



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR URBAN HEALTH

# Making Cities Healthier Worldwide

THE  
NEW YORK  
ACADEMY  
OF MEDICINE

HEALTHY CITIES.  
BETTER LIVES.



# CHALLENGES

## The global challenges we are trying to solve

### CALL TO ACTION

Cities must be at the forefront of tackling critical global health and development issues



Note: Cities highlighted on the map above represent the largest population numbers and density

### GLOBAL TREND

By 2050 an estimated 70% of the world's population will live in cities



More than 90% of urban population growth will be in low and middle income countries (LMICs)



The fastest growing cities in the world are those with a population of **approximately 250,000**

## CHALLENGES

# The global challenges we are trying to solve

Rapid urbanization worldwide raises new concurrent social, economic, public health, environmental, and health systems challenges, including:

### Rapid unplanned urbanization

Rising prevalence of NCDs (non communicable diseases) and emerging infectious diseases

Need for improved access to affordable, quality health services

Increased greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change, pollution, and poor health

Unsafe housing, transportation, and physical environments

Need for enhanced access to healthy foods, clean water, and sanitation

Vast inequities in opportunities that are compounded by poverty, race, ethnicity, gender, age, migration status, and place of habitation

## OPPORTUNITIES

# Cities are the main drivers of national development and present opportunities to transform a nation's health

If well-managed, cities can be engines of development for national economies, hubs for technological innovation and centers of positive social progress.\*

### Opportunities for healthy and sustainable urbanization

**Implement evidence-based programs at the local level and scale them to reduce disease prevalence and incidence**

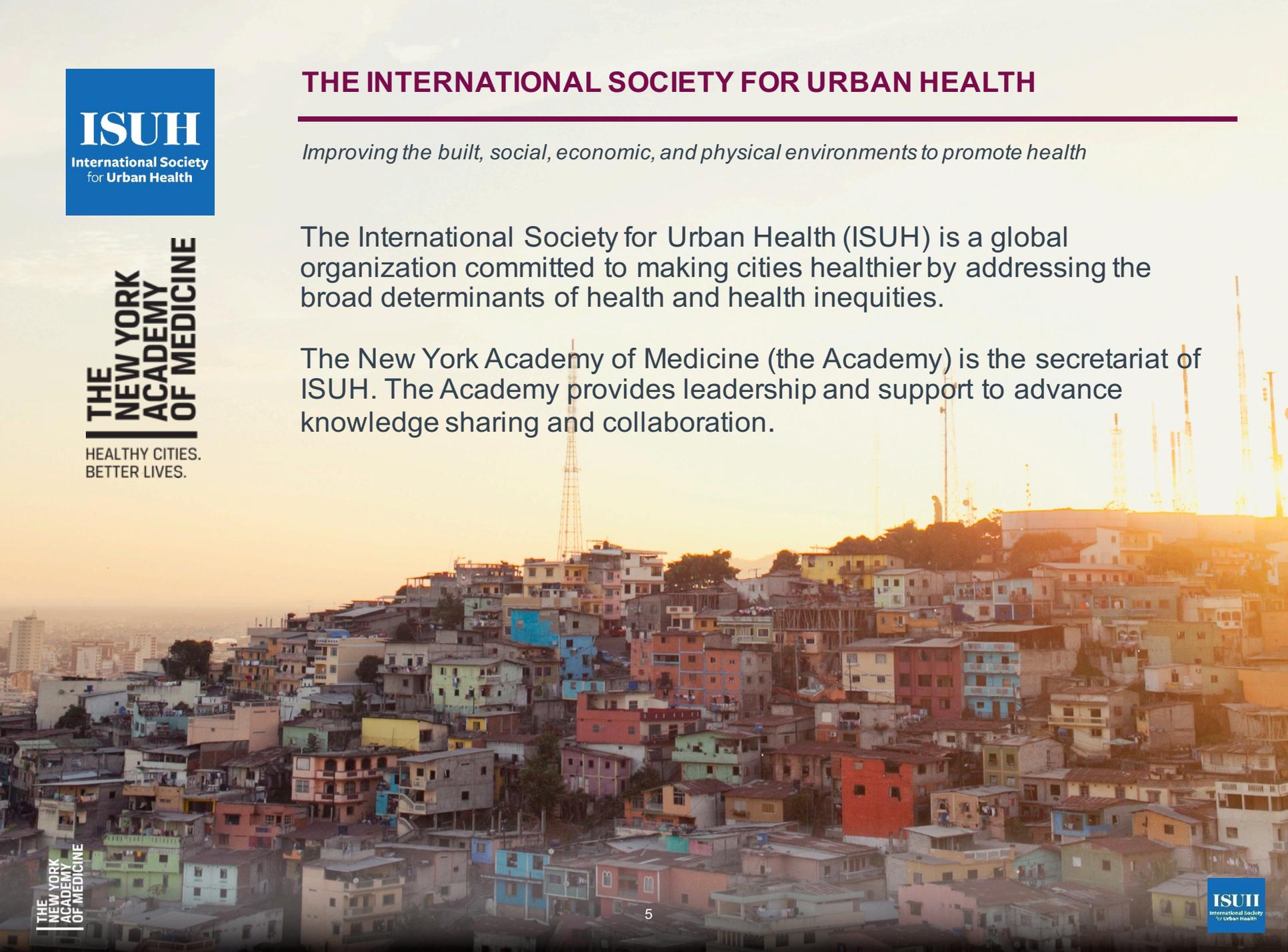
**Develop public-private solutions to create integrated health and social services that are high quality and affordable**

**Increase opportunities for pioneering solutions in alternative energy**

**Promote innovative policies that change the built environment to promote health and minimize risk of violence and injury**

**Support advocacy efforts that encourage good governance, allowing all sectors to come together to enhance access to healthy foods, clean water, sanitation, and social engagement**

**Educate and train global leaders in evidence-based and locally relevant solutions to minimize inequities in opportunities**



**ISUH**

International Society  
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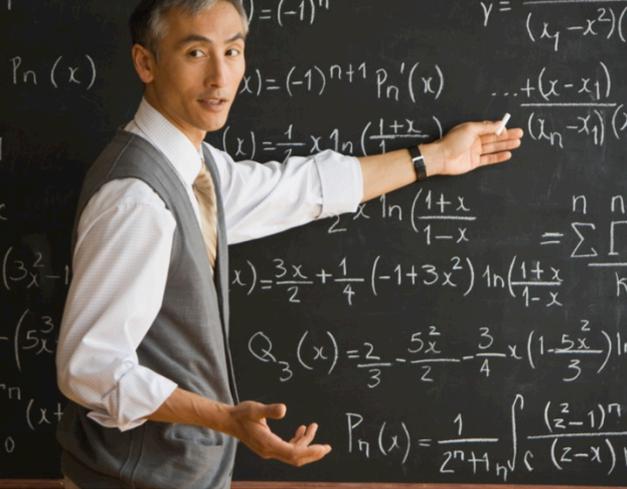
## THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR URBAN HEALTH

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*Improving the built, social, economic, and physical environments to promote health*

The International Society for Urban Health (ISUH) is a global organization committed to making cities healthier by addressing the broad determinants of health and health inequities.

The New York Academy of Medicine (the Academy) is the secretariat of ISUH. The Academy provides leadership and support to advance knowledge sharing and collaboration.



## ABOUT

# Who comes together

ISUH is a global multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary professional organization. Our membership consists researchers, educators, policy makers, practitioners, community leaders, and urban health advocates from around the world. *It is the only global nongovernmental organization that focuses exclusively on the broad determinants of urban health.*



# Broad determinants of health

Urban health experts now know that in order to achieve healthier cities worldwide, we must improve the built, social, economic, and physical environments in which people live.



## VISION

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# What we aim to accomplish

### Create

*a worldwide cadre of multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary urban health leaders who are educated and trained in evidence-based and locally relevant solutions*

### Advance

*the evidence base regarding the determinants, programs and policies critical for achieving healthy and sustainable urban environments*

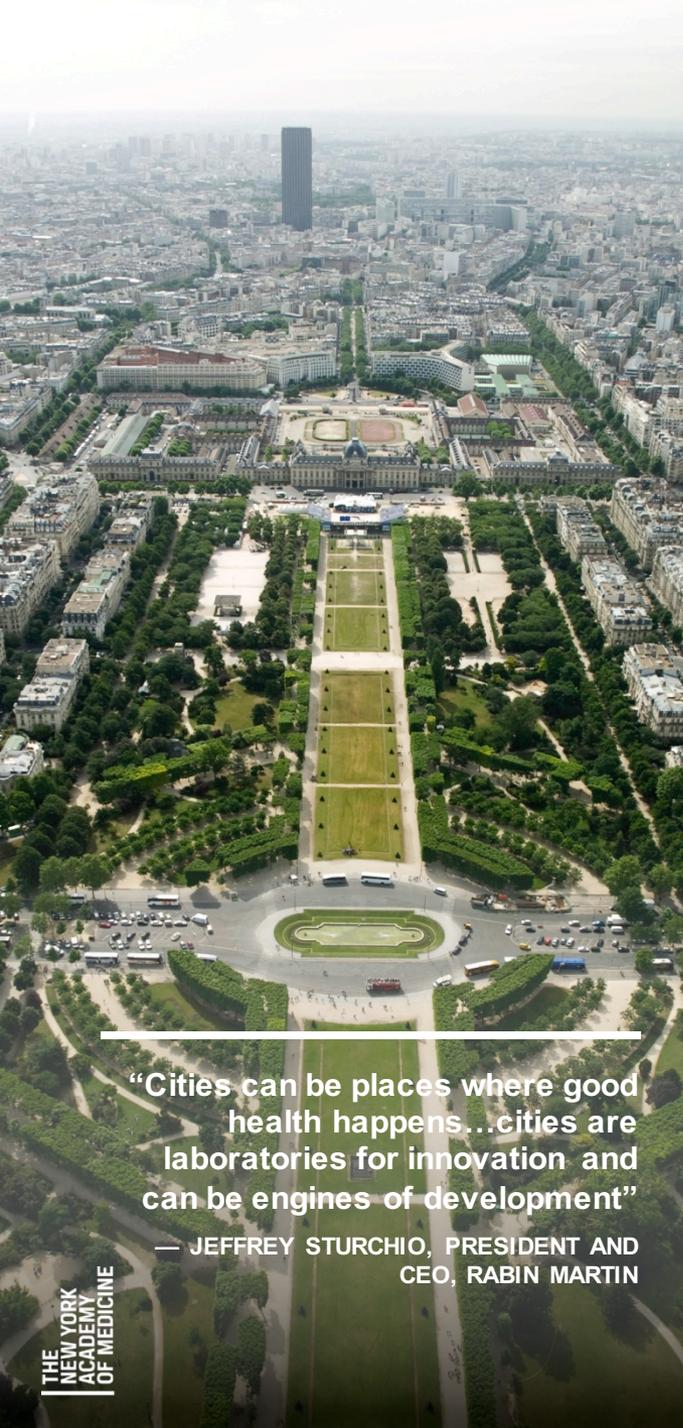
### Improve

*cross-sector collaboration to solve urban health challenges*

### Advocate

*for implementation of evidence-based policies, programs and governance that develop healthy and sustainable urban environments and eliminate health inequities*





“Cities can be places where good health happens...cities are laboratories for innovation and can be engines of development”

— JEFFREY STURCHIO, PRESIDENT AND CEO, RABIN MARTIN

## OUR APPROACH

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# How we improve urban health

As global trends like population ageing and urbanization underscore the importance of urban health, the role of ISUH will only become more significant as the pre-eminent global organization exclusively focused on urban health and health inequities.

### Innovator

Translate the science behind urban health promotion into practice, policy, and advocacy to improve urban health

### Incubator

Promote urban centers as platforms to test and scale evidence-based interventions that improve urban health and reduce health inequities

### Convener

Deepen cross-sector collaboration at multilateral, national and city levels to promote research, policies, and programs addressing the broad determinants of health and health inequities



## UNIQUE VALUE PROPOSITION

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# What makes us different

ISUH is the only global professional organization in the world that focuses exclusively on the broad determinants of urban health. ISUH understands that the health challenges and opportunities in urban environments are complex. They require interdisciplinary collaboration among researchers, educators, policy makers, practitioners, community leaders, and urban health advocates in sectors such as urban planning, architecture, transportation, housing, and environmental health.



## UNIQUE VALUE PROPOSITION

# What we can do for you



### Network

with thousands of key thought and action leaders concerned about urban health



### Build

strategic partnerships to drive evidence-based action, inform policy change, and solve urban health challenges



### Share

innovative practices and learning to achieve healthy and sustainable urban environments

# Cities are taking leadership in health and development

Cities are the focal point for improving health across national borders more than ever before; sharing ideas, forming coalitions, and challenging their national governments to improve urban health worldwide.



## UN COMPACT FOR MAYORS

Over 200 world leaders, representing more than 270 million people committed to taking a transparent and supportive approach to reduce urban green house gas emissions and enhance resilience to climate change.

## C40

The C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group is a network of more than 80 of the world's cities committed to addressing climate change. C40 offers cities an effective forum where they can collaborate, share knowledge and drive meaningful, measurable and sustainable action on climate change.

## AGE-FRIENDLY CITIES

This project was conceived in June 2005 and further developed by the WHO. The WHO worked with 33 cities in WHO regions to create the Age-Friendly Cities guide. The WHO defines an age-friendly city as one that adapts its structures and services to be accessible to and inclusive of older people with varying needs and capacities.

## LEADING EXPERTS

# Underscoring the importance of urban health



“If plans for the built environment (e.g., housing, land use, transport) include consideration of health impact, cities can facilitate healthy choices of food, exercise, and social engagement, as well as maximize resilience of its residents”

**JO IVEY BOUFFORD,**  
PRESIDENT,  
NEW YORK ACADEMY  
OF MEDICINE



“Well managed cities can be engines of development for national economies, hubs for technological innovation and centers of positive social progress including advancing education, empowerment of women and child survival, and development.”

**SHAMIM TALUKDER,**  
PRESIDENT, ISUH



“In developing countries, the best urban governance can help produce 75 years or more of life expectancy. With poor urban governance, life expectancy can be as low as 35 years.”

**MARGARET CHAN,**  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL,  
WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



“At current rates of urbanization it is predicted that more than two-thirds of us will be living in cities in the next forty years while the world’s population continues to grow rapidly. To ignore these trends is to be constantly playing catch up with our city service provision and to miss vital opportunities to create a different vision of our Urban Future”

**JOAN CLOS, EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR,  
UN HABITAT**



“A central government’s support and encouragement for cities to transform themselves into being cleaner and more livable can bring huge rewards. Rapidly growing cities can implement urban planning that drives new development towards safe locations and in their transport planning, improve resilience and achieve competitiveness at the same time.”

**JIM KIM, PRESIDENT,  
WORLD BANK**

# LEADING EXPERTS



“Today, 800 million people live in informal settlements. The future urban agenda will need to find solutions to enable universal access to basic services for this population, to prevent this rapid urbanization process increasing segregation and inequality.”

**JOSEP ROIG,**  
SECRETARY GENERAL,  
UNITED CITIES AND  
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS



“Communities and neighborhoods that ensure access to basic goods, that are socially cohesive, that are designed to promote good physical and psychological well-being, and that are protective of the natural environment, are essential for health equity.”

**SIR MICHAEL MARMOT,**  
DIRECTOR OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL  
INSTITUTE FOR  
SOCIETY AND HEALTH



“What is happening in slums will determine health indicators in urban areas and nationally. Understanding and addressing the drivers of poor health outcomes in slums is an opportunity to start dealing with urban health.”

**ALEX EZEH,**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
AFRICAN POPULATION  
HEALTH AND  
RESEARCH CENTRE



“Well-designed transport systems can greatly reduce poverty and promote social inclusion by ensuring access to jobs, goods and services. Clean transport will improve the health of billions of urban residents and provide cost effective ways to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions while supporting the strong economic growth that Africa is currently experiencing.”

**MARC JUHEL, MANAGER,**  
TRANSPORT,  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
WORLD BANK



“Before we know what the ideal transport is, we have to work out what city we want. But in order to know what kind of a city we want, we have to know how we want to live because a city is really a means to a way of life. The least that a democratic society should have is public pedestrian space of great quality. Sidewalks, pedestrian streets, plazas, sports facilities, parks, even public transport, public libraries could be considered as public space as well.”

**ENRIQUE PENALOSA,**  
FORMER MAYOR,  
BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

## ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

# International Conference of Urban Health (ICUH)

**2004**

Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts  
*The Global Urban Health Agenda: Setting Priorities and Building Infrastructure*

**2006**

Municipal Health Service of Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
*Population mobility and its effect on urban health*

**2008**

University of British Columbia: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada  
*Knowledge Integration: Successful Interventions in Urban Health*

**2010**

The New York Academy of Medicine, New York, New York  
*Good Governance for Healthy Cities*

**2013**

University of Paris West, Paris, France  
*Health and Space*

**2015**

Eminence Associates for Social Development and the Bangladesh Urban Health Network, Dhaka, Bangladesh  
*Urban Health for a Sustainable Future: The Post 2015 Agenda*

**2005**

Centre for Research on Inner City Health, St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, Ontario  
*Achieving Social Justice in Urban Communities*

**2007**

The Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland  
*Harnessing the Power of Technology to Achieve Behavior Change and Improve Health*

**2009**

The African Population and Health Research Center, and the Government of Kenya, Nairobi, Kenya  
*Meeting Urban Health Needs through Innovative Research, Policies and Interventions*

**2011**

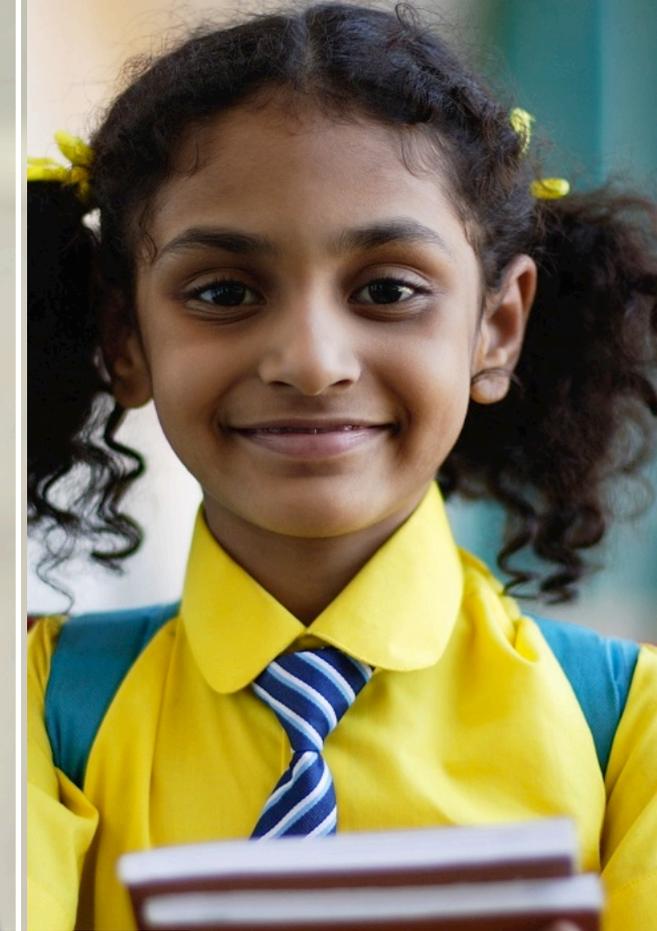
The School of Medicine of the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil  
*Urban Health Action Towards Equity*

**2014**

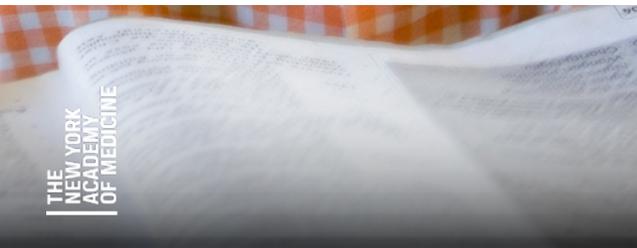
The University of Manchester, Manchester, England  
*Crossing Boundaries: Partnerships for Global Urban Health*

**2016**

The International Society on Urban Health and the Association of American Geographers, San Francisco, California, *Place and Health*



Thank you for supporting ISUH and for making cities healthier worldwide.



# Key ISUH/ICUH Global Collaborators

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