



# REPORT ON ACTIVITIES 2013-2017

## Background

Global Action on Men's Health (GAMH) was established in 2013 and launched during International Men's Health Week in June 2014. It is a collaborative project that brings together men's health organisations, and others which share their objectives, in a new global network.

Its formation was proposed by Peter Baker, its current Director, after the Global Burden of Disease Study 2010 was published in 2012. This revealed the extent of the problems facing men's health internationally. It was also apparent that, at the global as well as the national level, men's health was not being effectively addressed by policymakers, clinicians or service providers. Furthermore, while there were men's health organisations in a wide range of countries, these were not part of an organised network and were generally not engaged with global health organisations.

GAMH exists to fill this gap.

### GAMH's mission

To create a world where all men and boys have the opportunity to achieve the best possible health and wellbeing wherever they live and whatever their backgrounds.

*It has been my pleasure and privilege to have played a leading role in establishing and developing GAMH over the past few years. Together with others in the field, we are succeeding in putting men's health on the global public health agenda for the first time.*

*The significance of WHO-Europe's men's health strategy, which will cover 53 countries, cannot be underestimated and I am delighted that GAMH has been involved in the consultations from the outset.*

*Once GAMH has a clear legal status as a not-for-profit organization, we can look to expand our membership, funding, profile and activities significantly.*

*I would like to thank my colleagues on GAMH's Executive Committee for their enthusiasm and consistent support. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the key roles played by Anthony Brown and Wendy Poage, GAMH's chair and vice chair respectively. GAMH and I owe them no small debt.*

**Peter Baker, Director**

GAMH has a distinct contribution to make because:

- It uniquely represents a wide range of men's health and related organisations each of which has experience of policy development, advocacy, research and service delivery
- It is concerned about a broad and cross-cutting range of men's health issues (e.g. health literacy, risk-taking behaviours, use of services, etc.)
- Its focus is primarily on public health and the social determinants of health
- It has a strengths-based view of men and boys – this acknowledges men's unique contribution to all forms of social and human endeavour – and also believes that men should be held accountable for unacceptable behaviours, including gender-based violence.
- It is committed to working in partnership with other organisations, not in competition with them
- It supports an approach to health that takes full account of sex and gender in order to improve the health of both men and women. GAMH does not believe that resources currently allocated to women's health should be transferred to men's health.

#### **GAMH's goals**

- Global health organisations and national governments address the health and wellbeing needs of men and boys in all relevant policies
- Men and boys encouraged and supported to take better care of their own health as well as the health of their partners and children
- Health practitioners take greater account of the specific needs of men and boys in service delivery, health promotion and clinical practice
- Other agencies and organisations, such as schools and workplaces, helped to be more aware of their significant impact on the health of men and boys
- Sustained multi-disciplinary research into the health of men and boys
- An approach to health that fully recognises the needs of both sexes in policy, practice and funding and which promotes greater gender equality.

## **GAMH's structure**

GAMH is currently an unincorporated association with no formal legal identity. It is neither registered as a company nor a charity/not-for-profit. In the past, its funds were held and managed by the European Men's Health Forum, then the Australian Men's Health Forum and, finally, by the Men's Health Forum (Great Britain). In 2017, GAMH established its own bank account and now holds and manages its own funds in accordance with governance procedures established by the Executive Committee (EC).

The EC has agreed that GAMH should, as soon as is practicable, be established with a clear legal identity and the options for this are currently being explored. It is anticipated that this will happen in 2018. This development will make GAMH eligible for a wider range of funding and also create a more formal, systematic, transparent and publicly accountable system of governance in which GAMH's members as well as external stakeholders can have confidence.

This has been an exciting year for Global Action on Men's Health. Our membership has grown and we are starting to see international agencies taking a greater interest in men's and boys' health.

The World Health Organisation's European office is developing a men's health strategy for the 53 countries in the European region. GAMH is working with WHO Europe to bring together men's health organisations in Europe (many of whom are GAMH members) to inform this work. GAMH will continue to work with WHO and other agencies to encourage the development of men's health policies regionally and globally.

While there is the start of interest in men's health at a global and regional level there are still only 4 countries with specific national men's health policies: Ireland, Australia, Brazil and Iran. Each of these countries have had some challenges in implementing these policies but each has reaffirmed its commitment to men's health.

During 2018 we will be working to formally incorporate as an organisation this will make it easier to receive funds and formalise our relationships with members and other stakeholders. It will also involve drafting a new constitution. This will be a major piece of work for the new Executive Committee during 2018.

And, finally, we owe a debt of gratitude to Peter Baker, our hard-working Executive Officer. Peter continues to make new connections for GAMH and represent us at meetings and events. Thank you, Peter.

***Anthony Brown, Chair***

GAMH is governed by an Executive Committee (EC) which is elected annually<sup>1</sup> by and from its full members. The EC has five members, currently:

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<sup>1</sup> There have, to date, been two elections for the EC: in December/January 2015/16 and December 2017. The 2016/17 elections were cancelled because a shortage of funds meant that the EC had insufficient capacity to implement a meaningful work programme within one year. The cancellation was proposed by the EC with no objections from the other full member organisations.

- Australian Men's Health Forum (Anthony Brown)
- Canadian Men's Health Foundation (Wayne Hartrick)
- Men's Health Forum (Great Britain) (Martin Tod)
- Men's Health Network (USA) (Ana Fadich)
- Prostate Conditions Education Council/Men's Health Education Council (USA) (Wendy Poage)

The Chair and Vice Chair are elected annually by the EC. The current Chair is Anthony Brown and the Vice Chair is Wendy Poage. Martin Tod is the Treasurer.



*Courtesy of the Institute for Reproductive Health, Georgetown University, USA*

GAMH's work is managed by its Director, Peter Baker. He is currently contracted on a freelance basis and his workload is determined by the priorities agreed by the EC as well as by the funds available.

There are two categories of membership: Full and Associate. Associate members may be organisations or individuals. GAMH offers membership at the rates of GBP 1,050.00 for Full, GBP 700.00 for Associate organisations, and GBP 40.00 for Associate individuals. Discounts and payment by instalments have been offered to organisations and individuals with limited funds. All current memberships run until December 2019.

All potential members are asked to indicate their support for a Declaration which sets out GAMH's aims and values. All memberships are also subject to the formal approval of the EC although this responsibility has been delegated to the Chair and Vice Chair.

Associate members have an advisory role and all members are able to participate in the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM will take place annually starting in January 2018.

In 2017, GAMH introduced a new category of affiliation for corporate organisations. The intention is that corporates will join for an annual fee of GBP 2,500.00 but will have no role in governance. At the same time, GAMH published an ethical policy which will guide its relationship with corporates and other external stakeholders.

#### **Why the time is right for global action on men's health**

- We now have the **Evidence**. The problems with men's health are now well-established as are their causes.
- It is the **Ethical** thing to do. Optimal health and wellbeing for all is now seen to be an inalienable human right.
- It is **Effective**. We can demonstrate that improved men's health would contribute to better population health and help the delivery of health targets, in particular the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Better men's health makes **Economic** sense. It would result in financial savings for health systems and the wider economy, essential at a time of great strain on healthcare resources.
- **Engagement** with men is achievable. There is growing body of knowledge about how to develop and deliver men's health promotion and clinical services that engage men.
- It is an **Equity** issue. Men's health is in many respects unnecessarily poorer than women's and this is increasingly seen as a significant equalities issue. We also know that better men's health would improve the health of women and children too.

#### **Work programme**

Since its formation, GAMH's work programme has focused on:

- Raising the profile of GAMH and making the case for men's health to the widest possible audience
- Developing projects that contribute to improvements in men's health policy and practice
- Increasing the membership so that GAMH represents as many men's health and related organisations and key individuals as possible around the world
- Creating a network of men's health advocates, researchers, practitioners and others for the sharing of experience and good practice and to encourage collaboration that accelerates research and the development of policy and practice.
- Generating income that supports the further development of GAMH and improved governance

## ***Raising the profile of GAMH and to make the case for men's health to the widest possible audience***

GAMH has a regularly updated website ([www.gamh.org](http://www.gamh.org)), a Twitter account (@globalmenhealth) and a monthly eBulletin that is sent to members and others who wish to subscribe. There is also a LinkedIn GAMH group.

In the 24-month period ending 31 October 2017, the website received about 5,250 views, an average of 50 per week. As of mid-November 2017, the Twitter account had just over 500 followers. The eBulletin has about 50 subscribers, almost all GAMH members, and is each month opened by about 50-60% of recipients. The LinkedIn group currently has 56 members. These are relatively low figures and there is clearly considerable scope for improving GAMH's online profile.



*Courtesy of Men's Health Information and Resource Centre, Western Sydney University, Australia*

GAMH has pro-actively contributed articles and blogs about men's health globally to a wide range of publications. The two stand-out papers have been:

- P Baker, SL Dworkin, S Tong, et al. The men's health gap: men must be included in the global health equity agenda. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 2014;92:618-620.
- P Baker, T Shand. Men's health: time for a new approach to policy and practice? *Journal of Global Health* 2017;7(1):010306.

Other articles have appeared in BMJ, IHP (International Health Policies), Trends in Urology and Men's Health, Health Systems Global, The Good Men Project, Global Health Hub, Health Matters and the Altarum Institute blog.

GAMH's Director and Chair have been invited to act as guest editors for a special issue of the International Journal of Men's Health on global policy issues. Publication is expected in 2018.

In November 2016, the Director attended and presented at the Men's Health Caucus at the American Public Health Association in Denver, Colorado (USA). Together with the Men's Health Education Council, he also organised a seminar in Denver for delegates with a particular interest in global men's health issues.

Since September 2017, GAMH has been actively involved with WHO-Europe's plans to develop a men's health strategy for the 53 countries it represents. The Director spoke at a WHO-Europe symposium in Copenhagen (Denmark) and GAMH is an active partner in a planned consultation event to be held in Dublin (Ireland) in March 2018.

GAMH has communicated with the current and previous WHO Director-Generals on men's health and also established links with the global Gender, equity and human rights unit based in Geneva (Switzerland). In 2016, GAMH submitted a paper to the unit about how men's health could be addressed within the integrated framework of gender, human rights, equity and social determinants that was under development.

The Director presented on men's health to a webinar hosted by the EECA MenEngage Platform together with United Nations Population Fund Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office in November 2017. This provided an opportunity to raise men's health issues in a region where they have not yet been significantly considered.

### ***Developing projects that contribute to improvements in men's health policy and practice***

In 2016, GAMH collaborated with Sanofi on the development of a comprehensive global survey. This was conducted among 16,000 demographically representative adults across eight countries (Australia, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States) and examined attitudes towards men's health, in particular self-care. The report, *Men's Health: Perceptions from Around the Globe*, was launched in November 2016 at a meeting in Brussels (Belgium) attended by policymakers and practitioners at which GAMH's Director gave an introductory presentation.



In 2017, GAMH continued to develop its relationship with Sanofi and funding has now been approved for a project on men and self-care. The aim is to produce a report on men's beliefs, attitudes and behaviours concerning self care, examples of successful interventions by health and other organisations, the potential for improvement, and recommendations for action on research, policy and practice. The project will take a global perspective and draw on the experience and expertise of the Global Action on Men's Health (GAMH) membership and network.



GAMH is currently seeking funding for the production of a report on the global state of men's health.

### **Men's Health: Perceptions from Around the Globe**

#### ***Key findings***

- The overwhelming majority of men in the eight countries surveyed want to take charge of their health.
- Men are generally very positive about the value of over-the-counter (OTC) medicines.
- Men's use of pharmacies is still at a low level.
- There is a significant under-use of digital health services by men.
- Men remain reluctant to seek help for a range of sexual health problems.

*The full report can be accessed via [www.gamh.org](http://www.gamh.org).*



*Courtesy of Bradford Health of Men Project, United Kingdom*

### ***Increasing the membership so that GAMH represents as many men's health and related organisations and key individuals as possible around the world***

GAMH's membership has slowly and steadily increased and it now has 38 members: 13 Full members and 26 Associate members (6 organisations and 20 individuals). The organisations are based in nine different countries and the individuals in 11 countries.

See Appendix 1 for a full list of current members.



Most of GAMH's members are based in English-speaking countries and/or those in the Global North. This reflects the areas where men's health work is currently most developed but there remains a need for GAMH to reach out to organisations and individuals in a wider range of countries.

A survey of members has been initiated to enable the EC to assess member satisfaction and to identify where improvements can be made.

***Creating a network of men's health advocates, researchers, practitioners and others for the sharing of experience and good practice and to encourage collaboration that accelerates research and the development of policy and practice***

With the support of the Canadian Men's Health Foundation, GAMH is in the process of establishing a small working group of members to discuss the development of International Men's Health Week and GAMH's role.

Although the eBulletin and website provide an opportunity for members to share information and develop contacts with other members, this is not yet happening on any significant scale. It is hoped that the survey of members will help to identify the barriers and suggest how collaboration between GAMH and its members, and between members, can be accelerated.

***Generating income that supports the further development of GAMH and improved governance***

Since its formation in 2013, GAMH has generated a total of about GBP 37,250.00, of which approximately GBP 14,250.00 (38%) is from membership fees and GBP 23,000.00 (62%) from grants. The grants paid to date have been approximately GBP 4,500.00 from Pfizer for membership development and GBP 18,500.00 from Sanofi<sup>2</sup> for collaboration on the Men's Health: Perceptions from Around the Globe project. The new self-care project, also funded by Sanofi, will generate a further GBP 22,000.00 (approximately).

The main expenditure to date has been on the Director's fees. These totalled GBP 3,300 in 2016 and GBP 10,100 in 2017.

Income and expenditure has to date been relatively modest and this has limited GAMH's activities. It is anticipated that the organisation's adoption of a new and more formal legal identity in 2018 will make it easier to attract greater levels of funding.

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<sup>2</sup> Paid to the Men's Health Education Council on behalf of GAMH.

## **GAMH: The next steps**

- Adopting a formal legal identity which will provide greater transparency and public accountability, increase the confidence of internal and external stakeholders in organisational governance and viability, and create new opportunities for funding.
- Developing a higher profile for GAMH, particularly online.
- Recruiting additional members, especially from under-represented countries.
- Developing greater collaboration between members.
- Working with WHO-Europe on the preparation of its men's health strategy.
- Producing reports on men and self-care and the state of men's health globally.
- Increasing the profile of International Men's Health Week.

**Date of publication: December 2017**



## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Current members**

(as at 18 December 2017)

#### ***FULL MEMBERS (13)***

Australian Men's Health Forum  
Canadian Men's Health Foundation  
Danish Men's Health Society  
European Men's Health Forum  
Men's Health Education Council/Prostate Conditions Education Council (USA)  
Men's Health Forum (Great Britain)  
Men's Health Forum in Ireland  
Men's Health Foundation/Stiftung Männergesundheit (Germany)  
Men's Health Network (USA)  
Men's Health Trust (New Zealand)  
Movember Foundation  
Promundo  
Sonke Gender Justice (South Africa)

#### ***ASSOCIATE MEMBERS (26)***

##### ***Organisational associate members (6)***

Center for Research on Men's Health, Vanderbilt University (USA)  
Center for the Study of Men and Masculinities (USA)  
Men's Development Network (Ireland)  
MIU Men's Health Foundation (USA)  
Partnership for Male Youth (USA)  
Prostate Cancer Centre, Calgary (Canada)

##### ***Individual associate members (20)***

David Baxter  
Chris Booth  
Eduardo Schwarz Chakora  
Morna Cornell  
Benno de Keijzer  
Tracy Herd  
Paul Hopkins  
Mike Kirby  
Matthew Maycock  
Chirk Jenn Ng  
John Oliffe  
Ian Peate  
Steve Petty  
Mahesh Puri  
Noel Richardson  
Damien Ridge  
Steve Robertson  
Tim Shand  
Gilles Tremblay  
Alan White