

# *Careers in Global Health*

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**McGill**



GLOBAL  
HEALTH  
PROGRAMS



@paimadhu

**There are huge global  
health problems...**

**But they offer exciting  
opportunities to find  
our **purpose****




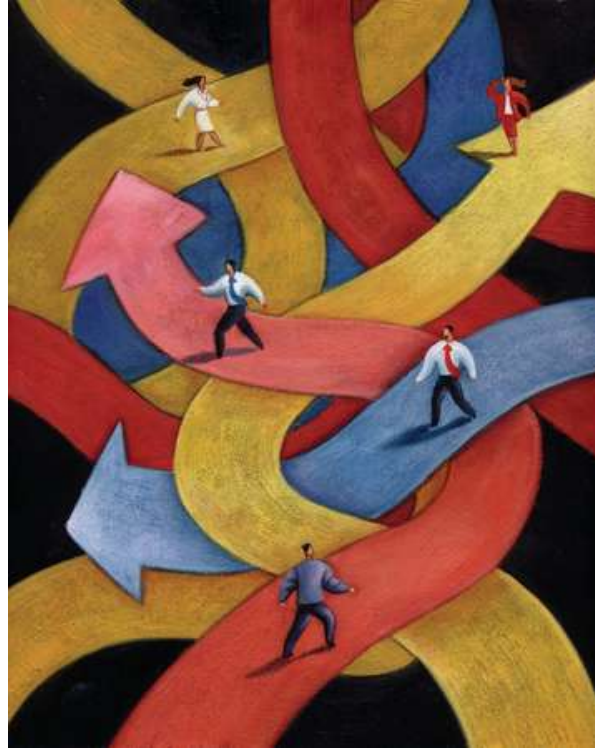
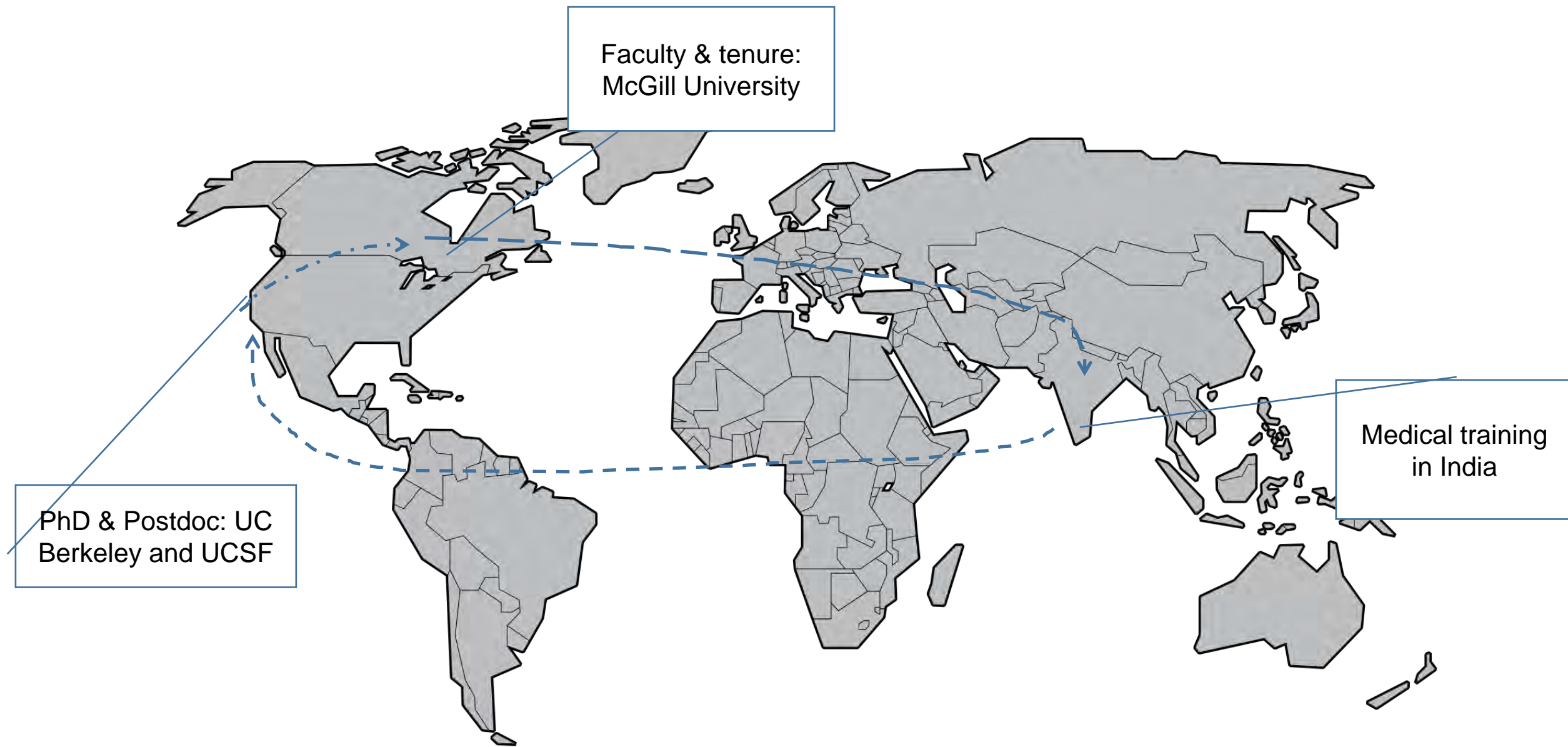
 -PURPOSE

image credit: @airtasker

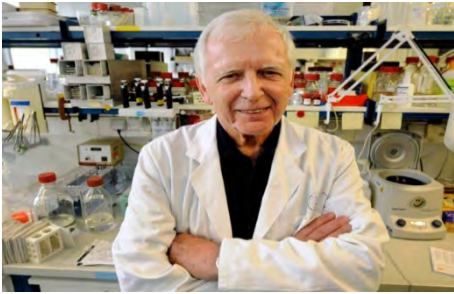
Incredible variety of career pathways!





My long and winding career path...





Basic researcher



Epidemiologist/public health



Industry/pharma professional



Journalist



Political leader



Global health diplomat



Anthropologist/social scientist



Advocate



Policy maker



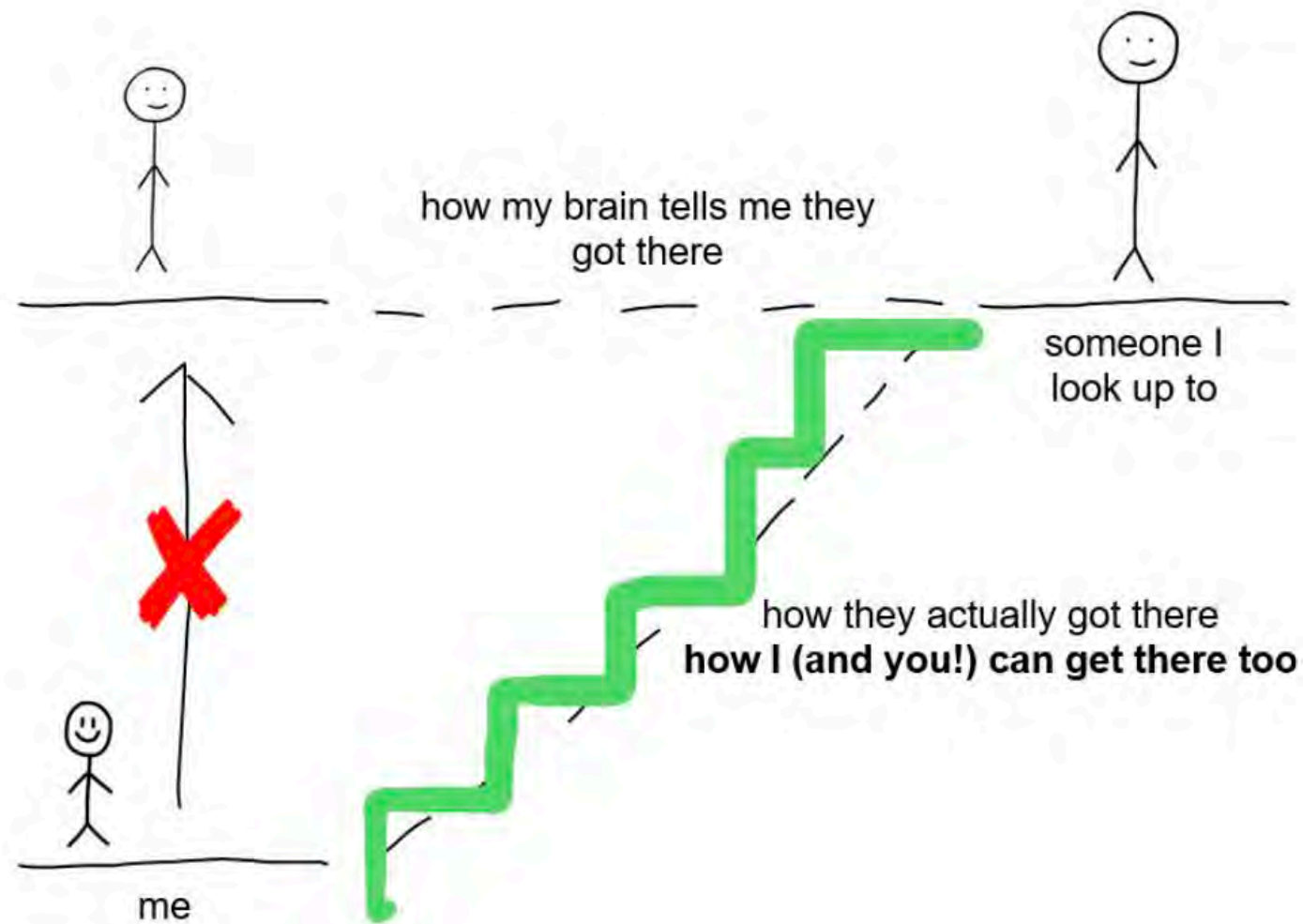
Humanitarian/medical worker



Negotiator/business leader

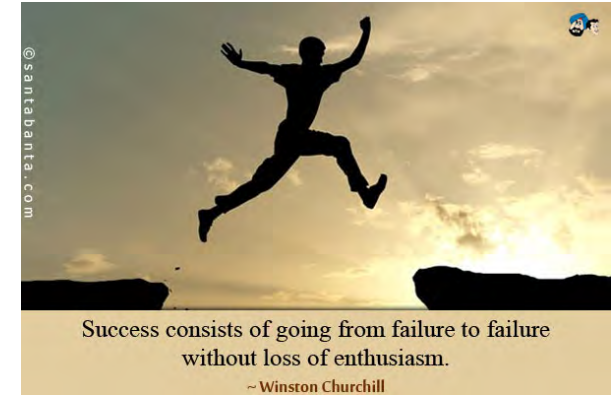


Philanthropist



# STEP-UP: Ingredients for success in global health

- **Strategy and soft skills:** getting the big picture, understanding the politics & diplomacy; communication and interpersonal skills (humility, cultural awareness, respect for partners and diversity, ability to listen, learn & adapt, 'do no harm')
- **Excellence:** You have to excel in your chosen field & and develop expertise (which includes learning from partners & communities)
- **Team work:** Large scale problems require interdisciplinary teams; impact can never be achieved by individuals
- **Perseverance:** it is not easy to improve health & earn the trust of partners, and you need to be patient and be in it for the *long haul*
- **Unrelenting Optimism:** you need to believe that you *can* make a difference and learnt to overcome failures
- **Passion:** You need to be really excited about the field and have a *vision* for making a positive contribution





# FAQs

- Do I need to become a doctor to do global health?
- Do I need a degree in a health field to do global health?
- Do I need a degree in global health?
- Do I need to be an academic to do global health?
- Do I need a job at WHO to do global health?
- Do I have to move to a low-income country to do global health?
- Who are the global health employers and what are they looking for?
- What skills and competencies are valued in global health?

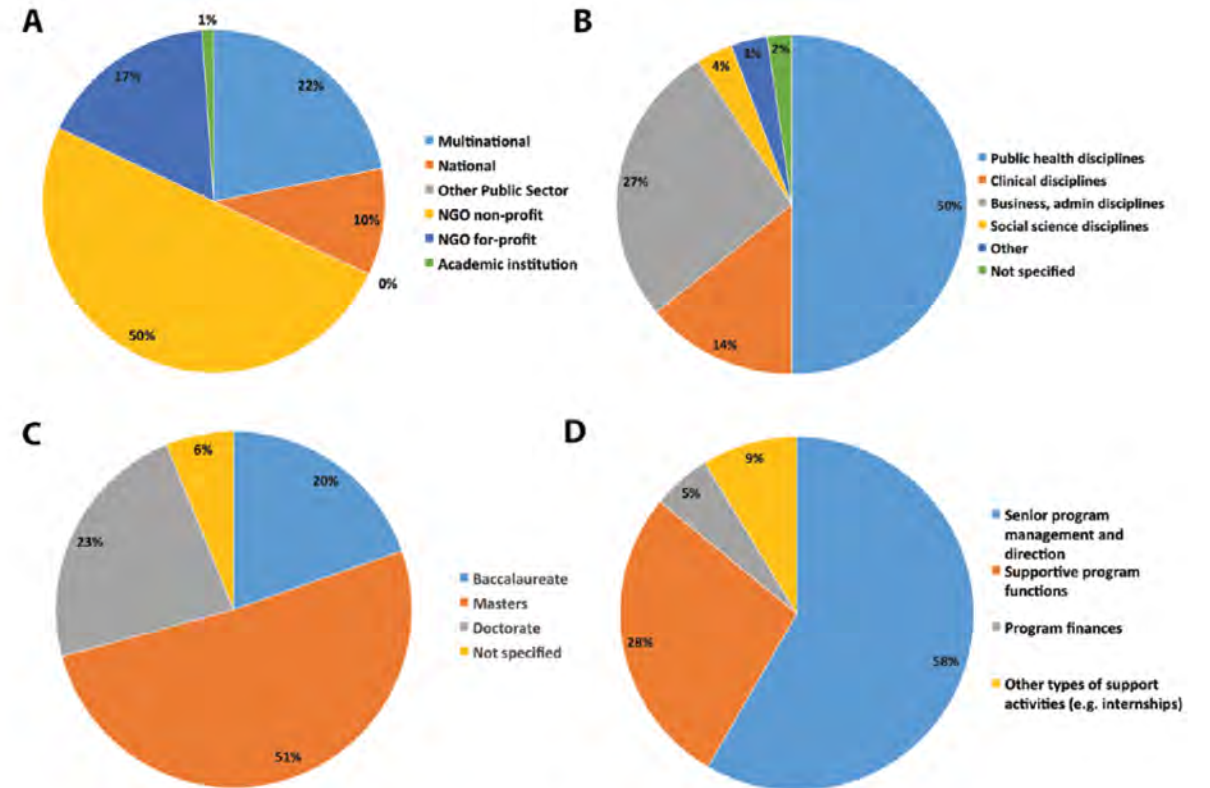
# Employers & what they look for

## Career opportunities in global health: A snapshot of the current employment landscape

Quentin Eichbaum<sup>1</sup>, Adam Hoverman<sup>2</sup>, William Cherniak<sup>3</sup>, Jessica Evert<sup>4</sup>,  
Elahe Nezami<sup>5</sup>, Thomas Hall<sup>6</sup>



**Figure 2.** Distribution of global health jobs based on salary range.



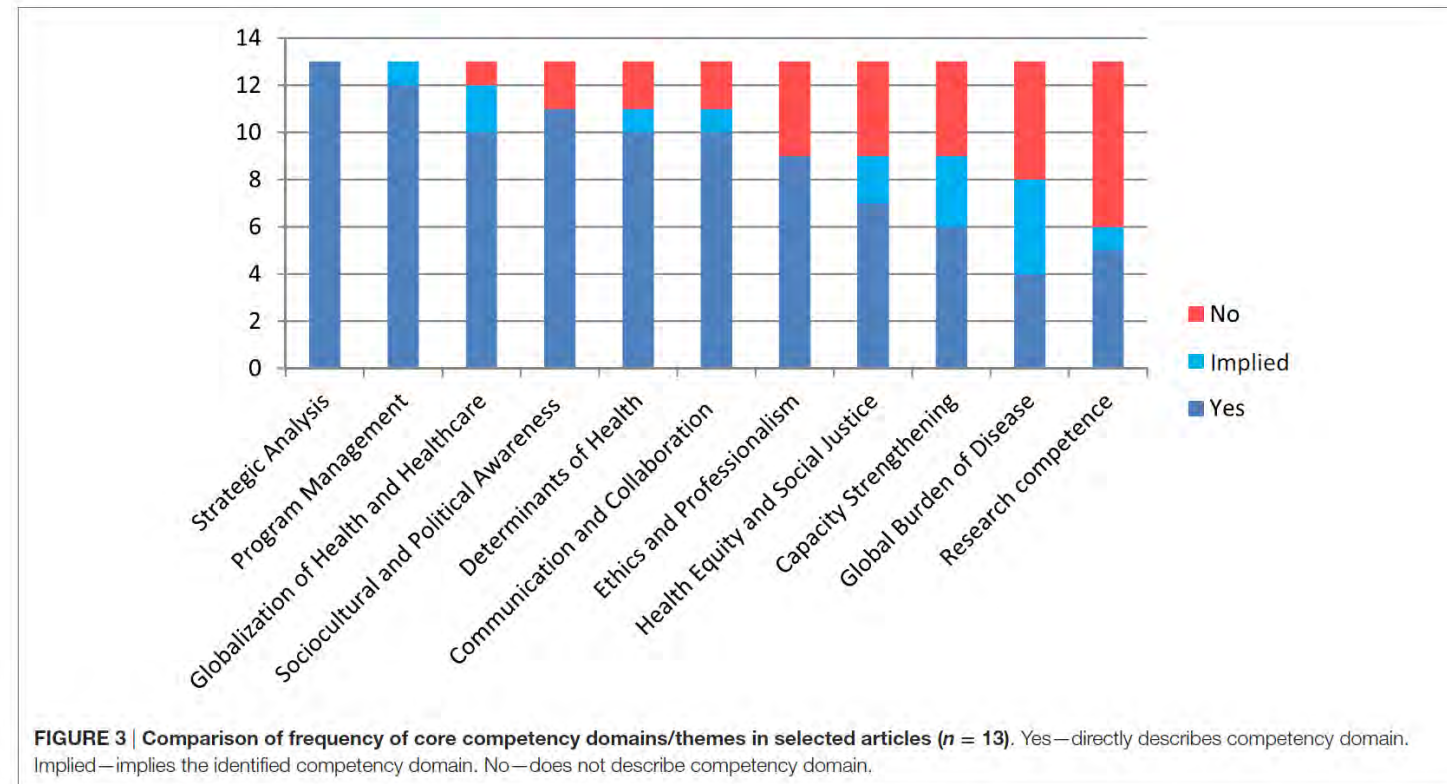
**Figure 1.** Depiction of survey results of career opportunities in global health. A) Breakdown of types of global health employers. B) The primary disciplines sought by employers. C) Highest academic achievement required or desired by employers. D) A sub-categorization of specific function desired in a program-related job.

# What skills & competencies are valued?



## A Review of Global Health Competencies for Postgraduate Public Health Education

Shailendra Sawleshwarkar<sup>1,2\*</sup> and Joel Negin<sup>2</sup>





**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

GLOBAL HEALTH  
FELLOWS II

# The Global Local Divide: Impact On Career Paths And Employment Opportunities

**Survey of 49 Global Health Program Directors  
March 2015**

**Dr. Sharon Rudy**

Director, Global Health Fellows Program II



USAID's Global Health Fellows Program II is implemented by the Public Health Institute and its partners  
Global Health Corps, GlobeMed, Management Systems International and PYXERA Global.

# Most Important Non-Clinical Skills

**Project  
Management**

**Communication**  
with client, counterpart,  
community

**Collaboration  
and Teamwork**

**Strategy &  
Project Design**



# Common In-Service Training by Employers

**Project Design,  
Management,  
M&E**

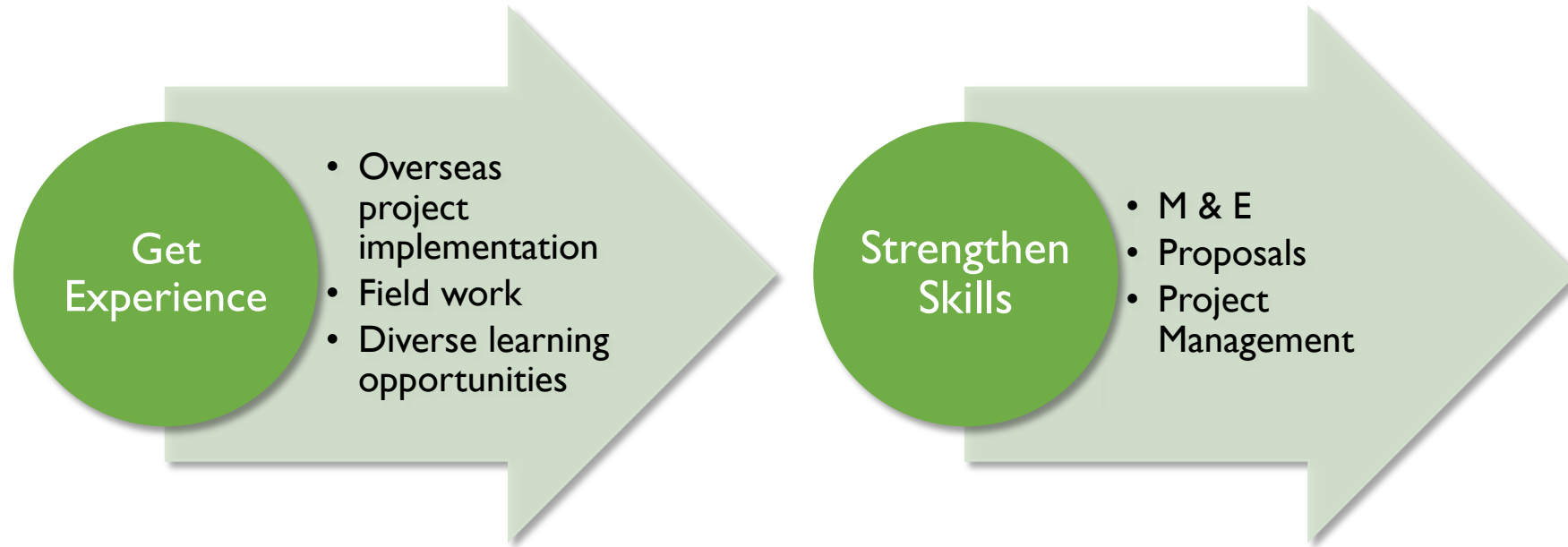
**Communicaton,  
Collaboration &  
Team Work**

**Leadership &  
Supervision**

**Writing**

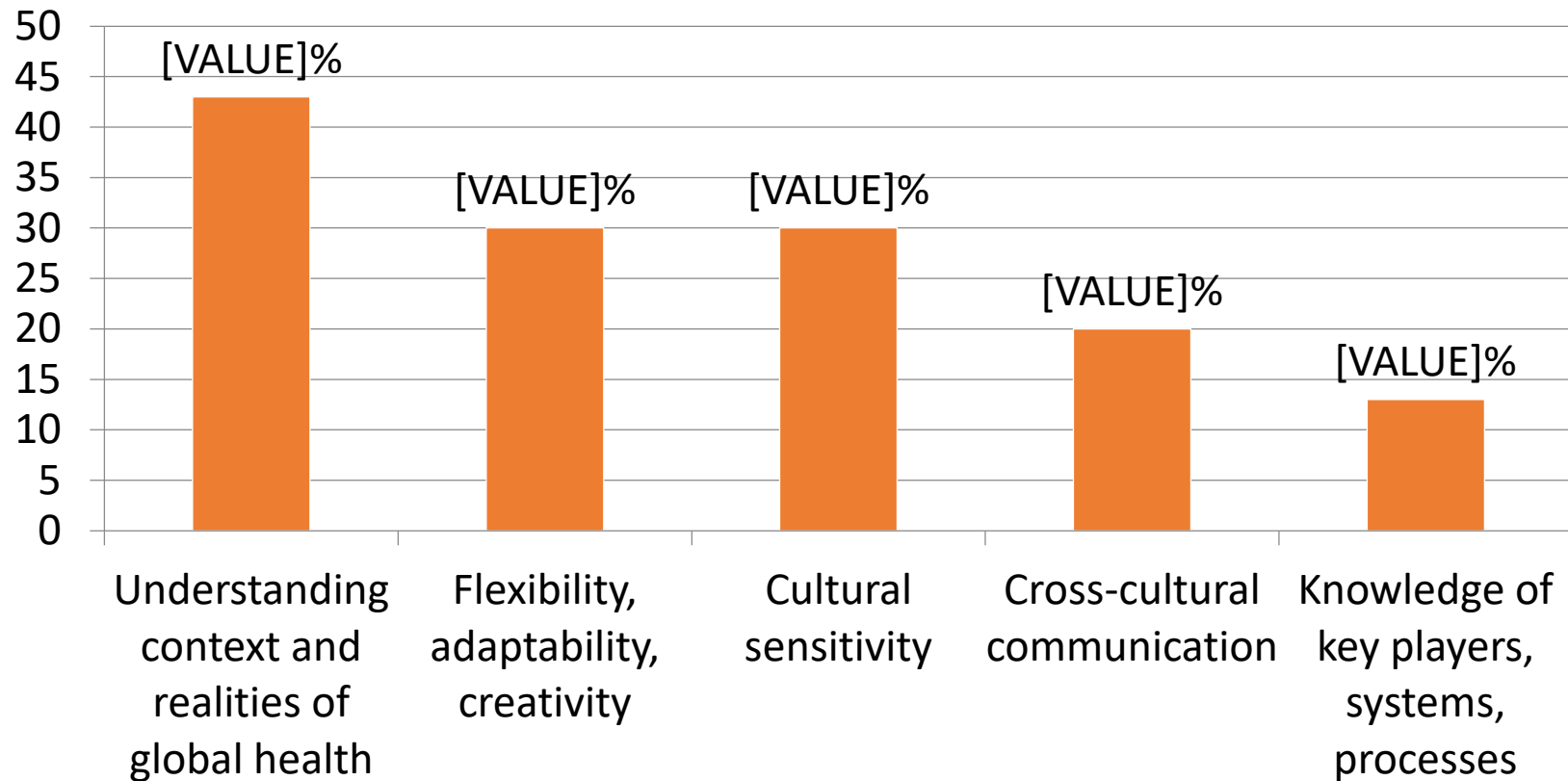
**Research &  
Analysis**

# Advice to Graduate Students



# Perceived Weaknesses

## Perceived Weaknesses of Domestic Health Professionals Moving to Global Health



# Global Health Employers Workshop @McGill (Sept 21)

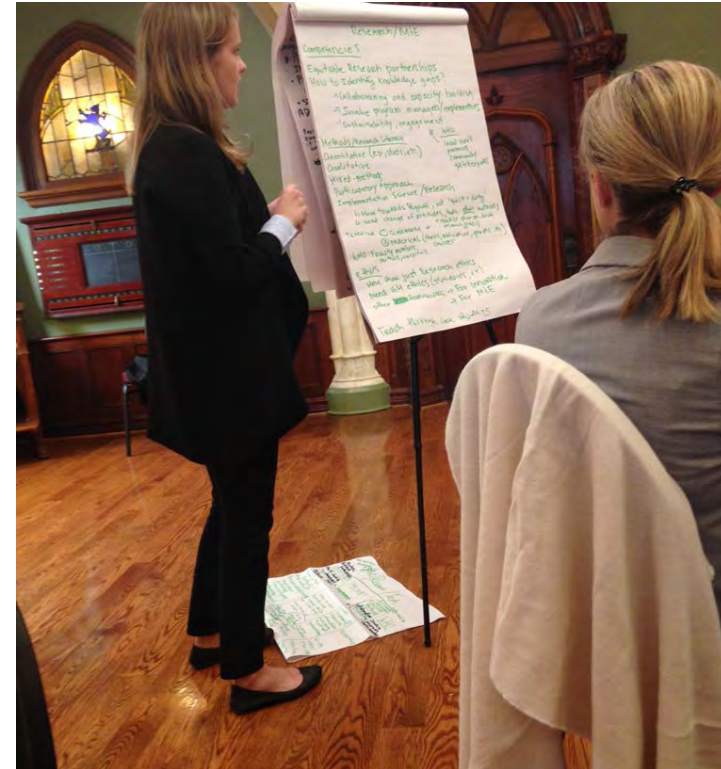
Attendees from:

- IDRC
- Aga Khan Foundation
- Results Canada
- Thrive Hire
- GCC
- Partners in Health
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Office of the International Affairs for the Health Portfolio
- CARE Canada
- Canadian Red Cross
- HealthBridge Foundation



# Competencies/skills valued by employers

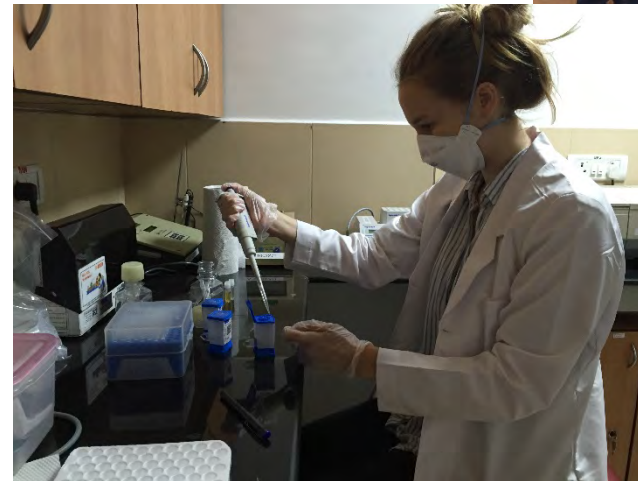
- Project management/conduct
  - Research in low resource settings
  - Monitoring & Evaluation
  - Understanding of health systems
  - Communication & written skills
  - “Soft” skills
- 
- Topics identified as important:
    - Disease burden/Morbidity & Mortality
    - Conflict, emergency response, forced migration
    - Climate change/Environmental Health
    - Nutrition
    - Technologies. Diagnostics
    - Indigenous health
    - Human rights, justice, equity





# Field experience really matters!

“Get overseas experience. Make sure you are cut out for living overseas in difficult conditions with few resources. Programme directors lament the extra costs associated with people abandoning posts because they can't handle the conditions.” (Gewin, Nature 2007)



# But, do no harm!

## Avoid short-term, mission-mode, parachute field work

GOATS AND SODA

### Scientists Say It's Time To End 'Parachute Research'

April 2, 2016 • Researchers drop in. They take specimens. And they head home and don't share. That's no way to fight an epidemic. Can they do things differently when it comes to Zika?

▶ Listen · 3:51

+ Queue



Maria Fabrizio for NPR

Answer Sheet

### How NOT to save the world: Why U.S. students who go to poor countries to 'do good' often do the opposite

By Valerie Strauss | March 22, 2016



## Beyond Medical “Missions” to Impact-Driven Short-Term Experiences in Global Health (STEGHs): Ethical Principles to Optimize Community Benefit and Learner Experience

Melissa K. Melby, PhD, MPhil, MA, Lawrence C. Loh, MD, MPH, Jessica Evert, MD, Christopher Prater, MD, Henry Lin, MD, and Omar A. Khan, MD, MHS

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26630608>

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2016/03/22/how-not-to-save-the-world-why-u-s-students-who-go-to-poor-countries-to-do-good-often-do-the-opposite/?utm\\_term=.3b82224662d6](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2016/03/22/how-not-to-save-the-world-why-u-s-students-who-go-to-poor-countries-to-do-good-often-do-the-opposite/?utm_term=.3b82224662d6)

# Avoid global health malpractice!

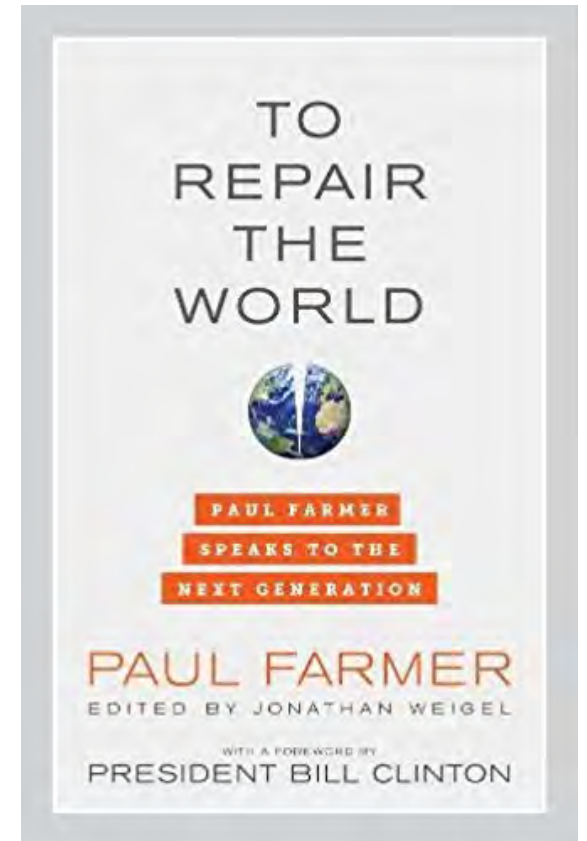
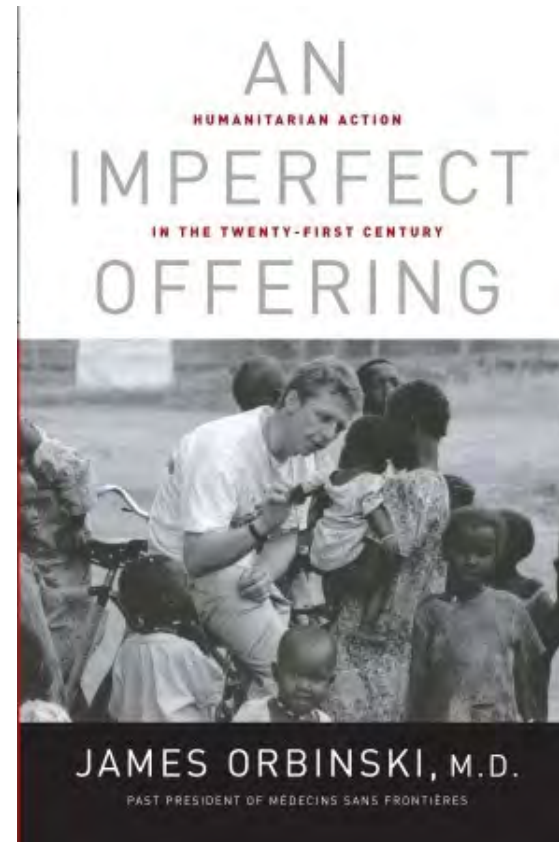
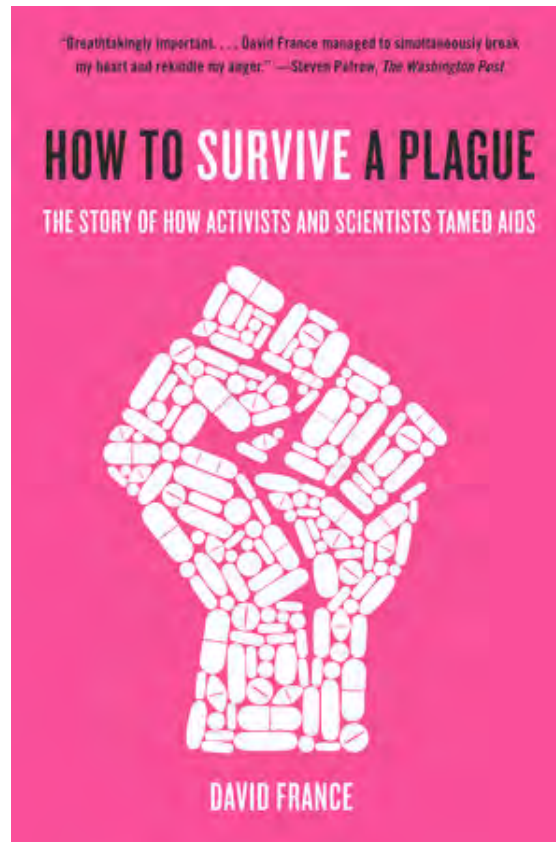
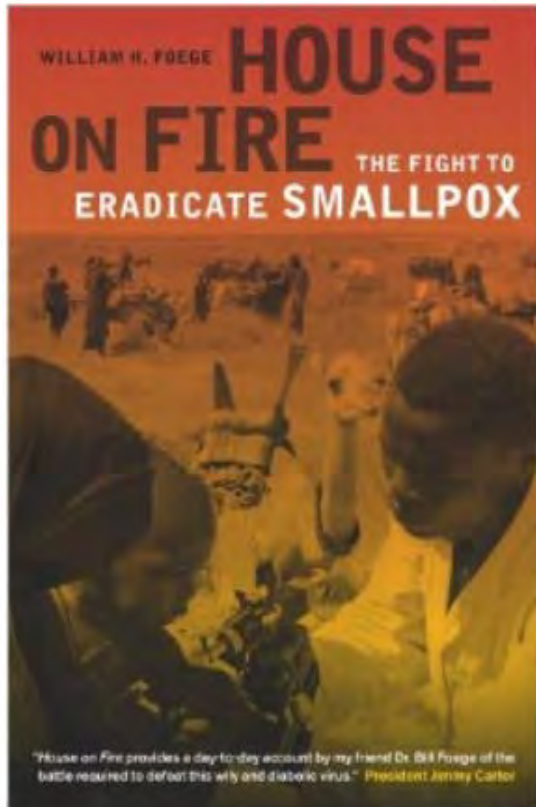
## Do NOT:

- 1. Perpetuate colonial practices
- 2. Undermine local talent & expertise
- 3. Practice medicine (without a license)
- 4. Engage in voluntourism
- 5. Try to 'fix' issues that you don't understand
- 6. Go overseas without pre-departure training
- 7. Do research without supervision (& ethics review)
- 8. Conduct parachute research
- 9. Put yourself in dangerous situations
- 10. Make promises you cannot keep



<https://www.globalhealthnow.org/2019-08/10-fixes-global-health-consulting-malpractice>





If you are looking for inspiration...

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