Summary
The APRU Global Health Conference 2021 entitled “Global Urban Health” was held virtually from 16 to 18 November 2021. Hosted by the School of Public Health of The University of Hong Kong, the Conference brought together renowned local and overseas academics and industry practitioners from multidisciplinary fields, to generate innovative solutions to the challenges posed by urbanisation, and pave the way for building healthier, more livable and sustainable urban cities. The Conference attracted around 700 policymakers, think-tank representatives, environmental advocates, scholars, researchers and students mainly from Hong Kong, Mainland China and South East Asia.

Conference Dates
Pre-Conference Workshops: 15 November 2021 (Mon)
Scientific Programmes: 16 to 18 November 2021 (Tue-Thu)

Delivery Mode
The Conference was held online through an integrated conference platform, where poster exhibition, interactions with speakers, poster presenters, abstract authors and live support were available.
This year, over 700 students, academics and industry practitioners from diverse economies and organisations registered for the Conference.

**REGISTRANT PROFILE**

**703**
**CONFERENCE REGISTRANTS**

**520**
**CONFERENCE ATTENDEES**

**REGISTRANTS' OCCUPATION**

- Health professionals: 4.7%
- Academics: 17.4%
- Researchers: 4.8%
- Working professionals: 5.3%
- Students: 67.9%
33
ECONOMIES

Australia  India  Nigeria
Bangladesh  Indonesia  Philippines
Brunei Darussalam  Israel  Russian Federation
Canada  Japan  Singapore
China  Macao, China  South Korea
Chinese Taipei  Malaysia  Sri Lanka
Ethiopia  Mongolia  Sudan
France  Myanmar  Switzerland
Germany  Namibia  United Kingdom
Hawaii  Netherlands  United States
Hong Kong, China  New Zealand  Vietnam

94
WORLDWIDE ORGANISATIONS

27
APRU MEMBER UNIVERSITIES
Besides calling for submission of abstracts, the Global Health Student Poster Contest and Global Health Student Case Competition were held in connection with the Conference. Impressive quality of entries were received from around the world.

### Abstracts

- **Oral presentations**: 61 entries
- **E-poster presentations**: 42 entries

### Global Health Student Poster Contest

- 64 entries

### Global Health Student Case Competition

- 121 entries
Pre-conference Workshops

The APRU Global Health Conference 2021 was kicked off virtually by two Pre-conference Workshops. The two half-day workshops, namely “New Research Methods for Global Health” and “Nowcasting Epidemics of Novel Pathogens: Lessons from COVID-19”, introduced new research methods in the field and tackled pressing public health issues. Conducted in an interactive approach to allow participants to effectively communicate and discuss with the instructors, the workshops received overwhelmingly positive feedback from researchers and students working in global health and relevant disciplines.
Opening Ceremony

The Conference opened with a short video introducing the host - the School of Public Health of LKS Faculty of Medicine at The University of Hong Kong (HKU). This was followed by an Opening Remarks by Dr Christopher Tremewan, Secretary General of APRU Secretariat, and a Welcome Address by Professor Gabriel Leung, HKU Dean of Medicine, who both acknowledged the Conference theme “Global Urban Health” as one of the most pressing global health topics amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Ceremony was concluded by Professor Keiji Fukuda, Conference Chair and the then Director of HKU School of Public Health, who gave an overview of the Conference, and hoped the ideas and solutions generated from this Conference would help transform regional and global urban health challenges into opportunities.
Keynote Speeches

Keynote Address 1 - “The Role of Catalytic Coalitions in Driving Systems Change”

In the opening keynote address, Ms Gabrielle Fitzgerald, Founder & CEO of Panorama, shared her experiences on cross-sectoral partnerships, lessons learned, strategies to success and her perspectives on the long-term system changes in global health. She emphasised the importance and urgency to work across sectors to accelerate attention on global health and climate issues.

“
No matter how powerful an individual, a person or an organisation may appear, a partnership with other stakeholders is always the key to success.

Ms Gabrielle Fitzgerald, APRU Global Health Conference 2021

"
Keynote Address 2 – “Waging a War Against NCDs on All Fronts: Lessons from a City State”
In this keynote address, Professor Yik Ying Teo, Dean of the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health at National University of Singapore, highlighted the importance of a whole-of-government approach beyond just health, ranging from fiscal policies to food environment, from the design of transportation networks to the design of outdoor spaces, to systematically and comprehensively address the problem of NCDs.

"The success of health promotion policies often depends on local context. It’s important to forecast local impact prior to implementation."

Professor Yik Ying Teo, APRU Global Health Conference 2021
Keynote Address 3 – “Heat and Mortality Associations in Urban and Rural Communities of East Asian Countries”

In the last keynote speech, Professor Ho Kim from the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics of School of Public Health at Seoul National University, explored the health effects of heatwaves in urban areas and ways to minimise them. Advantages and disadvantages of urbanisation in terms of adaptation to climate change were also discussed.

“Urbanisation is a new challenge of public health, especially in connection with climate change. Not only education and research but also having international health perspectives are substantial to tackle the issue.

Professor Ho Kim, APRU Global Health Conference 2021
Programme Highlights

Symposium on “Advancing Diversity in the Academia”

New perspectives emerge in richly diverse and inclusive environment, and are particularly essential in cultivating a dynamic and vibrant academic world. Entitled “Advancing Diversity in the Academia”, the Symposium delineated some of the issues that different gender, ages, races, ethnicities, in academia faces, and outlined actions that can be taken to develop a climate that supports equality and diversity. Moderators and panellists from a full range of backgrounds shared their personal experiences and advice, followed by a Q&A session.

The best way to advance diversity in academia can be addressed on both structural level and personal level. We should judge things equally and try to put ourselves in others’ shoes, so we would have more understanding and appreciation.

Dr Mu Li, Dr Mary Schooling & Prof Mellissa Withers
APRU Global Health Conference 2021

"
Plenary Session on “Designing Cities to Promote Well-being”

The built environment has far-reaching impacts on urban health, including the mental, physical and social well-being of city-dwellers. During the Plenary Session, scholars from the field of Medicine, Architecture and Social Sciences had a dynamic plenary discussion on how our environment could be planned in a way that makes cities healthier, more livable and sustainable.

Having more green spaces, building social connectedness, identifying the inherent human needs and how they like to use spaces, and applying new technologies are the considerations to build a healthy city in the future.

Prof Chris Webster, Prof Chun-Yen Chang, Dr Melanie Crane, Prof Brian Hall & Prof Christine Loh
APRU Global Health Conference 2021
Career Sharing in the Non-academic Sector
Designed for students and early career scholars, emerging public health practitioners shared their career aspirations and experiences in the global health field during the Career Sharing in the Non-academic Sector session. Sharing of industry insights was in a roundtable format and practical career advice was provided to prepare participants for their future careers.

Career Mentoring in the Academic Sector
In this session, six mentors from academia of different parts of the world shared their advice on establishing a successful career in the academia, and how they solved the biggest challenge they encountered. Students and early career scholars, who aspire to pursue an academic path in the global health field, were then paired up with a mentor for a small group discussion. Personal career journeys and useful career guidance were shared during the session.
Parallel Breakout Sessions

The informative, solution-driven Parallel Breakout Sessions featured presenters from around the world, sharing their regional or institutional knowledge, expertise and different collaborative pathways to make cities healthier and more sustainable. The Scientific Committee 2021 has reviewed and selected the best abstracts in respective fields. Abstract presenters presented their discoveries and research via a 10-min pre-recorded video, followed by interactive, in-depth dialogues among the presenters and participants.
Awards & Closing Ceremony

An award ceremony was held on the last day of the Conference. Winners of the student competitions were announced, and were asked to share their experiences in designing their winning proposals. Dr Julian Sham, Head of Health Business for Asia Pacific & Japan of Amazon Web Services, delivered a talk on "Digital Health – Connecting the Data Dots with Cloud Enabled Technology".

The Conference was concluded by Professor Keiji Fukuda, Conference Chair and the then Director of HKU School of Public Health, with his closing remarks. He thanked APRU, APRU Global Health Programme, speakers, mentors, moderators, judges, school members and all those who had contributed to making this Conference a success. He hoped that Conference participants were able to gain more insights on the complex global health challenges and opportunities abound for achieving healthier cities, and would respond to these issues with innovative and sustainable solutions.
Student Competitions

Global Health Case Competition
Hosted by the APRU Global Health Programme and sponsored by Amazon Web Services, this international, virtual student case competition is held every year to encourage student teams to work on a challenge relating to a pressing global health problem. The topic of this year’s challenge was “Technology-Driven Solutions to the COVID-19 Infodemic”, which 121 teams of 4-6 students had 10 weeks to prepare a 10-minute video proposing a realistic, technology-driven solution to reduce the spread of misinformation of COVID-19 and increase health literacy.

Winner of this year’s Competition:

UP Mediasina
University of the Philippines

SASH Inc
Nanyang Technological University

ACES
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Videos of the winning and finalist teams can be viewed at
Global Health Student Poster Contest

The Student Poster Contest called for submissions from current undergraduate and graduate students from all over the world. 64 entries from 27 universities across 12 economies were chosen by an international Advisory Group comprising of members from different APRU universities and the host university, and voted by Conference participants. Winners of this year's contest were:

**Undergraduate category**

**Poster #178**

F1KDaysWithU App: Development and Pilot Testing of an Android Mobile Application on the First 1000 Days of Life to Improve Maternal and Infant Nutrition

**Authors**

Christian Aaron R. Ordas, Vianca Clarisse D. Baligaya, Ezekiel V. Custodio, Joan Faith C. Mendoza, Pamela Irish A. Razon, Florimae E. Paimalan, Daniel G. Salunga

**University**

University of Santo Tomas

**Graduate category**

**Poster #217**

A Three-dimensional, Spatially-Explicit Agent-based Model to Evaluate the Effectiveness of Non-pharmacological Interventions of COVID-19 in Hong Kong Using Secondary Data

**Authors**

Ken Ka Chung Tang, Peter K. Koh

**University**

The University of Hong Kong
Conference Publications

E-programme Book

E-abstract Book


*Full paper of top abstracts will be published in JPHE in 2022
All programmes and contest results of the Conference were announced and publicised via social media platforms of HKU School of Public Health. Examples are as follows:

**Facebook**

**Plenary Session on “Designing Cities to Promote Well-being”**

- Having more green spaces, building social connectivity, identifying the inherent human needs and how they like to use spaces, and applying new technologies are the considerations to build a healthy city in the future. Prof. Chiu-Yan Chau, Prof. Chun-Yiu Ching, Dr. Mina Cipriano, Prof. Bikha Mehta & Prof. Christian Lah, experts from the field of sustainable urban planning, delivered a dynamic panel discussion on “Designing Cities to Promote Well-being” at APRU Global Health Conference 2021.

**Symposium on “Advancing Diversity in the Academia”**

- The best way on advancing diversity in academia can be addressed on both structural level and personal level. We should judge things equally and try to put ourselves in others’ shoes, so we would have more understanding and appreciation.” Dr. Niu Li, Dr. Mary Schoeling & Prof. Melissa Winters summarised in the Symposium on “Advancing Diversity in the Academia” at APRU Global Health Conference 2021.

**2021 Global Health Case Competition**

- CONGRATULATIONS! Winner of the 2021 APRU Global Health Case Competition - UP Mediasis from University of the Philippines! The team presents Project Diging: a tech-driven solution that creates a task force which will monitor, collect, and stratify data through digital and community-based means, and help map out the geographical origins of misinformation. It will substantially promote more concrete-specific health communication strategies.

**2021 Global Health Student Poster Contest**

- Winners of the 2021 Global Health Student Poster Contest are out. Undergraduate category: University of Santo Tomas Poster title: FHDx4WeAUGApp: Development and Pilot Testing of an Affordable Portable Application to the Fight 1000 Days of Life to Improve Maternal and Infant Nutrition. (View the poster [here](https://bit.ly/3xoxcPw)). Graduate category: The University of Hong Kong, HCMUc, University of Hong Kong, University of Hong Kong, University of Hong Kong. Posters (A3) dimension: A3. A three-dimensional, spatially explicit agent-based model to Evaluate the effectiveness of two pharmacological interventions of COVID-19 in Hong Kong Using Secondary Data. (View the poster [here](https://bit.ly/3f9rTCk)).

All other posters of the Contest are now available online:
Post-event Publicity

Twitter

Keynote Address 1 - "The Role of Catalytic Coalitions in Driving Systems Change"

"No matter how powerful an individual or organisation may appear, a partnership with other stakeholders is always key to success," said Ms @Prizada, Founder & CEO of @pravidarum in her keynote address at APRU Global Health Conference 2021.

Keynote Address 2 - "Waging a War Against NCDs on All Fronts: Lessons from a City State"

"The success of health promotion policies often depends on local context. It’s important to forecast local impact prior to implementation," said Prof Yik Ying Tsoi @NUHsgapore in his keynote address on addressing NCDs problems at APRU Global Health Conference 2021.

Keynote Address 3 - "Heat and Mortality Associations in Urban and Rural Communities of East Asian Countries"

LinkedIn

Career Sharing in the Non-academic Sector & Career Mentoring in the Academic Sector

School of Public Health, The University of Hong Kong

Big thanks to our speakers and mentors who contributed in the two career sessions in the APRU Global Health Conference 2021!

Career Sharing in the Non-academic Sector
Dr Au Wing Shiu Lau Ryan (Shirokentaro), Dr Shenwen Ayu, Dr Xi Fung Kilkens Lam, Dr Lincoln Liu, Prof Vivian Li, Dr Alex Ng, Dr Julian Sham

Career Mentoring in the Academic Sector
Dr YoungWoo Kim (Moderator & Mentor), Dr Victoria Fan, Dr John Goddine, Dr Tommy Yuen Yuk Lam, Dr Sophie Valkenburg & Prof Jarvis ChY Yap

Thanks for your professional insights and useful guidance to the delegates. The sessions would be incredibly helpful for them to prepare for their future careers in the global health field.
A big thank you to the judges of our 2021 student competitions:

### 2021 Global Health Case Competition - List of judges

- King Chow (The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)
- Donna Green (The University of Sydney)
- Calum Handforth (United Nations Development Programme)
- Budi Haryanto (University of Indonesia)
- Yin Hui (Peking University)
- Aya Ishizuka (The University of Tokyo)
- Masamine Jimba (The University of Tokyo)
- Youngwon Kim (The University of Hong Kong)
- Shubha Kumar (University of Southern California)
- Maggie Kwok (The University of Hong Kong)
- Mu Li (The University of Sydney)
- Julie Liao (The University of Hong Kong)
- Tina Lin (APRU)
- Leander Marquez (University of the Philippines)
- Judith McCool (The University of Auckland)
- János Négyesi (Tohoku University)
- Juhwan Oh (Seoul National University)
- Erlinda Palaganas (University of the Philippines)
- Manuel Pérez Jiménez (Tecnológico de Monterrey)
- Sanjay Rampal (University of Malaya)
- Maosheng Ran (The University of Hong Kong)
- Tasdidaa Shamsi (University of Malaya)
- Haytham Sheerah (Osaka University)
- Parco Siu (The University of Hong Kong)
- Jingyi Wang (Fudan University)
- Melissa Withers (University of Southern California)
- Martin CS Wong (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)
- Joni Zhang (The University of Hong Kong)
- Tianxiao Zhang (Xi’an Jiaotong University)
- Catherine Zhou (The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)

### 2021 Global Health Student Poster Contest - List of judges

- Edmar Elcarte (University of the Philippines)
- Budi Haryanto (University of Indonesia)
- Masamine Jimba (The University of Tokyo)
- Shubha Kumar (University of Southern California)
- Mu Li (The University of Sydney)
- Julie Liao (The University of Hong Kong)
- Judith McCool (The University of Auckland)
- Erlinda Palaganas (University of the Philippines)
- Manuel Pérez Jiménez (Tecnológico de Monterrey)
- Sanjay Rampal (University of Malaya)
- Maosheng Ran (The University of Hong Kong)
- Tasdidaa Shamsi (University of Malaya)
- Haytham Sheerah (Osaka University)
- Melissa Withers (University of Southern California)
- Martin CS Wong (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)
- Joni Zhang (The University of Hong Kong)
- Pinpin Zheng (Fudan University)

Our deep gratitude goes to Amazon Web Services for sponsoring the 2021 APRU Global Health Virtual Case Competition.

We would also like to acknowledge the tremendous support of the APRU Secretariat, as well as the University of Southern California Office for Global Engagement.
A big thank you to the Scientific Committee 2021:

Co-Chairs

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Global Health Programme Director
Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU)
Associate Professor of Clinical Preventive Medicine
University of Southern California

**Dr Mary Schooling**

Associate Professor and Cluster Leader (Non-communicable Diseases in Global Health)
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