

WUN Research Strategy 2017-2020

Context

The WUN vision embodies a commitment to *developing innovative solutions to some of the world's most significant challenges*. Since 2010, and reaffirmed in our strategy for 2014-17, this commitment has been translated into a portfolio of collaborative research development programs that address four Global Challenge themes:

- Global Higher Education and Research
- Public Health
- Responding to Climate Change
- Understanding Cultures.

In 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This included 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 associated targets (see below and Annex 1).



The 17th SDG focuses on the need for partnerships to deliver a successful sustainable development agenda. For example, there is a target to *‘Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation...’*.

Our four Global Challenge themes are immediately recognizable within the more wide-ranging UN Sustainable Development Goals. Annex 2 sets out a mapping for each of the 90 Interdisciplinary Research Groups (IRGs) of WUN onto the SDGs.

Unsurprisingly, there is a hotspot on Goal 4 (*Quality Education*) for the IRGs under Global Higher Education and Research; on Goal 3 (*Good Health and Well-Being*) for the IRGs under Public Health; and on Goal 13 (*Climate Action*) for the IRGs under Responding to Climate Change. The IRGs under Understanding Cultures have a wider focus across three SDGs: Goal 3 (*Good Health and Well-Being*), Goal 10 (*Reduced Inequalities*) and Goal 11 (*Sustainable Cities and Communities*).

Strategy

The focus for WUN research collaboration will continue to be the four Global Challenges. The Steering Group associated with each GC provides a structure for the cultivation, communication, management, administration and monitoring of collaborative research across the network. To an growing extent, research development will be in the overlap between GCs, for example in the increasingly important areas of Migration, Ageing, and Heritage.



The four Global Challenge teams will continue to be supported by initiatives that provide underpinning expertise (e.g. in economics and data analytics), and important geographic context for partnerships and engagement (Global Africa Group, and Global China Group).

The creation of new IRGs aligned with the GCs will arise from (1) teams of investigators with fresh ideas coming together across our institutions, and (2) the operation and leadership of the GCs. Both sources of new ideas will be nurtured by the active engagement of AAG members and Coordinators, helping to ensure alignment with institutional and WUN priorities.

In developing research initiatives within and between the GCs, we will be informed by the UN SDGs and cross-reference these where relevant. There are good reasons for doing this:

- The SDGs are internationally agreed goals of global significance;
- Targets associated with the SDGs provide a context for our research on the GCs;
- The SDGs are recognized by international and national funding agencies;
- The significance of research outcomes relating to the SDGs would be universally understood;
- The profile of WUN and our research outcomes will be raised;
- The SDGs provide a common point of reference with partners outside WUN
- Many internationally recognized research strengths across WUN map directly onto one or more of the SDGs (e.g. in water, energy and food security)
- The SDGs are part of a UN agenda to 2030, well beyond the period for our new WUN strategy.
- As a prominent global alliance with research expertise across the SDGs, WUN is well positioned to meet the partnership aspiration of SDG 17.

Mechanisms

Research development in the GCs will be supported by the *Research Development Fund* (RDF) to seed new IRGs, and the *Sustainability Fund* (SF) to support leading WUN programs in securing major funding for sustainable growth.

An AAG Review Panel will review RDF bids in an annual round and SF applications on a rolling basis, making recommendations to the WUN Executive.

The WUN AGM will be the forum for the PB and the AAG to take strategic oversight of the GCs, providing focus for the coming year. As now, the engagement of an AAG member in each GC will inform this process.

One of the challenges that faces WUN is establishing sustainable multi-national research teams, when most available funding is from national sources. We will engage with national funding agencies to promote the benefits of multi-national collaboration, drawing on the achievements of WUN, and motivating joint funding initiatives between national agencies.

A major impact from WUN-facilitated research is through providing an international perspective in the formation of policy by national and international organisations and governmental bodies. We will explore the potential to become more effective in this through developing an infrastructure for the creation of joint research briefings on key international issues. In particular, this could make a substantial contribution in informing international action towards the UN Sustainable Developments Goals.

Annex 1: Sustainable Development Goals (UN A/Res/70/1)

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Annex 2: Interdisciplinary Research Groups mapped on to UN Sustainable Development Goals

		Sustainable Development Goals																	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Global Challenge: Global Higher Education and Research																			
Interdisciplinary Research Groups																			
	Open WUN									1									
	Challenges of Access and Equity: The Higher Education Curriculum Answers Back				1						1								
	Community of Learning for African PhD Fellows (COLA)				1													1	
	Feasibility Study of Recommender Systems in Academia				1														
	Global Regionalisms, Governance and Higher Education				1													1	
	Ideas and Universities				1														
	Labor Market Outcomes Among Highly-Skilled Immigrants and Return Migrants: The Role of Place of Education				1						1								
	Laboratory Trove				1														
	Language Assessment Research Network				1														
	A study of the role of governing boards in African higher education institutions				1													1	
	Widening Participation: 'First in the Family' Students Succeeding in Universities				1														
	World-class Universities, Publication and Research Assessment: Rethinking the Mission of Higher Education in the Global Age				1														
	The Worldwide Challenge of English				1														
	Totals	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	

Global Challenge: Public Health (Non-communicable Diseases)

	Sustainable Development Goals																
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
67,000 More Helping Hands: An International Collaboration to Further Engage Pharmacists in Improving Primary Healthcare			1														
Air Sensors Everywhere			1								1		1				
Collaborative Care for Dementia in Rural China Primary Care			1														
DAPPER - Data Analysis with Privacy Protection for Epidemiological Research			1														
Data Diplomacy: Political & Social Dimensions of Data Collection & Sharing			1							1							
Dementia Prevalence and Impact in Low Income Areas in South Africa			1							1							
Early Life Opportunities for the Prevention of Non-communicable Disease in Developing Countries			1							1							
Global Initiative Promoting Meaningful Engagement of People with Advanced Dementia Ageing in Supported Living Environments			1							1							
Health Literacy Network			1							1							
Health Promoting Responses to Climate Change			1								1		1				
Healthy Kitchens: Healthy Cities	1		1		1												
Helminths and Allergy in South-Africa and Northern Europe			1							1							
HOME - Health Outcomes of Migration Events			1														
Immune Responses Underlying COPD Pathology			1														
Impacts of Future Climate and Land Use Changes on Public Health and Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia		1	1										1		1		
in-FLAME - International Inflammation Network			1														
Lessons for Life: Innovating and Evaluating School Age Health Education Interventions for the Prevention and Control of NCDs			1														

Interdisciplinary Research Groups

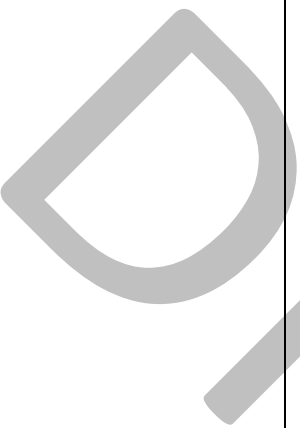
<u>Migration Policy, Welfare Boundary, Social Integration & Health-related Quality of Life of Children from Immigrant Families</u>			1									1									
<u>Negotiating Transition to a 'Grown Up World': the Journey to Sexual and Reproductive Health for Unaccompanied Adolescent Asylum Seekers</u>			1																		
<u>OPERA - Optimal Pregnancy Environment Risk Assessment</u>			1																		
<u>Pedestrian Pathways in the Healthy City</u>			1												1						
<u>Provision of Health Service and Community Care for the Elderly: Intergenerational Roles and Equity</u>			1																		
<u>Reducing Inequality in Oral Health</u>			1																		
<u>Resilience in Youth and Service Providers</u>			1																		
<u>Schools as a Setting for Reducing Risk Factors for Non-communicable Diseases</u>			1																		
<u>Scoping Survey of Autism Care Resources: Social Integration of Diagnosis, Treatment, and Support Systems</u>			1																	1	
<u>Shaping Health Systems</u>			1												1						1
<u>Supporting Patients to Make Best Use of Their Medicines</u>			1																		
<u>Sustainable Care: Connecting People and Systems</u>			1												1						
<u>Understanding Non-communicable/Communicable Disease Syndemics in Transitional Societies</u>			1												1						
Totals	1	1	30	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	4	0	3	0	1	2	0	0	0

Global Challenge: Public Health (Non-communicable Diseases)

	Sustainable Development Goals																
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
67,000 More Helping Hands: An International Collaboration to Further Engage Pharmacists in Improving Primary Healthcare			1														
Air Sensors Everywhere			1								1		1				
Collaborative Care for Dementia in Rural China Primary Care			1														
DAPPER - Data Analysis with Privacy Protection for Epidemiological Research			1														
Data Diplomacy: Political & Social Dimensions of Data Collection & Sharing			1							1							
Dementia Prevalence and Impact in Low Income Areas in South Africa			1							1							
Early Life Opportunities for the Prevention of Non-communicable Disease in Developing Countries			1							1							
Global Initiative Promoting Meaningful Engagement of People with Advanced Dementia Ageing in Supported Living Environments			1							1							
Health Literacy Network			1							1							
Health Promoting Responses to Climate Change			1								1		1				
Healthy Kitchens: Healthy Cities	1		1		1												
Helminths and Allergy in South-Africa and Northern Europe			1							1							
HOME - Health Outcomes of Migration Events			1														
Immune Responses Underlying COPD Pathology			1														
Impacts of Future Climate and Land Use Changes on Public Health and Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia		1	1										1		1		
in-FLAME - International Inflammation Network			1														
Lessons for Life: Innovating and Evaluating School Age Health Education Interventions for the Prevention and Control of NCDs			1														

Interdisciplinary Research Groups

<u>Migration Policy, Welfare Boundary, Social Integration & Health-related</u>																																																					
<u>Quality of Life of Children from Immigrant Families</u>																																																					
<u>Negotiating Transition to a 'Grown Up World': the Journey to Sexual and Reproductive Health for Unaccompanied Adolescent Asylum Seekers</u>																																																					
<u>OPERA - Optimal Pregnancy Environment Risk Assessment</u>																																																					
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<u>Understanding Non-communicable/Communicable Disease Syndemics in Transitional Societies</u>																																																					
Totals	1	1	30	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	1	4	0	3	0	1	2	0																														



Global Challenge: Understanding Cultures

	Sustainable Development Goals																
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Open WUN										1							
Addressing Multiple Forms of Migrant Precarity – Beyond “Management of Migration to an Integrated Rights-Based Approach”										1						1	
CARMEN (Co-operative for Advancement of Research through Medieval European Network)			1							1							
China’s Growth Transition: Challenges and Global Adjustments								1									
Data Diplomacy: Political & Social Dimensions of Data Collection & Sharing			1							1							
Economics																	
Global Initiative Promoting Meaningful Engagement of People with Advanced Dementia Ageing in Supported Living Environments			1							1							
Global Social Initiative on Ageing			1							1	1						
Indian Ocean Archaeology Network											1	1	1				
Indigenous Research Network										1	1	1					1
Labor Market Outcomes Among Highly-Skilled Immigrants and Return Migrants: The Role of Place of Education									1								
Migration Policy, Welfare Boundary, Social Integration & Health-related Quality of Life of Children from Immigrant Families			1							1							
Migration With and Without Children: Causes and Economic, Social, and Psychological Consequences										1	1						
Migration, Development and Global Transformations (MDGT)										1	1						1
Multilingualism and Mobility in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres				1													
Negotiating Transition to a ‘Grown Up World’: the Journey to Sexual and Reproductive Health for Unaccompanied Adolescent Asylum Seekers			1														

Interdisciplinary Research Groups

Networking Young Citizens																				1	
Non-market valuation of loss and damage under climate change			1																	1	
Older Workers and Caregiving			1																	1	
Pedestrian Pathways in the Healthy City			1																	1	
Romantic China: Cultural Relations between China and the West in the Later-Qing Period, 1793-1850																					1
Structural Reinforcement of Inequality																				1	1
Sustainable Care: Connecting People and Systems			1																	1	
Transcultural Understanding of Designing with Climate Change: A Joint Design Research Studio Approach																				1	1
Transformative Justice Network																					1
Understanding Globalisation - Margins and Peripheries																				1	1
Totals	0	0	10	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	13	13	12	1	3	0	0	0	6	0	

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