



Indo-Pacific Global Health Case Competition

2024 Event Report

9 September 2024



The 2024 University of Melbourne winning team with Professor Jamie Evans (Pro Vice-Chancellor Students and Education), Professor Rosemary McKenzie (Head of Melbourne School of Population and Global Health), Professor Margie Danchin (Associate Dean International, MDHS) and Professor Nathan Grills.

Indo-Pacific Global Health Case Competition 2024

Introduction

The Indo-Pacific Global Health Case Competition (IPGHCC) invites partner universities across the Indo-Pacific region to come together and give students an opportunity to put into action their classroom learning while developing critical soft skills such as communication, collaboration, problem-solving and leadership.

The objectives of the competition are:

1. To build relationships between students and faculty from various universities from across the Indo-Pacific region.
2. To provide students at University of Melbourne, and across the region, with rich experiential learning opportunities in program and policy development to address complex global health challenges.
3. To foster the future global health leadership in the region which is networked, upskilled, and has an approach to global health challenges which is nuanced, relevant and informed.

Additionally, University of Melbourne students have the opportunity to be selected for the representative team at the Emory Morningside Global Health Case Competition in Atlanta, March 2025. The top international team is also given this opportunity.

Participants and Case

For a second year, student teams from across the Indo-Pacific region were invited to participate in the IPGHCC run by the University of Melbourne. The competition was a collaboration between the Faculty of Medicine Dentistry and Health Sciences, the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health and the Nossal Institute of Global Health and saw 28 teams participating from five countries in the region, as follows:

- University of Melbourne, Australia
- Monash University, Australia
- India Institute of Public Health Gandhinagar, India
- India Institute of Public Health Delhi, India
- Manipal Academy of Higher Education, India
- Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, India
- Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, India
- Sri Ramanchandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, India
- Symbiosis International Deemed University, India
- Universitas, Indonesia
- Divine Word University, Papua New Guinea
- Khon Khaen University, Thailand
- Mahidol University, Thailand

IPGHCC requires interdisciplinary student teams, comprising participants from at least three disciplines, to develop and present a response to a 'wicked' global health challenge involving economic, cultural and geographical complexities.

This was reflected by some students who said:

‘For a while, I always assumed that I had to be excellent in all areas to be able to work in the field. However, the project showed me that each person has different strengths and niches and that this is important in order to work together and find detailed solutions’

In 2024, students were tasked with developing a targeted intervention around ‘eradicating Malaria in Papua New Guinea by 2030’ under the lens of critical challenges such as sustainability, antimicrobial resistance, climate change and cultural consciousness.

“I’ve learned that the best strategies aren’t just well-conceived, but also well-executed, taking into account feasibility, budget, and timelines—factors I hadn’t fully appreciated before.”

Each participating student received a range of training:

- ‘Introduction to Global Health’ workshop by Professor Rob Moodie (University of Melbourne)
- ‘Consulting 101’ workshop by Nous Consulting
- ‘Case Communications’ workshop by Amy Rowland (Emory University)
- Case advising sessions with University of Melbourne alumni who attended the Emory competition.

“That case advising session was incredibly valuable in shaping our approach to presenting our interventions effectively. It broadened our perspective, encouraging us to think differently and explore a wider range of options. The key tips provided were crucial in enhancing our presentation skills.”

Proceedings and reflections

Over the course of the Competition Day, student teams took turns to present their solutions to a panel of judges. Participants were invited to share their personal reflections on working in an interdisciplinary team and what they learnt throughout the competition.

“It was fascinating and truly enjoyable how six strangers, all passionate about global health, came together and worked tirelessly as a team, complementing each other’s strengths, with the shared vision of developing a strategy we genuinely believe could come to life.”

In the closing speeches, students heard from Professor Rosemary Mackenzie, Head of the School of Population and Global Health.

“I was blown away by the quality of the presentations today and was particularly pleased to see elements of measurement and evaluation expressed in the solutions,”



Winners

FIRST PLACE Team 4 University of Melbourne
SECOND PLACE Team 5 University of Melbourne
THIRD PLACE Team 6 University of Melbourne
FOURTH PLACE Team 2 University of Melbourne
INTERNATIONAL AWARD Team 22 Universitas Indonesia

A team of 15 expert judges from Government, academia and global health were set the difficult task of deciding the winners from the 28 excellent case presentations. Professor Jamie Evans, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students and Education) presented the prizes whilst sharing:

“The region needs students like yourselves to tackle issues on a global scale. One of the great things about this competition is that, and while you have learnt a lot about the topic of malaria, you will also have learnt a lot about Papua New Guinea, its people and culture,”

Thanks to our sponsors

We wish to thank the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health and the Nossal Institute of Global Health at the University of Melbourne. We also appreciate the partnership of the Australian Global Health Alliance and the Emory Global Health Institute. Most of all, we acknowledge all the students who prepared and presented so well. Each participant will take away some excellent global health learnings and friendships across the region.

