We are

**Academics Without Borders**
**Universitaires sans frontières**

www.awb-usf.org

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**Vision**

A world where developing countries can use the resources that higher education provides to care for their citizens and develop their economies.

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**Mission**

To help people in the developing world realize their dreams through higher education because education is the key to a flourishing society.

Academics Without Borders’ projects are involved in the full range of university activities from expanding and improving existing institutions and programs to helping create new ones.
From our Board Chair & Executive Director

Writing these words from the vantage point of the early spring of 2020 in the midst of the havoc and tragedy wreaked by the COVID-19 pandemic, 2019 seems very long ago. Yet, even as we look forward with a deep sense of uncertainty, last year stands as an important milestone in the life of Academics Without Borders and our work in support of post-secondary institutions in the poorer countries of the world.

As you will see in this report, we implemented several projects in South America. Once again driven by local needs and priorities, the focus of AWB projects could not have been more varied, ranging from the enhancement of the diagnosis and treatment of women’s cancers through the development of a university-wide environmental policy - and a great deal in between.

AWB’s work is made possible by the generosity and expertise of our volunteer consultants.

We are able to respond to the particular priorities of our partners only because we can call on expert volunteers with such diverse expertise. Even as the number and range of our projects have increased markedly over the last two years, we have found the necessary volunteers for every project.

Of course, AWB’s volunteers could not be mobilized without the funds necessary to cover the direct costs of their work. Longstanding support from individuals and several foundations has been critically important to our work. This support was increased in 2019 by three important sources: our new host post-secondary institution, McMaster University, The Peter Cundill Foundation, and Mastercard Foundation. Their sponsorship enabled AWB to launch additional projects in response to unmet demand from our partners. Moreover, Mastercard Foundation allowed us to increase project management staff capacity, to develop longer term and broader relationships with selected institutions, and to initiate an assessment of the outcomes of past projects.

2019 was a significant year in the evolution of Academics Without Borders, providing an exciting launching pad for an expansion of our work and its impact on the capacity and quality of the programs of post-secondary institutions in the poorer countries of the world - work that will be only more important in the future.

Nello Angerilli
Board Chair

Greg Moran
Executive Director
Saying Thanks

UGHE, in its mission to transform the way health professionals’ education is provided in the region, made a bold decision to start a master’s degree program in Health Sciences Education. In this massive task, our institution has received tremendous support through our partnership with Academic without Borders (AWB). Dr. Saad Y. Salim has been providing huge support to us through the processes. We’re proud and thankful for the work he is doing.

In addition, our institution is dedicated to providing quality education to all our students. To carry out this task, we created our Educational Development and Quality Center (EDQC). We are very thankful for AWB to have given us the opportunity to work with Janet Westbury, another amazing AWB volunteer, who has helped immensely with developing and operationalizing the EDQC. With her outstanding support, we’re very optimistic that our EDQC will be up and running smoothly in the next few months, and we are very appreciative of the work she’s doing.

Last but not least, we were also lucky to have received the support of Dr. Cheikh Ould Moulaye to support our e-learning endeavors, mainly in our master’s degree in Global Health Delivery program. We are very grateful for the work he is doing with the faculty at UGHE.

We hope our institutional partnership with AWB will keep on strengthening, and we are grateful for the support we have received so far.

- Dr. Abebe Bekele
Deputy Vice Chancellor - Academic & Research Affairs & Dean of Health Sciences, University of Global Health Equity, Rwanda
You make our work possible.

A heartfelt thank you to our many donors. Without you our programs could not happen.

STRATEGIC PARTNER

AWB’S HOST INSTITUTION

FOUNDATIONS

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Nello Angerilli
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Alison Williams
Robert Woodard
Corrie Young
Ed Williams
Graeme & Ann Young
Eugene Zabawa

And several anonymous donors
Qualitative Health Research: Enhancing Researcher Qualifications
Building curriculum and providing training in qualitative research for the development of a master’s program in Health Research at Universidade Federal do Acre.

Research Training in Health Systems
Strengthening university health research collaborations with Indigenous organizations of Cauca at Universidad de Antioquia.

Strategic Planning at a New University
Reviewing and updating the five-year strategic plan for the University of Saint Joseph Mbarara.

Building an Institutional Environmental Policy
Developing an institution-wide environmental policy and implementation strategy for the African Institute of Mathematical Sciences.

MicroResearch - Needs Assessment for Faculty Research Training
Conducting a needs assessment for research training needs for faculty and residents at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation.

MicroResearch - Residents Workshop Review & Evaluation
Evaluating medical research capacity for residents that have undertaken MicroResearch Training workshops at Kabarak University.

Research Training in Health Systems
Strengthening university health research collaborations with Indigenous organizations of Cauca at Universidad de Antioquia.

Academic Writing Training
Developing faculty members’ academic writing skills to enhance teaching and research capacity at the Mangosuthu University of Technology.

Medical School District Hospital Program
Teaching and supervising Patan Academy of Health Sciences medical residents in their placements in the district hospitals.

Consultation on the Establishment of a New University in Rural Nepal
Conducting a strategic review of the proposed University of Nepal, addressing the central questions necessary for further planning for the university.

Enhancing Pediatric Intensive Care
Developing and implementing paediatric intensive care protocols and training programs at King George’s Medical University.

MicroResearch Training Workshops
Building medical research capacity focusing on maternal and infant health at Mildmay Health Centre.

MicroResearch Training Workshops
Building medical research capacity focusing on maternal and infant health at Mbarara University of Science and Technology.

PhD in Law Program
Providing co-teaching and curriculum development for newly established PhD in Law program at Bahir Dar University Law School.

Statistics Training for Research
Statistical knowledge for building research capacity and productivity at Injibara University.

Enhancing Education in Statistics
Improving skills and knowledge in statistics for teacher training faculty at San Carlos University.

Enhancing Pediatric Intensive Care
Developing and implementing paediatric intensive care protocols and training programs at King George’s Medical University.

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Our Impact

Building capacity in rural medicine in Nepal

2015-2020

In a remote area of Nepal, an eight-year-old boy is carried into a tiny hospital by his grandparents. The boy has fallen from a height and sustained a complex fracture in his elbow.

Treating the injury will require resetting and stabilizing bones, but this involves a specialized surgery and medical hardware not available to the only doctor in the area, whose hospital is hours away from the nearest city or specialist. Worse yet, the boy’s circulation has been impeded by the fracture, and without treatment, he will lose the use of his hand and forearm.

The doctor does what he can to set the bones and stabilize them by sedating the boy himself (there are no anesthesiologists where he works), setting the bones, and stabilizing the fracture with metal wiring, all while taking direction from an open textbook.

Incredibly, the surgery is a success. The boy will make a full recovery.

A week after the operation, Professor Karl Stobbe at McMaster University looks over postoperative x-rays from the case. Glancing over his shoulder, his colleague, an orthopedic surgeon, remarks, “That’s honestly as good a job as I could’ve done.”

It’s a feat of medical resilience and resourcefulness that Dr. Stobbe says he has witnessed many times. For the past three years, Karl has been working with Nepal’s Patan Academy of Health Sciences to build the country’s capacity to train doctors for practice in rural areas, an effort that will have an enormous impact on the wellbeing of those living in these areas.

As a volunteer with AWB, he leads a partnership with the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada and coordinates a group of volunteers.

“When you’re practicing medicine in a rural context, in Canada and especially in Nepal, you need to have an extremely broad skillset and need to be able to extend your skills, learn on the spot and safely tackle anything that comes your way,” says Karl. “Here in Canada, apart from rural communities, you often won’t find a doctor who is comfortable performing certain procedures outside their area of specialization; but the doctors in Nepal don’t have that option. It’s incredible what they’re able to do and what they can teach us about healthcare and resourcefulness in our own country.”

“By far, the most important and challenging thing as a Canadian academic is to know whether you’re actually going to end up helping. What’s the gap? Am I the right person? It’s wrong to believe that because we’re from Canada, we’ll inevitably be of assistance. That’s where AWB is incredibly valuable. Its calls for volunteers are quite explicit and specific.”
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For Karl, the benefits of membership in the Network are many, especially the opportunities available to faculty. “I think that the volunteer academics come back with international connections that are non-traditional, quite often with collaborators and ideas that they didn’t leave with, and these connections benefit both them and their institutions as a whole,” says Karl Stobbe, “because now you have a relationship with an entirely new country that is built on life-changing collaborations. I can say without doubt that my career and sense of purpose as an academic has been changed for the better by my involvement with AWB.”
Volunteers

This year, we had 32 volunteers in 13 countries working on 22 projects.

AWB volunteers’ time, energy and expertise enhance educational programs at universities in less-favoured regions of the world – programs necessary to develop the leaders and professionals essential to the prosperous, healthy and peaceful societies they are building. Our volunteers make a difference.

AWB VOLUNTEERS

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<th>Country</th>
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<td>Amanda Bradley</td>
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<td>Andrew Botterell</td>
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The Power of One

The impact of one volunteer

Through the “train-the-trainer” model we use, each project builds local capacity and expertise, creating sustainable programs so that the benefits of AWB’s involvement are multiplied and persist long after the volunteers return home.
Network

Academics Without Borders’ Network includes 25 universities and colleges across Canada.

With membership open to all Canadian universities, colleges and polytechnics, the Network offers opportunities for academics to act as volunteers and to propose projects in conjunction with developing world universities, enhancing post-secondary education both in the developing world and on their own campuses. Network membership reflects the institutions’ commitment to global development.
The impact of donations of $6,484 were multiplied 5.5x by in-kind contributions of AWB volunteers and partner universities.

*Based on average figures from 11 recently completed projects.*
Thank you.

Please support our work

www.awb-usf.org