Strategic Plan 2023-2027

VISION
A world class research and translation centre in global health working towards a world in which all people can enjoy a healthy life

MISSION
To improve global health and promote health equity, through excellence in research, translation and application of knowledge

VALUES
1. Excellence
2. Commitment to global public health
3. Independence
4. Respect for diversity
5. Highest ethical standard
6. Creativity in a friendly work environment
7. Fairness, accountability and transparency
8. We work because work can be fun, fulfilling and exciting

OUR DIFFERENTIAL VALUE
To respond in an interdisciplinary and integrated manner to health problems that transcend geographical, social or political boundaries, focusing on communicable and non-communicable diseases and the impact of climate and environment on health, with special emphasis on the health of the most vulnerable.

EXTERNAL CHALLENGES
– Global impact of environmental degradation and the climate crisis on health
– Adjusting power balances for equitable partnerships
– Worldwide setbacks in health and education of women and girls
– Inequity in combating infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance
– Growing incidence in non-communicable diseases and ageing populations
– Migration, refugees and expanding urbanisation

EXTERNAL OPPORTUNITIES
– SDGs, Planetary health framework
– Growing adoption of science-based decision and policy making
– Global commitments to bridging science with citizens and society

INTERNAL CHALLENGES
– Science strongly aligned with current and future global health challenges
– Favorable environment in our local, national and international institutional context
– Presence in multidisciplinary global networks in research, education and translation

INTERNAL STRENGTHS
– Science strongly aligned with current and future global health challenges
– Favorable environment in our local, national and international institutional context
– Presence in multidisciplinary global networks in research, education and translation

CONTEXT
– Adjusting power balances for equitable partnerships
– Worldwide setbacks in health and education of women and girls

SCIENCE

Climate, Air Pollution, Nature and Urban Health

AIM: To expand knowledge on the causes and mechanisms of non-communicable diseases (NCDs)

FOCUS: on environmental, radiation, occupational, lifestyle, infectious, and genetic risk factors throughout the lifecycle, from prenatal to late adult life. Key outcomes include respiratory health, neurodevelopment, cardiovascular and cancer.

ULTIMATE GOAL: to prevent and control NCDs, in line with the SDGs.

METHODS: build on networks of longitudinal population-based cohorts and case-control studies as powerful platforms for etiological research, incorporating innovative approaches such as the exposome, omics biomarkers, imaging, and data science.

Global Viral and Bacterial Infections

AIM: To support evidence-based policy-making at all levels for the reduction of malaria and other parasitic diseases in high-burden areas, and to advance our current scientific understanding of the pathogenesis of major parasitic diseases affecting humans and their host-vector interactions.

FOCUS: on malaria, Chagas and neglected tropical parasitic diseases such as soil-transmitted helminths and leishmaniasis.

ULTIMATE GOAL: is to progress towards disease elimination wherever feasible.

METHODS: epidemiology, intervention trials with drugs, vaccines and diagnostic tools and basic molecular biology and immunology.

Malaria and Neglected Parasitic Disease

AIM: To support evidence-based policy-making at all levels for the reduction of malaria and other parasitic diseases in high-burden areas, and to advance our current scientific understanding of the pathogenesis of major parasitic diseases affecting humans and their host-vector interactions.

FOCUS: on malaria, Chagas and neglected tropical parasitic diseases such as soil-transmitted helminths and leishmaniasis.

ULTIMATE GOAL: is to progress towards disease elimination wherever feasible.

METHODS: epidemiology, intervention trials with drugs, vaccines and diagnostic tools and basic molecular biology and immunology.

INTEGRATIVE AND INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

Connecting infections, non-communicable diseases, and the environment for impact

1. To investigate host-pathogen interactions at the single-cell level coupled to multi-omics, multidimensional and deep immune profiling to understand key biological processes underlying infectious diseases (IDs)

2. To elucidate the multidimensional causal pathways of NCDs through holistic exposome studies

3. To develop novel early warning systems, predictive models, and field-deployable tools for real-world applications to respond to existing and emerging health threats and to improve surveillance and events prediction of IDs and NCDs.

4. To quantify the health implications of climate change adaptation and mitigation through modelling and impact assessment of interventions and policies.

5. To enhance approaches to connect research and innovation to society and generate impact.