



ANNUAL REPORT 2020



CSIH CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR
INTERNATIONAL HEALTH
SCSI LA SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE
DE SANTÉ INTERNATIONALE

Message from the Executive Director

What a year!

We were locked down and masked up, and spent more time than we should have in front of our multiple screens.

And for the first time since I can remember, the usually obscure topic of health systems dominated the headlines.

The issues raised by global health researchers and practitioners – and often ignored – barrelled into the public space and grabbed all of our attention. They are things like: infectious diseases know no borders; people who are already vulnerable are hit the hardest by a pandemic; health is foundational to education, economic well-being, and social structures.

The pandemic has also served to remind all of us of some other important truths. Two lessons stand out for me. First, there is no doubt that we are citizens of the world – interconnected and interdependent. And secondly, women leaders play an essential role in public health in Canada and globally.

In this report, you will meet some of those women and learn more about CSIH's role in promoting Women in Global Health. You will read about health systems in Africa, about at-risk communities in Canada, and about our work supporting the development of students and young professionals as well as a vast network of researchers and practitioners from around the world.

Global health has always been the core of what we do. And when this pandemic is under control, the lessons we have all learned will continue to move us forward.

In the meantime, take care of yourselves and each other.



Eva Slawecki
Executive Director

Message from the Co-chairs

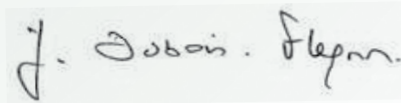
In an era of unexpected challenges and changes in global health, CSIH has chosen to make its own important change. During the year 2020, the Canadian Society for International Health and the Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research (CCGHR) Boards were busy discussing how to amalgamate the two organizations that have been close for many years. In fact, many of our CSIH members are also members of the Coalition and CCGHR is an active participant in the Canadian Conference on Global Health.

Our two boards are convinced that an amalgamation will make our two organizations stronger: CSIH contributes its experience in organizing conferences and symposia and managing projects, particularly in health systems strengthening; and CCGHR brings its capacity in mobilizing and networking within the Canadian global health academic community. Both organizations will contribute their complementary experience and a shared commitment to equity in global health.

Members and stakeholders were consulted regularly, especially after the CSIH Annual General Meeting in November 2020, where the amalgamation between CSIH and CCGHR was approved in principle by both memberships.

The two boards believe that the amalgamation will help bring together education, research and practice, and enhance knowledge dissemination and advocacy for global health. It will provide a unified voice in Canada for global health and will strengthen connections with the international community.

We look forward to celebrating this exciting new development at the combined membership meeting in the fall of 2021!



Geneviève Dubois Flynn
Co-chair



Chris Rosene
Co-chair

The 26th Canadian Conference on Global Health

GLOBAL HEALTH IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

October 19 – 22, 2020 | Virtual

The 2020 Canadian Conference on Global Health took place from October 19-22, 2020. This year's conference marked the first ever virtual conference, and explored the theme of Global Health in a Changing Climate.

Theme: Global Health and a Changing Climate

Planetary health is defined as the health of human civilization and the state of the natural systems on which it depends. The societies and the health systems we live in must be both resilient and responsive to the challenges of climate change—the overarching issue of our time.

While the conference focused on environmental issues in a global health context, COVID-19 related themes were a part of every discussion with ideas being raised that could accelerate progress towards environmental, health and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Virtual Event

CCGH 2020 drew just over 1,000 participants – global health practitioners, students, university partners, civil society and government representatives – from more than 65 countries. Sixty percent of participants were from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), benefiting from grants provided by the International Development Research Centre and Global Affairs Canada.

The event spanned four days of virtual panel sessions and practical workshops, orals and poster presentations. Plenaries topics addressed global health and climate change from various perspectives. The event also showcased special sessions such as:

- Gairdner Global Health Panel
- Canadian Women in Global Health Panel
- Daily Youth Wrap Ups
- 10th Global Forum on Health Promotion

CCGH by the Numbers

1,000+ participants

65 countries

63 e-posters

27 workshops

5 plenary sessions

13 keynote speakers

29 oral presentations

617 LMIC delegates



A highlight of this virtual event was Dr. Jane Goodall speaking about the changing climate and the interconnection of human and animal health as well as presentations from Karina Gould, Minister of International Development, Ilona Kickbusch, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies and Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization.

The majority of CCGH presenters were women (with 93% in oral sessions, 70% in posters and 70% in plenaries) and more than 56%

of the attendees were women. Youth were included as panellists when possible and the youth planning committee contributed to the program by wrapping up each day with a discussion of the sessions they had attended.

Plenary highlights, youth wrap ups, Jane Goodall interview available here: www.youtube.com/channel/UC60Bmbap1qFPU0zdfyPOXMQ

Partners & Sponsors



“We’ve got to stop always putting unlimited economic development globally ahead of protecting the environment, the health of the planet, our health now and future generations.

– Jane Goodall



Health Systems Global

In 2020, CSIH was chosen to house the secretariat for Health Systems Global (HSG), a global membership organization of researchers, decision-makers and implementers who are dedicated to promoting health systems research and knowledge translation. HSG organizes a **Global Symposium on Health Systems Research** every two years.

To learn more, visit: healthsystemsglobal.org

Canadian Women in Global Health

The Canadian Women in Global Health initiative (CWIGH) was founded with the aim to increase the visibility, representation, and leadership of Canadian women already working in global health.

In October 2020, the updated CWIGH list was launched as a searchable online directory at the 26th Canadian Conference for Global Health. The new directory expands on the 2018 list of 100+ women by showcasing the achievements of 43 Canadian women leaders in global health, as well as the women to watch in the near future. The “Emerging Leaders in Global Health” category recognizes the work of 18 early to mid-career professionals who have made a substantial contribution to global health policies, programs, and research.

Social Media Campaign: International Women’s Day

To mark International Women’s Day 2020 on March 8th, we asked Canadian women experts and emerging leaders: How are you advancing gender equality in global health leadership through your work? What does a gender-equal global health landscape mean to you? Find out what they had to say here: www.csih.org/en/blog/commitments-action-advancing-gender-equality-global-health-leadership

Women in Global Health Canada

Women in Global Health (WGH) is the world’s largest network of women and allies working to challenge power and privilege for gender equity in health. Since its start in 2015, WGH has grown to include over 25,000 supporters in 90 countries and has 23 official chapters, with a strong presence in low- and middle-income countries.

Since April 2020, CSIH has housed the regional chapter of WGH. WGH Canada will support global activities to achieve gender equality in global health leadership by representing and providing Canadian interests and expertise. Like WGH Global, WGH Canada is an open membership organization and encourages participation from anyone regardless of gender, career stage, and sector. Learn more about Women in Global Health at www.womeningh.org

Chapter Launch

On September 29th, Women in Global Health Canada hosted its official chapter launch with a theme of Gender-responsive Global Health Security, spotlighting the topic of women’s leadership in global health.



Canadian Alliance for HIV and HCV Knowledge to Action

The Canadian Alliance for HIV and HCV Knowledge to Action (K2A) uses Program Science to improve the health and well-being of people affected by HIV, Hepatitis C and sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBI) in communities across Canada. K2A activities include HIV and HCV conference sessions, science cafes, workshops, and e-learning modules.

“This presentation is fascinating – thank you for this opportunity to learn, and to be inspired”

K2A activities typically employ a variety of virtual and in-person formats. However, as a result of COVID-19, the K2A Alliance was forced to adopt a 100% virtual approach. Despite the changes, the K2A project remains on course to meet and exceed all of its targets and objectives.

Some of the topics covered in the nine activities held in 2020 include:

- 90-90-90 and the trajectory towards HIV epidemic control
- Getting to zero: HIV infections among Black MSM (Men who have sex with men)
- Infectious diseases
- HIV Self-Testing in Canada

The Canadian Alliance for HIV and HCV Knowledge to Action is a joint effort of the Canadian Society for International Health and the Canadian Association for HIV Research, funded by the Community Action Fund of the Public Health Agency of Canada.

In Focus:

Getting to zero: HIV infections among Black MSM (Men who have sex with men)



HIV continues to disproportionately affect Black communities in Canada and the United States. Further, there is an uneven distribution of new HIV infections in Black men who have sex with other men (MSM). In this session, Dr. LaRon Nelson made the case that to stop new HIV infections among Black MSM, we must address the social factors that marginalize Black MSM and increase their odds of acquiring HIV.

HIV Self-Testing in Canada

Following the approval of the first HIV self-test in Canada, the K2A Alliance worked with partners to support its roll-out. The Alliance collaborated in the implementation of the National HIV Self-Testing Survey of frontline workers to determine their community's knowledge, access and challenges related to self-testing. In addition to the survey, a series of information workshops and webinars were organized to help frontline community health professionals support HIV self-testing in Canada. Overall, more than 800 people participated in the self-testing webinars and workshops.

Canada Pavilion at AIDS 2020

AIDS2020: Virtual, the International AIDS Conference which ran from July 6 to 10, included the Canada Pavilion under the theme Canada: Resilient Together.

The CSIH managed the development and implementation of the Canada Pavilion, and promoted knowledge exchange initiatives after the conference.

The Canada Pavilion showcased the contributions of Canadian researchers, community-based organizations, public health and health care providers, and governments as well as promoted Canadian best practices and achievements related to HIV and related sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBI) globally. Some 765 conference attendees visited the booth to chat with representatives, review content and materials, attend live programming, and take a quiz and a selfie in front of a Canadian background.

The online format of AIDS2020: Virtual provided new opportunities to reach a wider audience, and required innovation in terms of creating content and programming that was engaging and promoted networking.

The AIDS Canada Resource Hub was updated and launched on the first day of AIDS2020: Virtual, and continues to provide information and tools to strengthen our response to HIV/AIDS in Canada. Visit: www.aidscanada.ca.



Post AIDS 2020 Events

As a follow-up to the Canada Pavilion 2020, CSIH hosted World AIDS Day 2020: The Experience Dialogues, on December 1. The interactive virtual event featured opening remarks from Dr. Theresa Tam and presentations from Myles Sexton, model and activist, and Suki Beavers, Director of Gender, UNAIDS.



"I learnt that the chief among the scientific discoveries in the past few decades is the finding that Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U). This has been translated to meaningful change for individuals and has mitigated stigma. Together we can eliminate AIDS as a global threat."

– Ayilola Babatunde, Nigeria

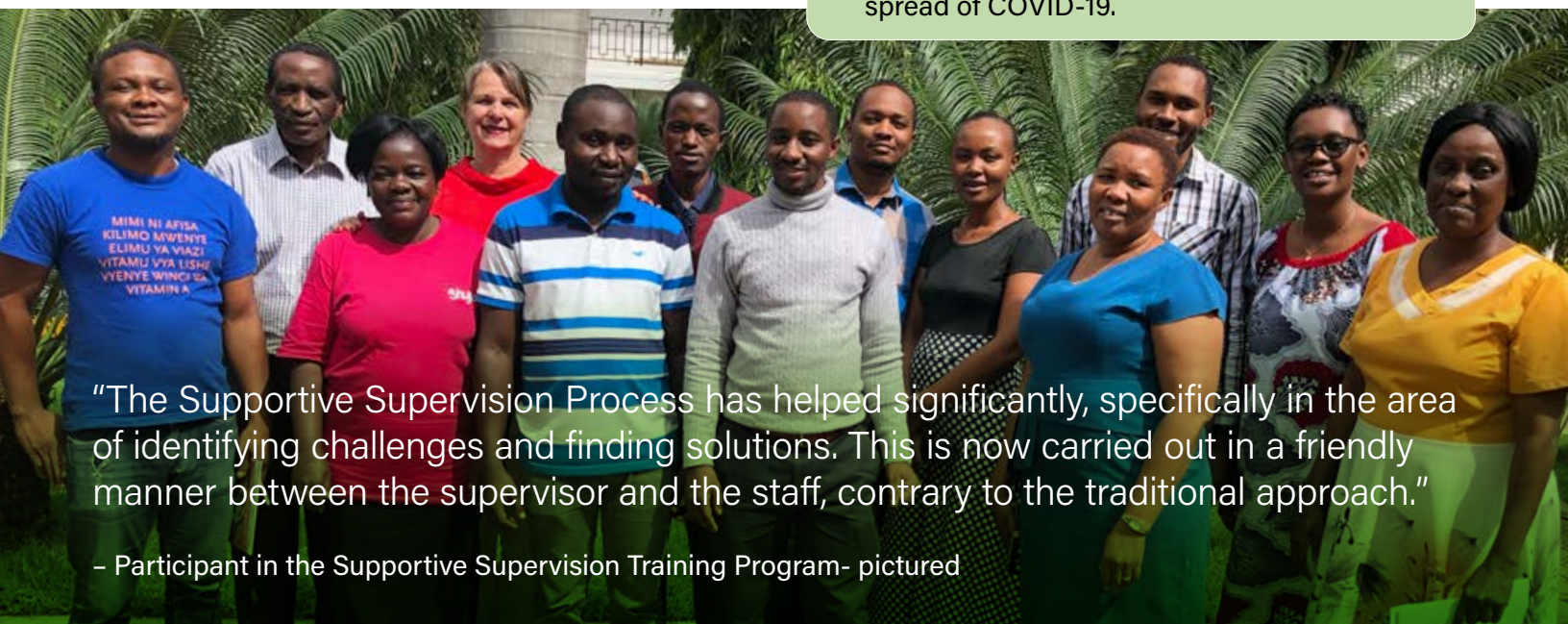
Health System Strengthening in Tanzania

In Tanzania, CSIH is working to improve reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health services. During this second to last year of the project, we intended to focus on job coaching and mentoring activities to reinforce skills developed through previous workshops and trainings. However, the COVID-19 pandemic upended these plans and forced us to pivot our approach to activities, and redirect resources to support COVID-19 response efforts.

Despite the interruption in activities, CSIH made substantial gains in improving the annual planning and budgeting process for health service delivery. We also continued to help strengthen the skills of health managers who are conducting supportive supervision visits to health facilities.

Highlights from 2020

- Developed and piloted a navigation guide for health planners linking the national health data management and planning systems
- Developed and piloted an assessment tool to aid District Health Managers to evaluate health facility annual plans and communicate clear feedback to health facilities
- Launched an online Mentorship Program for Regional and District Health Managers to support ongoing implementation of Supportive Supervision activities
- Facilitated an online Health Promotion training program for Regional and District Health Managers with a focus on addressing the spread of COVID-19.



"The Supportive Supervision Process has helped significantly, specifically in the area of identifying challenges and finding solutions. This is now carried out in a friendly manner between the supervisor and the staff, contrary to the traditional approach."

– Participant in the Supportive Supervision Training Program- pictured

CSIH is a partner on two RMNCAH Projects in Tanzania:

World Vision Canada leads ENRICH in partnership with Nutrition International, Harvest Plus, the University of Toronto Dalla Lana School of Public Health, and CSIH, which together work with national and community groups in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Kenya and Tanzania. Principle program funding is provided by the Government of Canada.

CARE Canada leads TAMANI in partnership with CSIH, SOGC, and McGill University. Principle program funding is provided by the Government of Canada.

CSIH MentorNet

CSIH MentorNet is a global health mentorship program that connects Students and Young Professionals (SYPs) interested in global health with experienced professionals in the field. Twenty-five mentoring pairs were matched in 2020.

MentorNet provides a curriculum of more than 40 diverse modules in global health, ranging from health policy to career planning, to more topical issues, such as mental health and climate change. Learning modules are being updated to keep up with current events and new research.

In the 2020 program year, we introduced a project assignment to encourage SYP and mentor pairs to practically apply the insights and knowledge gained through their mentoring relationship.

This new component of the MentorNet program offered pairs the opportunity to submit a wide range of projects, including literature reviews, infographics, new learning modules, social media campaigns and media content.



**NEWBORN
PROGRAMMING IN WEST
AND CENTRAL AFRICA:
A REVIEW OF REPORTS**

HUNSTER YANG & DR. ALINE SIMEN-KAPEU
CSIH MENTORNET PROGRAM - FINAL PROJECT

DECEMBER 2020

Hunster Yang (SYP) and Dr. Aline Simen-Kapeu (mentor) submitted a report on newborn programming in West and Central Africa as their final project.



“The final project allowed me to take the topics I learned about and apply them to a specific issue. It gave me a chance to practice thinking about global health issues, applying concepts that my mentor shared with me during the modules, such as knowledge translation and health indicators.”

- Urvi Rai , SYP

Statement of Operations

For the year ended December 31, 2020

	2020	2019
REVENUE		
Projects - Technical assistance (Schedule A)	\$ 487,832	\$ 668,731
Public Health Agency of Canada	217,154	146,787
Global Health Conferences	140,056	376,733
Canada Emergency Subsidy	56,144	-
Health Systems Global	39,912	-
Memberships	12,231	8,635
Other	40,395	10,607
	993,724	1,211,493
EXPENSES		
Technical assistance	434,826	580,027
Knowledge exchange and networking	254,083	180,744
Global Health Conferences	127,629	317,952
Health Systems Global	33,648	-
Program development	15,288	30,385
Administrative expenses		
- Salaries and benefits	56,348	91,993
- Variable costs	26,938	24,171
- Fixed costs	17,730	39,616
- Governance	14,968	7,396
- Other	745	618
- Loss (gain) on exchange rate	36	1,441
	982,239	1,274,343
	\$ 11,485	\$ (62,850)

Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended December 31, 2020

	2020	2019
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 312,164	\$ 71,200
HST receivable	5,576	16,279
Grant and contribution receivable	22,847	99,868
Work in progress	39,912	97,871
Prepaid expenses	14,122	7,382
	\$ 394,621	\$ 292,600

LIABILITIES

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 4)	82,782	136,329
Deferred revenue (Note 5)	171,945	27,862
	254,727	164,191

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	139,894	128,409
	\$ 394,621	\$ 292,600
HST receivable	16,279	16,279

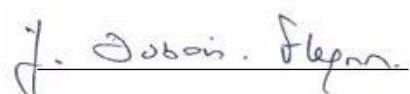
Statement of Changes in Net Assets

For the year ended December 31, 2020

	2020 Total	2019 Total
BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 128,408	\$ 191,259
Deficiency/Surplus of revenue over expenses	11,485	(62,850)
Internal Restriction (Note 6)		
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	\$ 139,894	\$ 128,409

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD.

 , Director

 , Director

Board

Geneviève Dubois-Flynn, *Co-chair*

Chris Rosene, *Co-chair*

Aslam Bhatti, *Secretary-treasurer*

Kate Dickson

Susan Elliott

Jacques Girard

Odette Laplante

Shawna O'Hearn

Tahina Rabezanahary

Djenana Jalovcic (until
October 2020)

Yipeng Ge, *Student representative*

Staff

Eva Slawecki, *Executive Director*

Bob Abma, *Finance Director*

Catherine Alexander,
Project Manager

Sarah Brown, *Conference Manager*

Jessica Helwig, *HCV
Program Manager*

Priscilla Pangan, *Project Officer*

Camille Point,
Communications Officer

Jeannine Richard,
Administrative Coordinator

Grace Zhou, *Accounting Coordinator*

Rupinder Chera,
MentorNet Co-director

Alex Kwok, *MentorNet Co-director*

Practicum Students

Jocelyn Brenner (*Queens
University MPH Program*)

Dawn Curran (*Memorial
University MPH Program*)

Technical Advisors

Janet Hatcher Roberts

Donald Sutherland



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