

Minutes of GMHRG Meeting, 2 April 2016 (Zoom-based)

Our first online-only meeting was well-visited. The 16 participants discussed the following:

1. News from the Network from Global Mental Health:

- a. *What are the next steps after the [“Bedre liv, bedre helse”](#) Norwegian strategy for NCDs in global health release, November 2019?*

Some meetings before summer concerning the future priorities in Norway's official development assistance funding for public health initiatives with relevance of GMH. These discussions involve NORAD participation/involvement:

- Ranghild Dybdahl, OsloMet and others arranging numerous Webinars:
*Utviklingspolitisk spørretime 29. April
<https://www.facebook.com/Bistandsaktuelt/videos/243579203397510/UzpfSTc5NzMzNTI0MzpWSzozMDE0MTE3ODk4NjMwOTc3/>
- 28 May: 9.00 AM: Webinar: Global mental helse – hvilken rolle bør Norge spille?
<https://www.facebook.com/events/251229142917803/>

b. Updates on Arendalsuka, Globvac Conference, Norad strategy:

- Arendalsuka (cancelled due to Corona): The network was active in preparing for a presentation/participation
- Globvac Conference is cancelled and postponed, some online PhD activities are planned.

2. News from 'our' projects:

a. TREAT:

The project is progressing although challenged by Covid restrictions, particularly in Uganda, with respect to site-preparation. A lock-down is still in place.

b. PhD projects:

Christine Ødegaard will participate on the digital department day and have a presentation with a co-researcher on user-involvement

The other PhD students participating provided a brief overview of their work, supervisors filled in on absent candidates.

- c. Other projects: Ketil Ødegaard updated us on the project and further plans of collaboration with the Zanzibar psychiatric ward that is embedded in a larger collaboration with Helse Bergen

3. Strategy Review

- a. IGS, our Department at UiB, is renewing its research strategy. User involvement will play a stronger role, but much remains to be discussed and decided.
- b. CIH is in the process of reviewing its own research strategy which is to inform the larger strategy by IGS. Some meetings with support by Prof. Fleming Konradsen from University of Copenhagen have been held in the past months, in May a further review process is planned. We aim to maintain a strong focus on mental health in global health research at CIH.
- c. As research group, we need to review our processes and priorities: Where do we spread too thinly? Where do we need more attention? What are future topics and methods relevant in GMH? This will be part of the agenda for the next meeting.

4. Partnerships and way forward

The partnership across various universities and other institutions and our body of members coming from many different disciplines is bundled by the shared interest to improve and promote global mental health research. Early next semester, we aim to discuss with you what is the most useful format for this group to collaborate.

5. Applications until June 2020

A GlobVac call focused on research focused on global health is expected to be issued soon with deadline in mid-May. We aim to develop a proposal for more implementation-focused addition to the TREAT alcoholism project. This will be lead by NKVTS, involving the same institutions, largely, as the TREAT C-AUD project.

6. Any Other Business

The European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health 2021 <https://ectmih2021.no/> will be held in Norway. This is an international conference influential conference with a relatively high number of participations in global health. The conference has a history of being preoccupied with infectious medicine, however, NCDs, health

systems and policy are getting more and more space in this conference.

It offers a great arena to present our work and anchor GMH in International Global Health Discussions.
We have reported earlier from the 2019 Conference in Liverpool, September 2019.

The Congress will have a Track for Global Mental Health, Nutrition and NCDs headed by Ingunn Engebretsen, CIH and Wenche Dageid, Hemil. Ragnhild Dybdahl is interested in supporting us with respect to the mental health component.

We look forward to this opportunity, and we invite all members to consider presenting their latest work in September 2021 in Bergen!

And we also invite members to suggest key-note speakers.

The next meeting will be on 11 June, details to follow.