



## Umeå Centre for Global Health Research

... engaging with a global agenda on health research,  
addressing critical issues in global health and  
facilitating interaction and collaboration between  
Northern and Southern partners.

“The University of Umeå has carved out an utterly  
distinctive position as an academic centre in global health”

– Richard Horton, *The Lancet* 381:1260.

## Welcome to UCGHR!

**UCGHR's Director, Prof. Peter Byass, reflects on where we've come from and where we're heading...**



Umeå University's **Epidemiology and Global Health Unit** established a formidable reputation in the 1980s and 1990s under Prof. Stig Wall's leadership. There were strong emphases on combining Northern and Southern research agendas, and implementing capacity building.

Not surprisingly, this was a strong foundation for the Unit's application to Forte (the Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare) to form a Centre of Excellence in Global Health Research. In 2007, resources were granted as core funding for a ten-year period (55 M SEK together with 50% additional co-funding from Umeå University).

Consequently UCGHR was formed, becoming the research arm of the Epidemiology and Global Health Unit, alongside the Unit's strong Master of Public Health and Doctoral programmes (including the Swedish Research School).

Since the formation of UCGHR, global health research at Umeå University's Epidemiology and Global Health Unit has gone from strength to strength. We continue to interpret "global health" inclusively; Sweden and its citizens' health are absolutely part of the global scene. We will continue to contribute to improved health wherever we can, by applying the best science.

## ***Global Health Action***

**Effective access to quality academic publishing is a major constraint for many low- and middle-income researchers. UCGHR founded its flagship open-access journal, *Global Health Action*, to address this problem.**

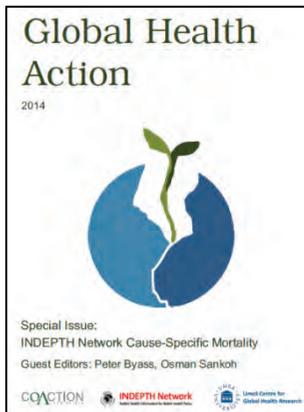
Global Health  
Action



Since it was founded in 2008, the journal has published over 700 papers and achieved an h-index of 27. It has become known as a major source of high-quality global health publications. Perhaps even more importantly, the journal has deliberately offered all possible assistance and mentorship to a number of authors who clearly had good data and ideas, but whose initial manuscripts were not up to publishable standards.

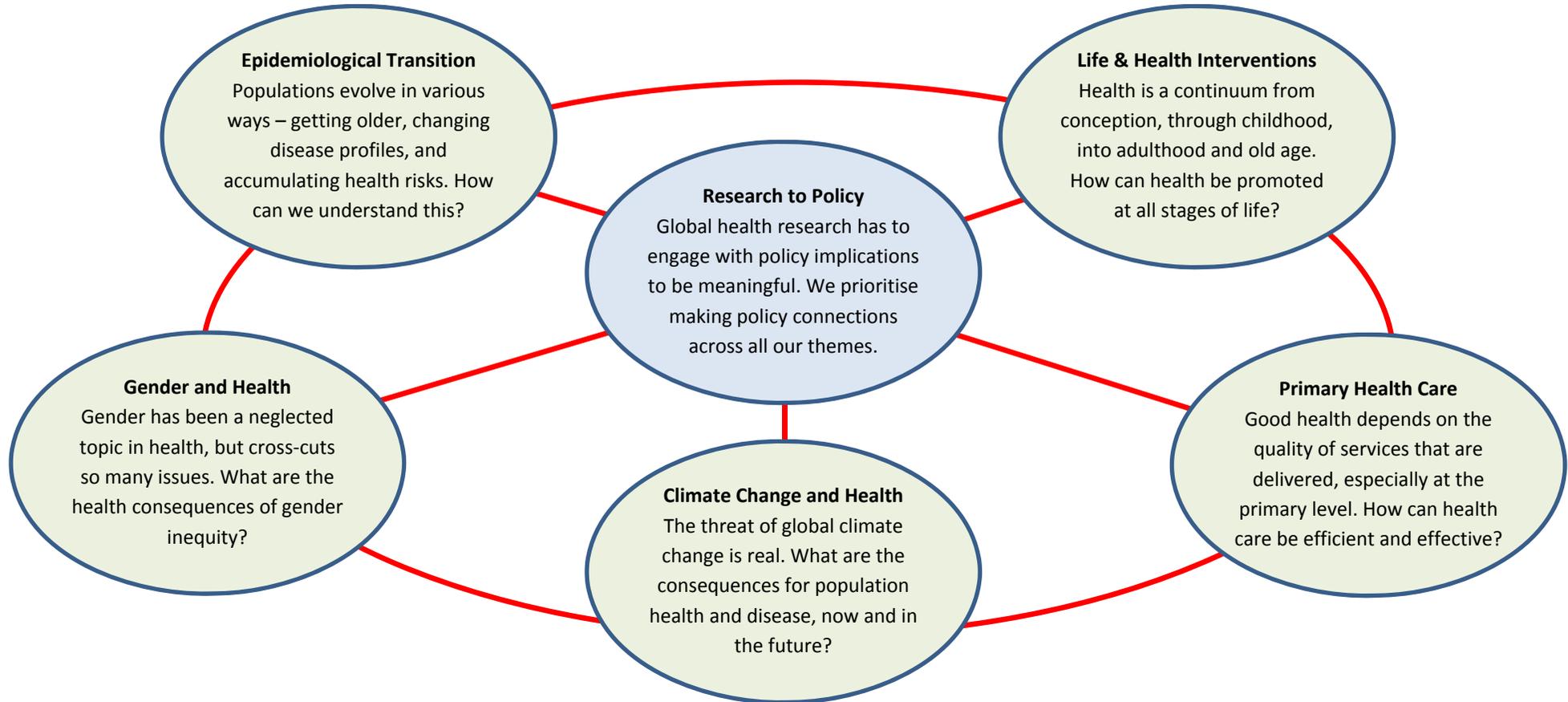
Initially under the editorship of Prof. Stig Wall, *GHA's* baton has now passed to Prof. Nawi Ng, together with a highly committed editorial group and advisory board.

We will continue to publish the best of scientific and policy issues relevant to global health, as well as working with partners and research groups who need to publish collections of work as special issues.



## Our research themes

Every institution has to find effective ways to organise itself – and for UCGHR, this involves a number of distinct, but also interlinked, themes for managing our work.

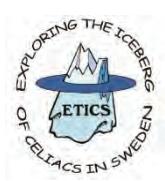


## Major projects

If core funding is the lubricant for the UCGHR engine, then we still need fuel too! Fuel in our context means research project grants, large and small, to enable our researchers to get out and do their work. Here's some examples:



**DengueTools** is an international collaboration funded by the European Community. Hosted by UCGHR, 14 partners from Europe, Asia and South America are working to develop and evaluate novel strategies to diagnose and prevent the ever-increasing tide of dengue infections around the world.



**The ETICS project** has established an international reputation for its work on the burden – even epidemic – of coeliac disease that young people in Sweden have experienced in recent decades. Important questions of who and when to screen for the disease are being addressed, as well as wider implications.



**INTREC** is a European Community programme to develop and evaluate approaches to delivering public health training in low- and middle-income countries. UCGHR coordinates work with the INDEPTH Network and Gadja Mada (Indonesia), Harvard, Heidelberg and Amsterdam universities.



**The Swedish Initiative for research on Microdata in the Social And Medical sciences** is funded by the Swedish Research Council, coordinated from Umeå. It aims to make the most of Sweden's extensive personal register data to examine lifelong health and welfare issues.

## Collaborations

**Global health is intrinsically collaborative. Here we just highlight examples of major collaborations that contribute to our work – alongside many others past and present.**



**The County Council of Västerbotten** serves as the local health authority for the Umeå region, and is therefore a natural collaborator in our Swedish-based work. Several of our researchers are jointly appointed between the County Council and Umeå University.



**INDEPTH Network**

Better Health Information for Better Health Policy

**The INDEPTH Network**, based in Accra, Ghana, serves as an umbrella organisation for over 50 local health and demographic surveillance sites in low- and middle-income countries. We work with the Network, and bilaterally with a number of sites, to address the vital global gaps in health information and evidence for policy.



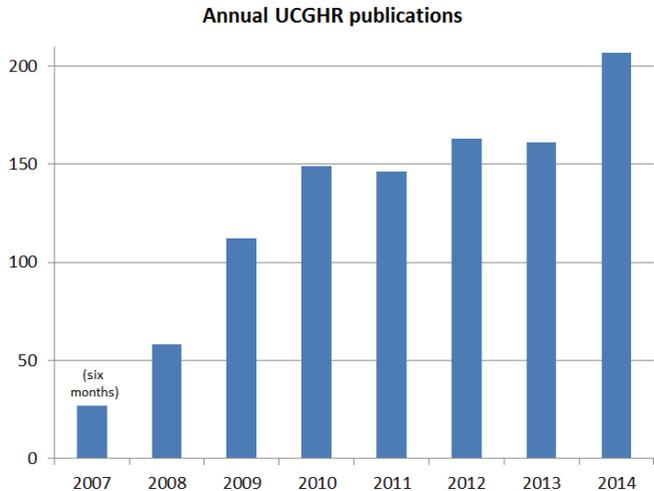
**WHO Collaborating Centre  
for Verbal Autopsy**

**The World Health Organization** appointed us as the host for the WHO Collaborating Centre for Verbal Autopsy in 2012. This recognises the substantial contribution that UCGHR has made to the science of automated methods for assigning causes of death, based on post-mortem interviews with families and witnesses. Our InterVA computer models are widely used around the world for cause-specific mortality analyses in areas where deaths are not routinely registered.

## Our Outputs

Inevitably research institutions are judged on what they produce – and we are proud to present our steadily increasing productivity.

In 2014 we exceeded 200 publications for the first time, bringing UCGHR's cumulative total to over 1,000.



## Keep in touch with us!

**We love to network as widely as possible, all around the world!**

We continuously update our latest information and research findings at our website [www.globalhealthresearch.net](http://www.globalhealthresearch.net) - there you will find details of all our publications, plus links to the Epidemiology and Global Health Unit, the Department of Public Health and Clinical Medicine, and Umeå University pages.

You can also get in touch with us by e-mail using [global.health@epiph.umu.se](mailto:global.health@epiph.umu.se)

Our Twitter news and thoughts can be found @UCGHR