique to help identify specific areas of collaboration.

Date:
Dec. 2013,
Jun. 2014

Venue:
Various



IRELAND CHAIRS THE BOARD OF THE EUROPEAN ESTHER ALLIANCE

- In April 2014, the European ESTHER Alliance (EEA) implemented their new 2015-2020 strategy, and **ESTHER Ireland Chairperson Dr. David Weakliam was unanimously elected by Alliance members as Chair of the Board of the EEA** for the following two years, first chairing the Interim Board, which then transitioned to become a Permanent Board on January 1st 2015. Dr. Weakliam and IFGH/ESTHER Ireland Operations Director Nadine Ferris France continue to actively contribute to EEA Working Groups to support International Health Partnerships between Ireland and overseas, most recently attending the EEA meeting in Paris in December 2014 which gathered representatives from France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, and the UK.



Delegates gathered for the European ESTHER Alliance meeting in Paris, December 2014.

NEW INTERNATIONAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP: MAYO + LONDIANI

- The newest ESTHER Ireland partnership between **Mayo General Hospital** and **Londiani District Hospital in Kenya**, originated in 2009 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions. Since then, over 20 staff have visited Londiani from Ireland, contributing their skills and knowledge, and the ongoing exchange programme has seen personnel from Londiani coming to Ireland to share their expertise. The Mayo-Londiani Partnership formally joined ESTHER Ireland in 2014.



Exchange visit to Mayo General Hospital by staff from Londiani (taken from Méabh Ni Bhuinnean's presentation at the IFGH International Conference)

LESSONS LEARNED ON HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS

- During the European ESTHER Alliance African Regional Workshop in Casablanca in October 2014, the ESTHER Ireland Secretariat accessed the experiences of the workshop's various country representatives through a series of **video interviews**, asking them to share insights on creating successful partnerships. These were also used to produce a **promotional video**. All of these can be viewed at:

www.youtube.com/user/globalhealthie/playlists



EEA General Secretary Dr. Farid Lamara

ESTHER IRELAND START-UP GRANTS PROGRAMME

- ESTHER Ireland also provides **start-up grants of up to 6000 EUR** to institutions wishing to build international health partnerships. These grants are designed to support the early development of partnerships, including conceptualisation, and facilitate initial meetings and exchange visits to help develop a shared vision. The ESTHER Ireland Secretariat reviews applications and disburses these start-up grants, and in 2015 will begin hosting **regular workshops to guide new partnership applicants through the process.**

ESTHER IRELAND START-UP GRANT AWARDS

- In late 2013, a start-up grant was awarded to the Institute of Community Health Nursing (ICHN), to create an online forum, the **Global Network of Public Health Nursing (GNPHN)**, which helps experienced Community Health Nurses around the globe to collaborate and share knowledge and best-practice. The forum can be visited at: www.GNPHN.org
- A further start-up grant has been awarded to the **Department of Public Health in Limerick**, who aim to formalise their partnership with **Lalgadh Leprosy Services Centre in Nepal**. Led by Dr. Anne Dee, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, who has worked in Nepal, the partnership will build capacity for surveillance, research, and public outreach to overcome stigma. Based in a 'Leprosy Hotspot', LLSC's Outpatients Department saw over 7,200 cases of leprosy last year alone.
- A start-up grant was also awarded to help formalise the partnership between **Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin** and **Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**. Since 2007, Irish paediatrician Dr. Trish Scanlan and colleagues have been working with experienced Tanzanian clinicians and administrative staff to transform clinical and support services at the national paediatric oncology ward at Muhimbili. The growth in services and expertise has contributed to a 60% increase in improvement in one-year survival rates.



Front page of the GNPHN website



The Outpatients department at LLSC



Paediatric oncology facilities at Muhimbili National Hospital (taken from Dr. Scanlan's presentation at the IFGH International Conference)



European ESTHER Alliance African Regional Workshop: The Institutional Health Partnerships Based Approach

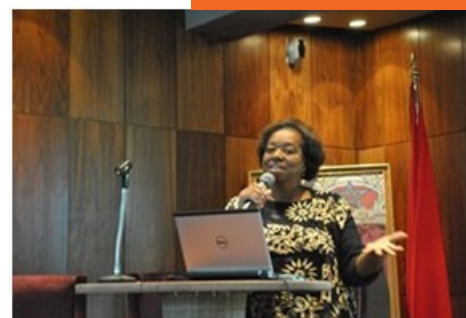


Members of the IFGH Secretariat, representing ESTHER Ireland, took part in the **European ESTHER Alliance African Regional Workshop**, which gathered delegates from **30 partner countries** across the global north and south, to review progress on partnership initiatives, refine European ESTHER Alliance strategy, and gain insight into key issues by **directly accessing the experience of the ESTHER Alliance's Southern partners**.

IFGH Chair **Dr. David Weakliam** (below left), who is also the **Chairperson of the Board of the European ESTHER Alliance** was among the speakers at the event, alongside **Dr. Cleophas Chimbetete**, Deputy Director of Newlands Clinic in Harare, Zimbabwe (middle), and **Dr. Joyce Hightower**, African Region Project Manager for the WHO's African Partnerships for Patient Safety initiative (right).

Date:
Oct 14-16, 2014

Venue:
Mohammedia,
Morocco





The IFGH Student Outreach Group: Student Voices for Global Health

The SOG is made up of student representatives from **seven third-level academic institutions** across Ireland who strive to bring awareness to global health issues. Since its inception, the SOG has consistently been our most dynamic and vibrant group.

By encouraging and fostering *Student Voices for Global Health*, the SOG aims to advance student involvement and global health expertise in hopes of creating opportunities and networks for students, while advocating for more equitable and healthy societies within Ireland and abroad.

Date:
Ongoing

Venue:
Campuses across
Ireland



The Making Time National Debate on Global Health 2014

"This House Believes that International Aid Removes Responsibility for Healthcare Provision from Local Governments"



In 2014, we continued our ongoing relationship with the **Making Time Foundation**, who generously sponsor the **National Debate on Global Health** - undoubtedly a highlight of the Student Outreach Group's season. This was the first time that the Limerick SOG committee, led by medical student **Martin Mroue** had organised the event, and they performed admirably with help from seasoned members including **SOG Chairperson Brynne Gilmore**, whose wealth of experience was brought to bear.

Regional heats were held at several campuses across the Island, culminating in a tense **All-Ireland Final**, where teams from **University College Cork**, **Queens University Belfast**, **University of Limerick**, and **Trinity College Dublin** fought it out, over the motion *"This House Believes that International Aid Removes Responsibility for Healthcare Provision from Local Governments"*. In the end, University of Limerick emerged victorious, judged by a panel of clinicians, global health experts, and debating specialists. The proceedings were overseen by distinguished guest chair, **Ms. Breda Gahan, HIV Programme Officer with Concern Worldwide**.

Date:

April 10, 2014

Venue:

Graduate Entry
Medical School,
University of
Limerick



ETHICAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR STUDENTS

- With support from The Ireland Funds, the SOG created a workshop session at the IFGH International Conference 2014, led by third-level graduate students and recent alumni, which explored student practices when engaging in overseas work, critically examining institutions' roles in preparing and supporting such work in a responsible and ethical way. More than **30 individuals** attended the workshop session, and **over 60** attended the discussion.
- A working set of ethical guidelines was produced with the goal that it will direct future international placements and engagement. These are now being refined via workshops in conjunction with Comhlámh, and are expected to form a key guide for the many Irish students who will go abroad to carry out global health placements in 2015 and beyond.
- This work was presented at the **UCD Volunteer Overseas Conference in November 2014**, and the guidelines are being further developed in conjunction with the overseas volunteer support organisation, **Comhlámh**. Educational partnerships have been created with the Development Studies Association of Ireland, NUI Galway and the University of Limerick. The SOG will hold workshops on ethical placements during 2015, each reaching around 12-15 individuals.



<p>BRIEF: ETHICAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR STUDENTS</p> <p>REQUIREMENTS FOR ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS: A STUDENT DEVELOPED GUIDE</p>		
<p>BACKGROUND</p> <p>The Student Outreach Group (SOG) of the Irish Forum for Global Health (IFGH) ran a session during the International Conference Partnerships</p> <p>A Student Focused Discussion and Workshop", brought together students and other interested parties with a panel discussion and follow-up question and</p> <p>engaging in overseas work, this session aimed to draw attention to this and make recommendations for ethical guidelines from a student perspective. The</p>		

SOG OUTREACH AND DEVELOPMENT

- For **World Toilet Day 2014**, the SOG Chapter at NUI Galway took the lead in partnership with Irish NGOs **Concern Worldwide** and **GOAL** to organise campus activities to raise awareness of sanitation and hygiene.



- The SOG is also concentrating on giving a voice to the next generation of global health advocates, by providing a space where students and young professionals can further develop their advocacy and communications skills. To help achieve this, a Key Correspondent training workshop was run in November.



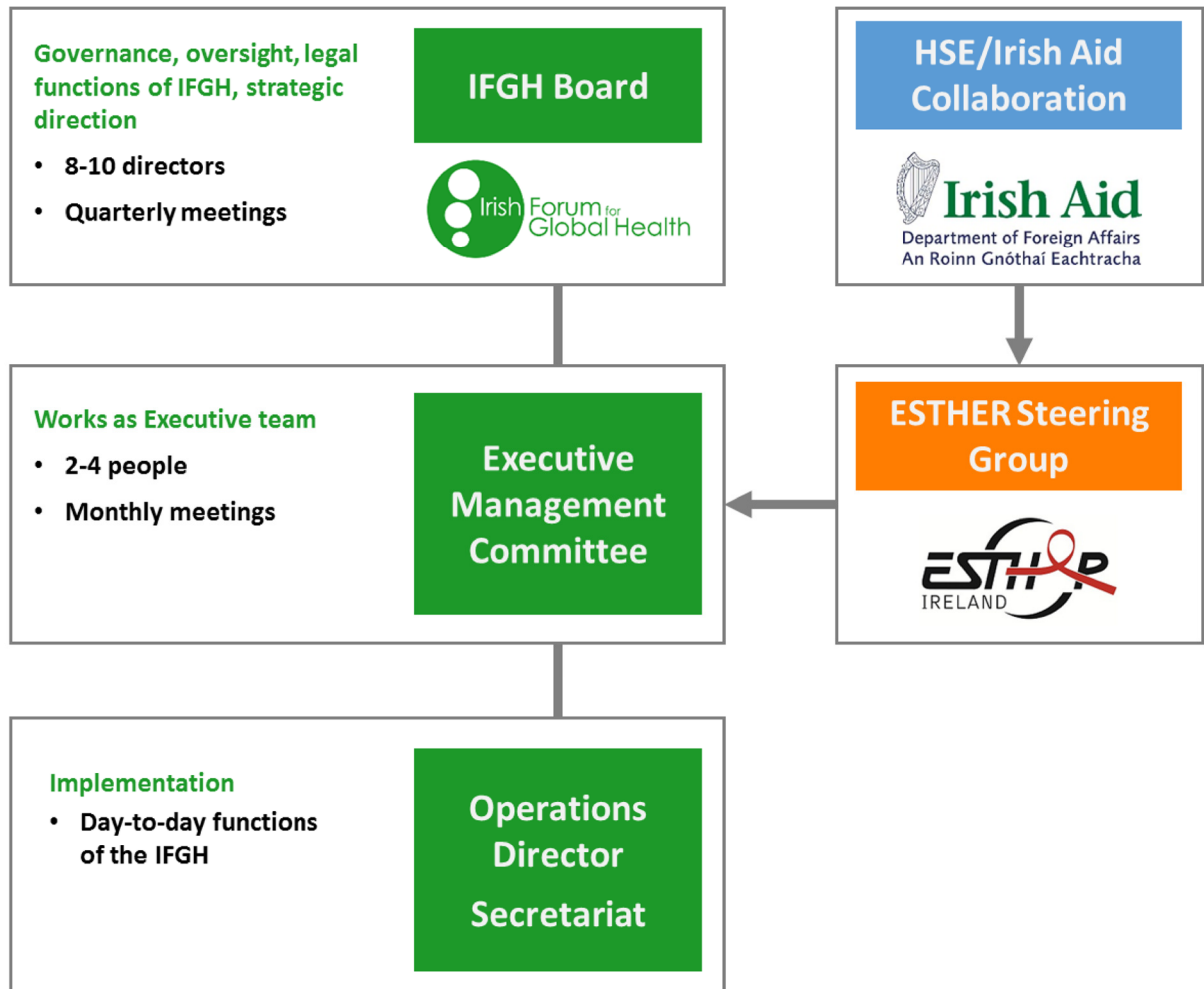
- Throughout 2015, this training programme will be expanded, via our new 'Global Health Writes' programme, which aims to not only provide training, but also to showcase the best of the work produced by our 'Citizen Journalists'.

- SOG members are ongoing contributors to IFGH communications, producing reports on events such as International Women's Day, conferences, and topics of global health importance. Support is given to members to attend such events, and their work is publicised widely throughout the IFGH's network.
- The SOG has also been actively presenting at several campuses with abstracts and posters at numerous academic conferences. These events also provide an opportunity for SOG representatives to recruit new members to join and organise their own activities.



A MORE RESPONSIVE IFGH THROUGH STREAMLINED GOVERNANCE

- The IFGH transitioned to a new governance structure in late 2014. This new structure, outlined below, lets us work in a more rapidly responsive and reactive manner, facilitating quick decisions over operations whilst still maintaining a tight focus and high-level oversight.



- The IFGH is governed by a Board which meets four times per year. The Board provides legal and strategic direction. The Executive Management Committee (EMC), operating as sub-Committee of the Board, meets monthly to give advice and direction to the Secretariat, responsible for the running of everyday IFGH operations. The IFGH also hosts the ESTHER Ireland Secretariat and strategic input for ESTHER is provided by the ESTHER Ireland Steering Group.

APPLICATION FOR CHARITABLE STATUS

- In 2013, the IFGH began its move towards **charity status**, putting in place over the course of 2014 the governance and financial oversights to fulfil requirements. It is anticipated that formal charity status will be awarded in the second quarter of 2015.

STAFFING

- In 2014, the **IFGH Communications Coordinator** was contracted for an extra day each week, for a total of three days, allowing for greater communications output, and better management of the IFGH's outreach across our multiple diverse channels.
- A **Finance Officer** was also hired one day per week, reporting to the Operations Director, providing improved capacity for financial recordkeeping.
- In addition, two **Professional Interns** were taken on, each working one and a half days per week, reporting to the Communications Coordinator and Operations Director. This has to-date allowed for a much greater diversity of work outputs and flexibility of projects across not only communications, but also support for events including the IFGH International Conference, and the Annual Making Time Global Health National Debate. In return, we help the Interns' professional development through regular feedback, opportunities to take leadership roles on specific projects, provision of online skills training, and our 'Global Health miles' programme, which gives access to financial support to attend a global health conference of their choice within Europe.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- In order to receive rapid feedback from our members, in the first quarter of 2015 we will commence **regular polling** of our members to better align our activities to their needs, for example to discover the types of content they would prefer to receive via our communications channels, or the types of in-person activities that we could organise.
- We also now regularly review our communications, with monthly **editorial meetings** to ensure that our communications are up-to-date and relevant to current events.
- Attendees to IFGH events are requested to complete feedback forms, helping us produce evaluation reports that ensure subsequent events provide genuine learning and networking opportunities for our members.

ONGOING CHALLENGES

- The IFGH Secretariat continues to operate as efficiently as possible across IFGH and ESTHER Ireland activities, however the challenge remains to provide the best service to our members as possible given the part-time nature of staff positions. To address this, the addition of the Finance Officer and two Professional Interns has helped greatly to spread the load, and we aim to continue to improve our service throughout 2015.
- Securing full funding to enable the IFGH to realise our goals continues to be a struggle, however we now also aim to diversify our funding-base through outreach to other organisations through the 'Friends of the Forum' programme, as well as increased efforts to secure funding from other granting bodies.



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