

Quarterly Bulletin of the Eurasian Academic Alliance for Global Health *Quarter 1, 2022*

The Eurasian Academic Alliance for Global Health was established under the auspices of the project - *Building Academic Capacity in Global Health in the Eastern Europe & Central Asia Regions (BACE)* - supported by the European Commission's Erasmus+ programme. In the context of the Alliance - *Eurasia* is defined as a group of countries located in the Baltic Sea, Eastern Mediterranean, Black Sea, Caspian Sea and the Central Asia regions.

BACE is implemented by a partnership of eleven academic institutions:

- Heidelberg Institute of Global Health, Germany (Coordinator)
- Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Kazakhstan
- Astana Medical University, Kazakhstan
- Batumi State University, Georgia
- Bergen University, Norway
- National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine
- Tbilisi, Institute of Global Health, Georgia
- Tbilisi State University, Georgia
- Ternopil National Medical University, Ukraine
- University of Georgia
- University of Tromso, Norway

BACE is aimed at achieving the following objectives:

- Developing curricula and delivering new courses on priority global health topics with specific focus on countries in the Eurasia region;
- Developing curricula and delivering new courses on global health research methods at BACE beneficiary universities;
- Establishing the Eurasian Academic Alliance for Global Health.

The Alliance serves as a collaborative platform on global health education and research among academic institutions of the Eurasian region. Academic institutions from and outside the region, interested in expanding collaboration on global health education and research, are encouraged to join the Alliance. Information is available on the Alliance's web-page: www.allianceforglobalhealth.net

The Quarterly Bulletin is a dissemination instrument for updates on the Alliance's activities and BACE implementation, as well as various developments in the area of global health.

The Alliance looks forward to welcoming new members and to establishing productive collaboration with interested partners.

Updates on BACE implementation

- Six working groups composed of technical experts from the partner universities, led by mentors from the Heidelberg Institute of Global Health initiated the work on developing new curricula for the following courses: Globalization and Health, Social and Economic Determinants of Health in Eurasia, Measuring Population Health in Eurasia, Non-Communicable Diseases in the Eurasia Region, Infectious Disease Outbreaks and Anti-Microbial Resistance in the Eurasia Region, Challenges of Environmental Pollution and Climate Changes in Eurasia.
- University of Tromso is supporting the partner universities on developing new curricula for courses on global health research with focus on research methods and design, applied epidemiologic and statistical analysis, critical thinking and scientific writing.
- The partner universities will accredit, institutionalize and integrate these new courses into their academic programs.
- Universities of Heidelberg and Tromso will organize training of trainers to equip academic faculty of the partner universities with pedagogical capacity to deliver the new courses.

Updates from the Alliance

The Alliance is a network of member organizations. It is *not* a formally registered legal entity governed by a particular country's laws and regulations. Alliance's members can be academic institutions - such as universities, other institutions of higher education, research organizations, think-tanks, NGOs, private sector entities and others involved in public/global health, epidemiology, health policy, health economics and other related areas, which share the purpose of the Alliance. There is no membership fee, nor there is geographic or other restrictions to join, but institutions from the countries in the Eurasian region are particularly encouraged to apply. The Partnership Agreement outlines the main principles of the Alliance's functions and operations. Please refer to the Alliance's website to review the Partnership Agreement and the Application Form: www.allianceforglobalhealth.net

Objectives:

- Improving and enhancing the involvement of Eurasian researchers and institutions in global health research, education and capacity building;
- Contributing to increased international collaboration in global health, with particular emphasis on strengthening the capacity of institutional partners in Eurasia;
- Leveraging increased and targeted funding for relevant global health research from governments, private foundations, international organizations and other sources;
- Contributing to national and international collaboration and networking in the field of global health.

International Partnerships in Global Health

Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) is the world's largest academic membership organization engaged in addressing global health challenges. It brings together over 170 institutional members from over 30 countries and a network of over 30,000 individuals. CUGH was established in 2008 with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation. CUGH supports academic institutions and partners by strengthening academic global health programs through their ability to convene, share knowledge, mentor, build capacity and facilitate interdisciplinary collaborations. Over the years, CUGH has maintained a steady increase in its engagement with students – the next generation of global health academic leaders – through creating student led activities and a student representative program in over 71 academic institutions. This network is a source of information for students, a pathway for them to engage in global health work, and a mechanism for CUGH to understand and advocate for their needs. Please refer to CUGH's content-rich website to learn more about their work and to review a wide range of on-line products and resources, such as capacity building tools, educational materials, global health competencies toolkit, recordings of thematic webinars, global health videos, global health library, funding opportunities for global health training and research, jobs board and others. Periodically, CUGH opens calls for membership at the Board and the Board Committees. For more information please visit: www.sugh.org

Emerging Challenges of Global Health Importance

Viruses and bacteria can survive for millions of years frozen in glaciers, ice sheets and permafrost. As global warming increases they may emerging as the next global health challenge. Please review relevant literature below:

Scientists Discover Dozens of Ancient Viruses Frozen in Ice

<https://futurism.com/the-byte/dozens-unknown-viruses-frozen-ice>

15,000-year-old Viruses Discovered in Tibetan Glacier Ice

<https://news.osu.edu/15000-year-old-viruses-discovered-in-tibetan-glacier-ice/>

Climate Change Is Freeing Ancient Infections From Their Icy Prisons

<https://futurism.com/climate-change-is-freeing-ancient-infections-from-their-icy-prisons>

Innovations in Global Health

Artificial intelligence in healthcare is an overarching term describing the use of machine-learning algorithms and software to mimic human cognition in the analysis, presentation, and comprehension of complex medical and healthcare data. The primary aim of health-related AI applications is to analyze relationships between clinical techniques and patient outcomes. Please review relevant literature below:

Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Global Health

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)30226-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)30226-9/fulltext)

The Potential for Artificial Intelligence for Healthcare

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6616181/>

35 Examples of AI in Healthcare That Will Make You Feel Better About the Future

<https://builtin.com/artificial-intelligence/artificial-intelligence-healthcare>