

# EMERGING VOICES2018

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# EV4GH

Newsletter

SWITCHING THE POLES

IN THIS ISSUE

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the 4th edition of the Emerging Voices for Global Health Network (EV4GH) newsletter. A lot has happened since the last edition of the newsletter. We recently wrapped up a very successful EV Governance meeting. The EV governing board elections for three regions were also held recently; Radhika Arora (EV 2012), Jean-Paul Dossou (EV 2012), and Beibei Yuan (EV 2016) emerged as representatives for South East Asia, Africa and Western Pacific regions respectively. In this issue we bring you some of the recent activities that the network has been engaged with, including the EV residency programme 2019, the EV governance meeting in Dubai, EV's experiences from the 72<sup>nd</sup> World Health Assembly, and upcoming events and opportunities.

**Charles Ssemuqabo** (EV 2016 & member of EV alumni taskforce)

## EV governance meeting - April 2019

By **Ketki Shah** (EV secretariat) & **Sara Ardila Gómez** (new EV co-chair)

Unlike the previous annual governance meeting which were held at the birthplace of EV4GH (ITM Antwerp), this year's governance meeting was hosted at the Mohamed Bin Rashid School of Government (MBRSG), Dubai, the local institute for the next EV venture and HSR symposium 2020. The two-day meeting was attended by governance members (both the newly elected ones, and governance members who stay on for another 2 years), liaison members, Goran Zangana (coordinator for EV2020), Wim Van Damme and N Devadasan.

The discussions were focused on the governance structure, restructuring of the taskforces, budget and fundraising strategies, and of course of foremost priority were discussions on the EV2020 venture. The members reflected on the feedback of the EV2018 venture and brainstormed on ideas for the next edition. They also deliberated upon the long-term vision and strategy of the EV network. Luckily, despite the hectic schedule and heavy discussions, the members did find time to explore the city and feast on the local cuisine.

Some of the decisions from the meeting are listed below:

### ➤ Governance Structure

- It was decided to continue with the same structure of 7 elected and 2 liaison members (liaisons with ITM & IPH).
- The board will be represented by one chair and two co-chairs.
- Dorcus Kiwanuka Henriksson and Vladimir Gordeev will continue as chair and co-chair for the 2019-2021 cycle.
- The EV governance unanimously agreed to invite Sara Ardila-Gómez to be the co-chair for this term; in principle, she will continue as the chair for the next venture (2021-2023).



EV board members take a break in Dubai, April 2019

- The board also decided to set up an Advisory Board consisting of past board members, some senior members from partner institutes, and a few 'emerged' EV alumni. The role of the advisory board will be to help with the selection process, strengthen the link with the partner institutions and to provide feedback on the EV strategy. ToR for this advisory board are now being drafted.
- Restructuring of taskforces
  - New taskforces on governance/strategy, regional expansion of the EV network and transition towards 2022 were set up along with the regular taskforces on distance learning, the face to face program, fundraising and the alumni network.
  - A call for joining these taskforces will be announced soon.
- 10th Anniversary of EV4GH
  - The year 2020 marks the 10th anniversary of the EV4GH program and it was proposed to mark this milestone with testimonials from EV alumni on their journey after their participation in the EV venture. More on this soon!
  - In the run-up to the 10th anniversary of EV, it was also suggested to have a contest for designing a new EV logo (so the artists among you might already want to put on your creative hats!)
- EV2020
  - The distance learning component of the program will be revamped with a post symposium mentorship component for those who request so.
  - There is also a proposal to include a more elaborated coaching program for the facilitators. Still "under construction", though.



EV board members during the governance meeting, April 2019

## Update on the EV residency programme 2019

By Kristof Decoster (ITM liaison EV)

Earlier this year, an EV residency call was launched for 2019, with the aim to provide an opportunity for young to midcareer researchers to spend dedicated time (2-3 months) in the form of a residency at ITM. The call was open for all EV cohorts so far. A small committee, comprising Dorcus Kiwanuka (EV governance chair), NS Prashanth (co-chair), Seye Abimbola (BMJ Global Health editor-in-chief), and chaired by Wim Van Damme, selected some EV alumni based on a number of criteria, including among others, whether their suggested residency project was broadly in line with themes suggested in the call and/or with the Health Policy & Systems research field in general, the quality of the suggested project, their expected contribution to the EV network. The selection process was far from easy, from what I've heard, as most EV alumni came up with very attractive and timely proposals. The review committee eventually selected 3 EV alumni for 2019, Sameh Al-Awlaqi (EV 2018), Charles Ssemugabo (EV 2016) and Shweta Singh (EV 2018).

During their residency, they will focus on: Evaluation of the performance of the National Health Cluster in Yemen between 2015-2018 (Sameh); health risks due to consumption of pesticides residues in fruits and vegetables in the general population in central Uganda (Charles); How did Primary Health Care go from low to high politics in India: A review of policy agenda setting and formulation through the prism of power and politics (Shweta). In addition, they'll obviously also join the Health Policy Unit, for the time of their residency, and work on crowdsourcing info from the EV alumni network, in collaboration with the EV secretariat. Charles will arrive first (in July), Sameh and Shweta follow later this year. We already wish them a great time at ITM!

# EV's experiences from the world health assembly

By Shakira Choonara (EV 2014 aka dinosaur of the programme & African Union Youth Advisory Council Member)

This year and speaking to regular attendees I realized that many of us feel the same, but God does not let me reveal names – as I didn't share consent forms over dinner meetings (haha)!

The civil society meetings are totally lit, cutting edge, you can feel the activism, the drive and setting the agenda. Although obviously like everything else, our spaces and discussions are pretty fragmented per discipline!

This year I was involved in cervical cancer discussions of which I only had basic knowledge but for me this is an issue I want to champion. It's totally preventable, mortality is unreal and there is literally close to no prevention of treatment in low-and-middle-income countries (LMICs) and - as people would usually say- in "the dark continent" Africa.

Also, I didn't stay for the actual health assembly given that if you attend you literally observe and listen in to conversations, the agenda is pretty much set with the odd country I've never heard of but want to visit (travel bug in me coming out) making interesting interventions. So to sum it up, two reflections. First, civil society are still speaking to each other, literally, and the main assembly not being interactive anyway, so better to livestream and save the planet as Kristof Decoster or Renzo Guinto would probably say! Second, I just have to ask, what happens in between attending the assembly is important and I'm not sure we are getting that right, we just keep going from one assembly to the other, but who am I to judge I've been to two WHA's already!



Shakira Choonara with non-communicable disease Child Youth Advocates

## Upcoming Events and opportunities

**The 11<sup>th</sup> European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health (ECTMIH)**: The Royal Society is hosting the ECTMIH 2019 in Liverpool, UK on behalf of the Federation of European Societies for Tropical Medicine and International Health (FESTMIH) from 16-20 September 2019 in Liverpool, UK.

**Canadian Conference on Global Health**: The Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH) are hosting the 25<sup>th</sup> Canadian Conference on Global Health from 17-19 October 2019 at Delta Hotel, Ottawa, Canada. The conference will examine the theme of governance for global health, acknowledging the importance of accountability and the influence of power and politics on health.

**The 2019 Planetary Health Annual Meeting**: The Planetary Health Alliance and Stanford University are organizing the third Planetary Health Annual Meeting from 4-6 September, 2019 in Palo, Alto, California, United States. The conference's overarching objective is to catalyse efforts towards resolving the great planetary health crises of our time. The conference will aim to strengthen the scientific case for planetary health framing; learn from efforts to solve planetary health problems – both failures and successes; and convene stakeholders from academia, the private sector, civil society, and government to support catalytic conversations to address these crises.

**60<sup>th</sup> Colloquium of the Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp**: ITM invites (especially young) researchers to submit abstracts for poster presentations at the 60<sup>th</sup> ITM Colloquium to be held on 10th October 2019. The event will address current challenges of global health, with a specific focus on migration, climate change and technological innovation. Abstracts must be submitted before 16th June 2019.

Send your feedback/comments to us at [ev4gh@iphindia.org](mailto:ev4gh@iphindia.org). Do mention "EV4GH Newsletter" in the subject line.