

# Training a New Cadre of Global Health Leaders: The Global Health Delivery Intensive Program at Harvard University

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## INTRODUCTION

- Despite recognized treatments and increased global health funding, an implementation bottleneck prevents health care from reaching patients.<sup>1</sup> A new kind of leader, trained in health care delivery, can ensure that interventions are effectively delivered to patients and retain a focus on value.<sup>1</sup>
- Few educational training programs exist in this area.
- The Global Health Delivery Intensive (GHDI) program at Harvard was developed to bridge the gap between knowledge and practice in global health, training a new cadre of health professionals dedicated to improving value based health care delivery.

## METHODS

### Address real-world health problems through epidemiology, management science and case study analysis:

Since 2009, the GHDI program has trained a multidisciplinary set of professionals how to better design, implement, and evaluate programs that improve health care in low-resource settings. Students learn these techniques by applying principles of epidemiology and management science to real-world problems (Figure 1). The program takes place over 3.5 weeks each July.



Figure 1: GHDI program curricula.

### Recruit diverse health care sector professionals:

The program targets both clinical and non-clinical professionals working in health care sectors, with a demonstrated commitment to global health and relevant education and experience (Figure 2). Students are recruited through partner organizations and affiliated hospitals, as well as through informal networks and word of mouth.

- ✓ demonstrated commitment to global health
- ✓ doctoral/master's degree, health-related field
- ✓ at least three years relevant experience

Figure 2: GHDI selection criteria. Minimum qualifications.

Outside of the classroom, students use GHDonline.org to enhance and continue dialogue, and share resources. GHDonline content is archived and accessible for all at any time.

## RESULTS

### Over 200 professionals representing 41 different countries have been trained:

The alumni base grows steadily and is geographically diverse (Figure 3, Figure 4).



Figure 3: Countries represented in GHDI program.

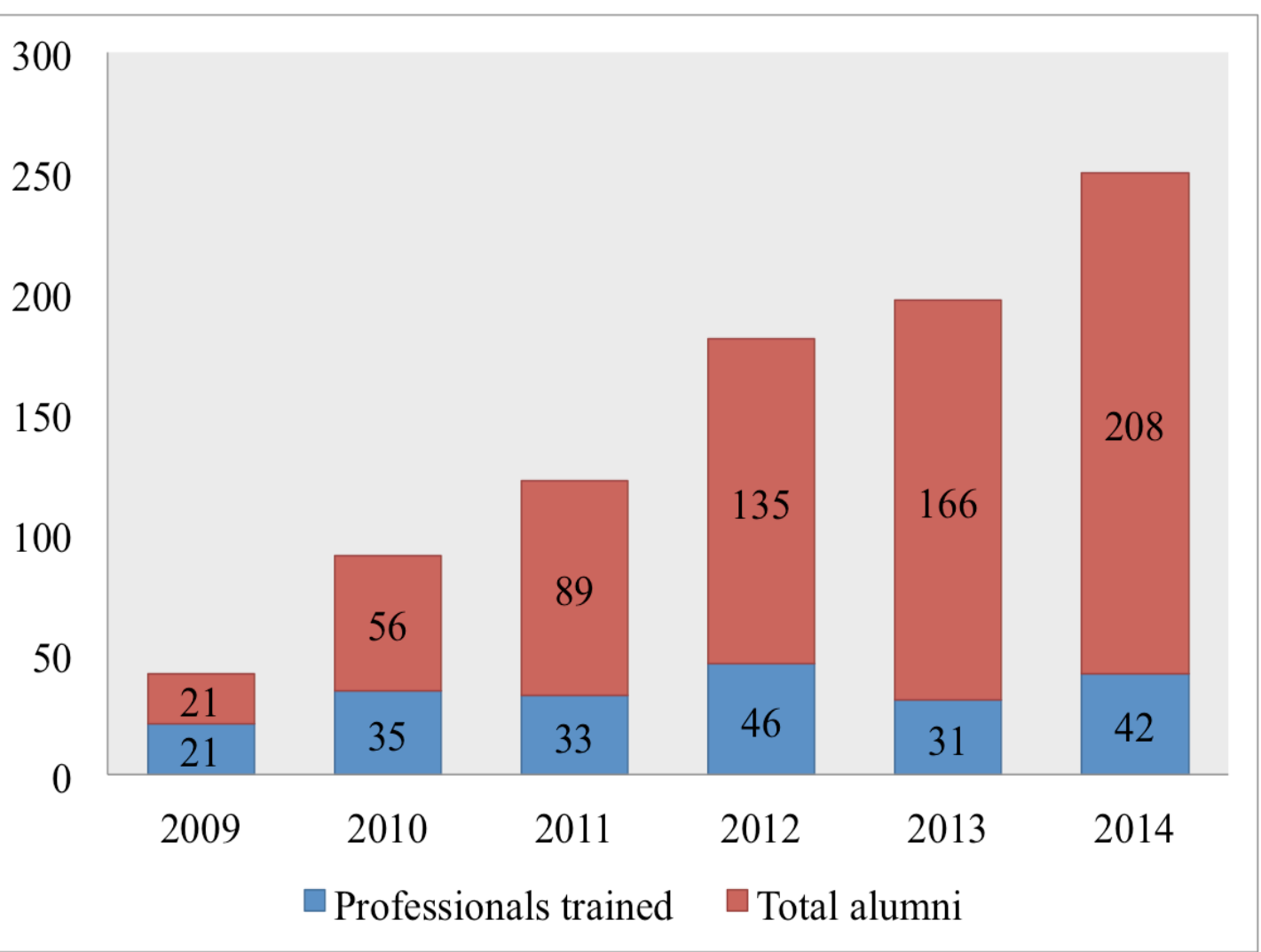


Figure 4: Professionals trained and total alumni.

Alumni remain connected with each other, program faculty and a network of 14,000 other health care professionals through professional virtual communities on GHDonline.org. The program also serves as foundational courseware for a new Master of Medical Sciences in Global Health Delivery (MMSc-GHD) degree at Harvard Medical School.

### Student evaluations show a high degree of satisfaction:

Students are highly satisfied with the quality of course content and class discussions. They report that the program has high applicability and influence on their work at home. Networking opportunities with peers and faculty, as well as involvement in GHDonline professional virtual communities, are also cited as highly beneficial. Anecdotal reports from course graduates suggest ongoing benefits of course participation over time in terms of career growth as well as impact on health outcomes (Figure 5).

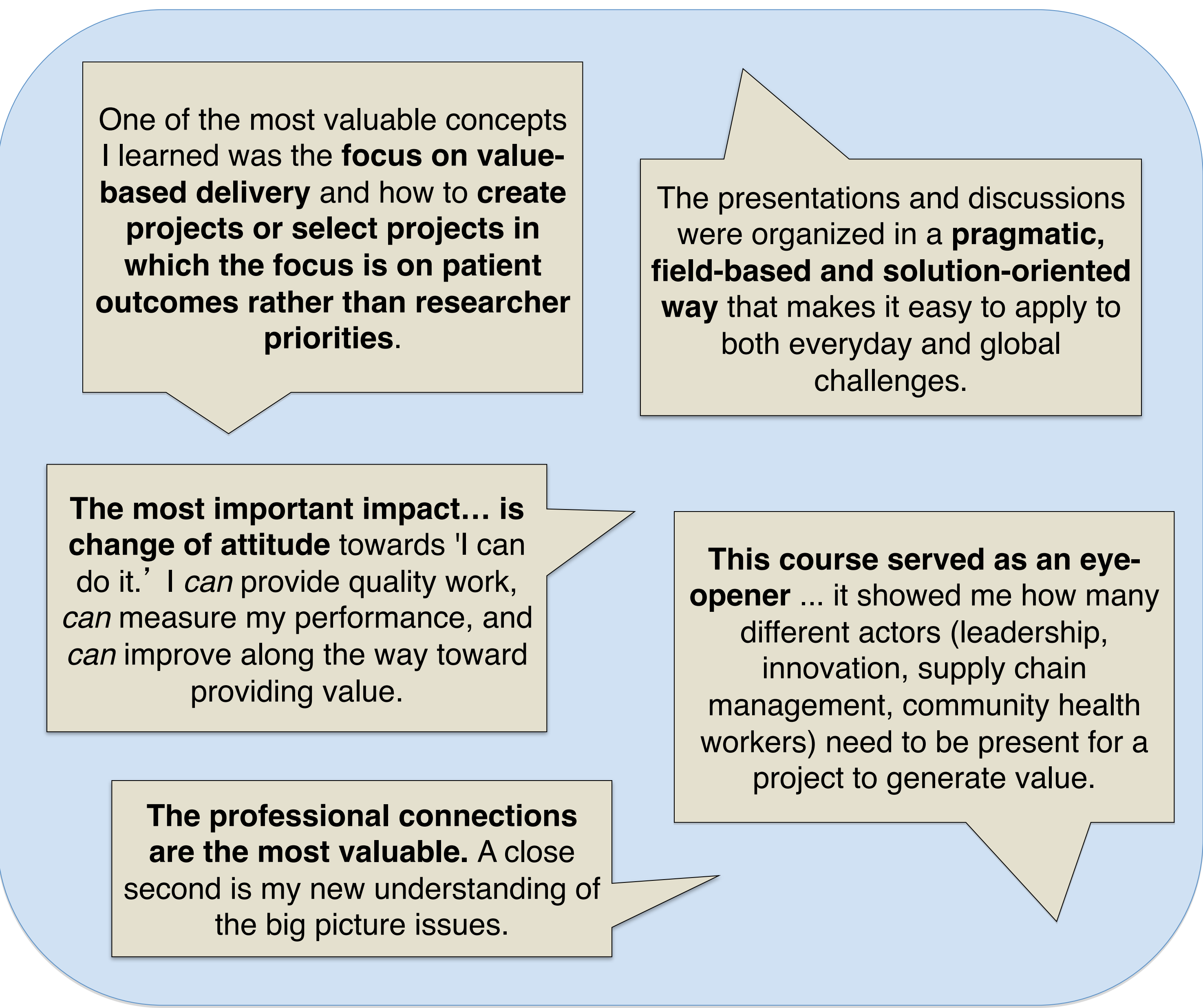


Figure 5: Quotes from GHDI program student evaluations.

## DISCUSSION

### The program aims to increase scholarship funding and tailor coursework:

Goals for the GHDI program include increasing scholarship funding for students from resource-limited settings, developing new approaches to address student feedback, and ensuring content reflects current issues in global health, such as Ebola. GHDI alumni have already been the subject of new cases and serve as advisors to guide new pedagogy in global health delivery. Future considerations include establishing knowledge prerequisites for the program and translation of curriculum.

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## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup>Kim, JY. The Obstacle Source. *Harvard Medical Alumni Bulletin*. Spring 2008, 43-47. Retrieved from: [http://www.brighamandwomens.org/Departments\\_and\\_services/medicine/services/socialmedicine/News/Obstacle.pdf](http://www.brighamandwomens.org/Departments_and_services/medicine/services/socialmedicine/News/Obstacle.pdf)

