

## Centre for Global Health Policy

Tackling global health inequalities and improving access to better healthcare

### Aims and approach

The Centre for Global Health Policy at Sussex is dedicated to advancing research relating to issues of global health policy in order to promote health quality and equality around the world. The Centre is not a biomedical research centre, rather it is interested in understanding the wider social context (including political, sociological and legal aspects) relating to health issues that either have a transnational component or that, because of the underlying dynamics, require international policy interventions.

The vision of the Centre is to reduce significant health inequalities and promote social justice between and within countries, to enable individuals and populations to have access to effective, affordable and compassionate healthcare, and to identify transnational determinants and consequences of disease.

### Research excellence

Established in 2011, the Centre for Global Health Policy has a core faculty that includes Director Stefan Elbe (Professor of International Relations), Alex Faulkner (Professor of the Sociology of Biomedicine and Healthcare Policy), Anne Roemer-Mahler (Lecturer in International Relations) and Gemma Buckland-Merrett (Research Fellow in Global Health Policy), with around five PhD students at any one time. It also draws upon a wider membership of around 50 specialists across campus (and in other national and international institutions) with overlapping research interests in global health from international relations, psychology, sociology, anthropology, geography,

primary care, epidemiology, clinical and biomedical ethics, international development, law, economics, Brighton and Sussex Medical School and the Translational Drug Discovery Group.

Through its research, the Centre aims to understand how the evolving international political environment shapes and constrains global health policy, how global health policy is made, and how power – especially funding and resource distribution – influences global health outcomes. As such, members of the Centre are engaged in research under a diverse range of themes that include, among others, pharmaceuticals and security, migration and global health, gene-environment studies in podoconiosis, realising rights to global health, regulating health systems in fragile states, international science and bioethics, and governance of competition and collaboration in biomedical innovation between the UK and 'rising powers'.

### Achieving impact

The Centre for Global Health Policy uses a variety of approaches aimed at generating meaningful international impact. This includes sourcing funding for innovative cross-disciplinary research that will directly impact national and international health policy communities, building an international network of global health researchers, and hosting internationally recognised events that allow a broad range of stakeholders to exchange knowledge, ideas and experiences. Their work engages multiple external partners and audiences including international organisations, governments, NGOs, public-private partnerships,



philanthropic foundations, activists and the media.

There are a number of diseases and global health issues that are of primary concern to governments and society but where there is no underlying commercial market, making it difficult for the pharmaceutical industry to develop viable business models.

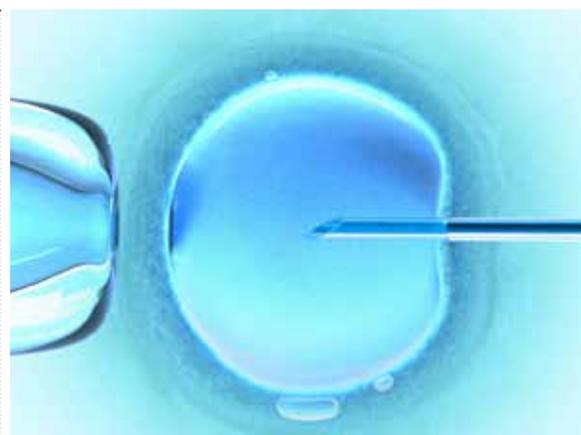
This can include disease pandemics such as influenza, bioterrorist attacks, or widespread diseases that are prevalent in low-income countries, where there is little money to invest in research. The research theme of **Pharmaceuticals and Security** is concerned with finding solutions that protect populations and economies against these types of cross-border public health issues, engaging key stakeholders, such as scientific, medical and public health communities and private industry, in meaningful discussion that incentivises them to work together. The pharmaceutical industry is critical to developing new medicines or medical interventions to protect populations and ensuring that they are available in sufficient quantities and in the right places at the right time. Thus, engaging them in such discussions is critical to achieving impact.

Since its inception, the Centre for Global Health Policy has hosted numerous events and activities that relate to these specific issues. Notably, a recent international expert roundtable on 'Pharmaceuticals and Security: Strengthening Industry Engagement', held in February 2014 at The Royal Institution, London, brought together academic researchers, high-level executives from the World Health Organization, Médecins Sans Frontières and the Department of Health (UK), and senior executives from a number of global pharmaceutical companies. Their purpose was to discuss the future of cross-sector collaborations to strengthen global health security. This and numerous other workshops organised and hosted by the Centre, such as a 2013 workshop on 'Pandemic Flu Controversies and a 2014 workshop 'Hepatitis: The Future?', produce extensive, publicly available materials in the forms of meeting reports, policy briefings and blogs. The Centre also co-hosts an Annual Conference attended by 100-150 individuals from wide-ranging

audiences including academia, government, the media and industry. Recent conferences include 'Genetics, Genomics and Global Health – Inequalities, Identities and Insecurities' (2014) and 'Pharmaceuticals and Global Health – Inequalities and Innovation in the 21st Century' (2013).

In direct response to the recent high-profile Ebola outbreak, on 10 September 2014, the University of Sussex held a 'creative round table' as part of the ASUK 2014 conference, in order to facilitate a symposium of academic thought on the West Africa Ebola crisis. This was followed by a further workshop 'The Ebola Crisis: An International Relations Response?' in November 2014, which brought together scholars in international relations working on global health politics from a variety of perspectives to discuss the crisis.

Collaborative research under the theme of **Governance of Competition and Collaboration in Biomedical Innovation**, undertaken by Alex Faulkner, tries to understand how 'rising powers' such as India and China affect the new global bioeconomy that is developing around innovations in human cell and tissue technologies, medical devices, informatics and genomic science, and whether it is national governments or transnational agencies, such as NGOs, trade promoters and scientific associations, that are dominant in driving innovation policies and trends. This work assesses the implications of global scientific, regulatory and commercial interactions for national and regional biomedical and health policy. In 2013, a policy workshop on 'Global Governance of Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research and Therapy – An Example From India', was held at King's College London, the first in a series of workshops organised with the Centre for Global Health Policy, followed by further workshops held in Delhi and Beijing. The results of this continuing workshop series will inform and impact on public policy-making – in the UK, India and China – in life science bioinformatics, and regenerative and personalised medicine.



## Funding and partnership

The majority of current funding for the Centre for Global Health Policy comes through their research projects within the **Pharmaceuticals and Security** research theme, with a four-year grant from the European Research Council for €1.2 million, as well as several grants from the Economic and Social Research Council.

## Working with us

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