Global Mental Health Program

Submitted by Dr. Arun Ravindran, Director of the Global Mental Health Program

During the 2020-21 academic year, the Global Mental Health (GMH) program at the Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto, remained an active partner in the University’s global health strategy initiatives, facilitating collaborations between faculty and international academic centres, non-governmental organizations and other local and regional agencies to build mental health research and treatment expertise around the world.

The well-known Toronto Addis Ababa Psychiatry Project (TAAPP) continued to successfully facilitate advanced psychiatry training Ethiopia, with two fellows hosted by the department to receive additional advanced training.

The global Managing Cancer and Living Meaningfully (CALM) Program, lead by faculty member Dr. Gary Rodin, is a novel, brief, evidence-based, semi-structured psychotherapy that was developed this year to reduce distress and to promote the psychological well being of advanced or metastatic cancer patients.

Other notable projects that have successfully launched/progressed in 2020-21 include the Advancing Mental Health Care of University Students Through Interdisciplinary Collaboration (in Jinan) project, lead by Dr. Kenneth Fung, the Youth Wellbeing in China & Central America: Implementation of an Integrated Prevention and Intervention Program and the Leadership, Empathy, Altruism, Personal Growth, and Social Responsibility (LEAPS) program in Sri Lanka, lead by Dr. Arun Ravindran.