

GENEVA FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

WHO Collaborating Centre in Education and Research in Human Reproduction



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

www.gfmer.ch

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Preface by the director

The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) is a non-profit organisation established in 2002. It is supported by the Republic and Canton of Geneva and the City of Geneva and works in close collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO). GFMER is a WHO Collaborating Centre in Education and Research in Human Reproduction.

In 2014 the foundation and its partners launched for the fifth consecutive year, the distance training / online course on sexual and reproductive health research: a total of 221 health professionals from 55 countries attended the training program.

GFMER continues its active partnership with the UNFPA/WHO 'Campaign to end fistula'. The aim has been to create a 'Centre of Excellence for the prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula' in Northern Benin, which would serve other countries in the region under the name of "Tanguieta Model". During 2014 several missions were conducted to different African countries, where Prof. Charles-Henry Rochat, the overall responsible of fistula project with his team of specialists, operated a total of 153 fistula cases in different countries. Moreover local doctors were trained on the management of obstetric fistula.

The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) in collaboration with the Oxford Maternal and Perinatal Health Institute (OMPHI) offered a training on Evidence-based Management of Pre-eclampsia and Eclampsia, developed by the University of Oxford. Another training package on Post Partum Haemorrhage (PPH) has been developed. Since their launch these modules were offered to 3409 health professionals from 99 countries.

GFMER has built a strong partnership with governmental and non-governmental organizations and universities for the exchange of information and expertise at international level. The website of the foundation knows an enormous success, as it has attracted 2645860 visitors from 230 countries in 2014.

We believe our efforts to assist the countries and programs give us the opportunity to contribute in improving the reproductive and sexual health status of the populations in need.

Finally I would like to thank the Republic and Canton of Geneva, The City of Geneva, World Health organization and other institutions, for their financial and technical supports, which ensured the successful implementation of our projects and programs.



Prof. Aldo Campana
The Director

Mission

The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) is a non-profit organization, cosponsored by the Republic and Canton of Geneva, the Department of Social Affairs of the City of Geneva and works in close collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO). It aims at mobilizing resources, both technical and financial, from the public and private sectors. GFMER is a WHO Collaborating Centre in Education and Research in Human Reproduction.

The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research has a mandate to address challenges, such as:

- The conduct of training programmes in Geneva, covering research methodology, epidemiology, reproductive and sexual health, and other medical areas.
- The dissemination of the Geneva training courses in other countries.
- The initiation and provision of support for researchers to plan, conduct and publish their scientific work.
- The dissemination of medical information on Internet.
- The development of clinical guidelines for use in clinical training programmes.
- The collaboration with the UNFPA/WHO program to end obstetric fistula.

The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research capitalizes on many years of experience and activities of the WHO Collaborating Centre in Human Reproduction, Geneva.

As WHO Collaborating Centre in Education and Research in Human Reproduction, the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research is involved in the following activities:

- To provide a postgraduate training in research methodology in Reproductive Health.
- To develop & conduct research & research synthesis activities.
- To assist partner institutions in the conduct of postgraduate medical education programs.
- To collaborate with WHO on e-learning activities as well as on the conduct of short postgraduate courses in epidemiology.
- To provide expertise to WHO or to centers of WHO's network requesting collaboration in research, research training or clinical aspects in human reproduction.

GFMER main fields of activities

Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research 2014

<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2014/index.htm>

Since 2003 the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER), in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partner institutions, has organized a training course on sexual and reproductive health research. The course focuses on research methodology and attracts participation of health professionals from different countries and particularly from developing countries. Through the pool of participants, GFMER has managed to disseminate the course in different countries including Afghanistan, Argentina, Cameroon, China, Indonesia, Laos and Romania.

In order to reach more health professionals, in 2010 GFMER in collaboration with WHO and other partners launched the online course on sexual and reproductive health research. "From Research to Practice: Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research" that offers a training package specially developed for those health professionals involved in research, whose access to learning is limited by time, financial resources or other constraints and for whom access to quality education and learning is limited. The program is designed to meet a wide range of contemporary issues in sexual and reproductive health, especially in developing countries. It helps students to better identify the problems related to reproductive and sexual health, it helps to improve the skills of caregivers, and it promotes good practices.

In 2014, the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) successfully implemented the fifth edition of its online training course, with more experience gained from the 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 editions.

This course is part of the WHO policy for increasing human resources in the field of sexual and reproductive health, particularly in developing countries. GFMER, as a WHO collaborating center, is mandated to organize the course.

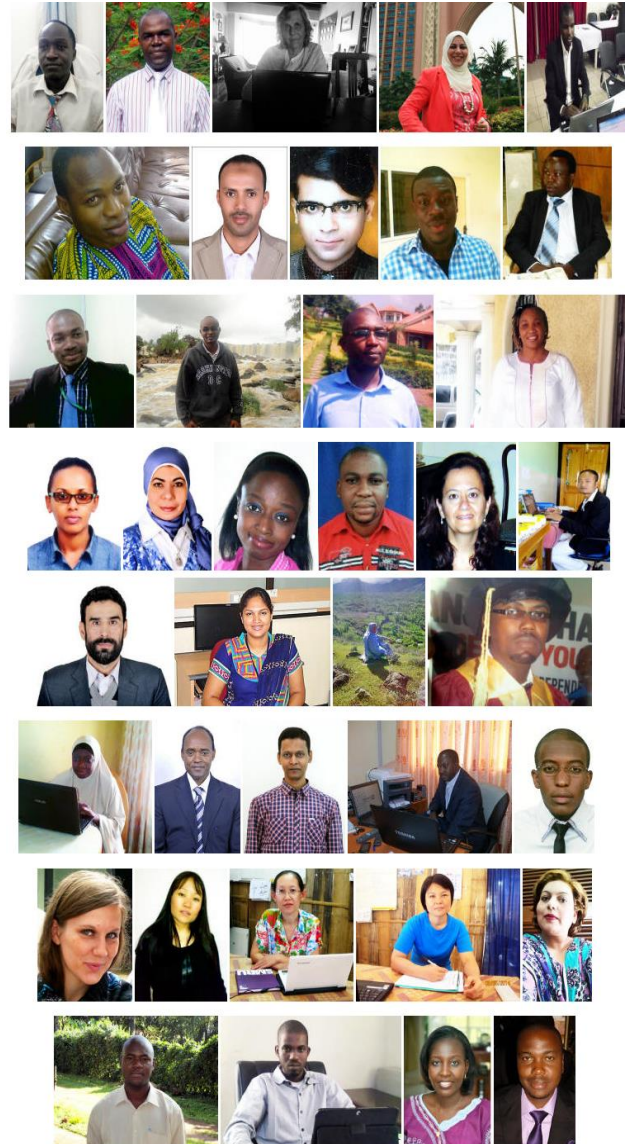
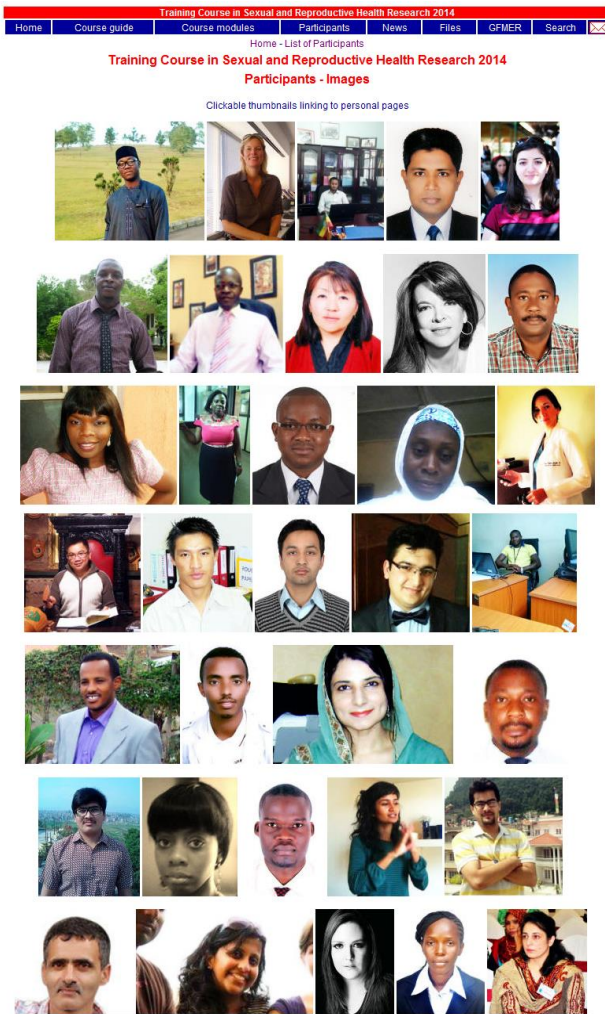
Objectives

The objectives of this course are the following:

1. Provide appropriate training adapted to the needs of health professionals in different countries, notably developing countries.
2. Help reduce morbidity and mortality in women of reproductive age and newborns through the development of human resource capacity.
3. Contribute to a better sharing of expertise between health professionals, local and international institutions, especially in developing countries.
4. Organize a continued learning project in the field of sexual and reproductive health intended for developing countries and economies in transition.
5. Provide to training and quality learning for a total of 450 (150 each year) health professionals.
6. Create a network between health professionals from different backgrounds, institutions, and research, for the exchange of knowledge and information.
7. Engage students in research work in an area related to health programs in their home country.

Course participants

<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2014/participants/participants-images/participants-images.htm>







The majority of students in our course are healthcare providers involved in the area of reproductive and sexual health and which access to healthcare is limited by time and/or financial resources. This course is not only offered to doctors, but also to midwives, nurses, health educators, social workers, and reproductive and sexual health program managers.

A total of 221 health professionals from 55 countries were registered in the online training course in 2014. The majority of them were from developing countries. Of these 221 participants, 155 successfully finished the course, with a success rate of 70.1%.

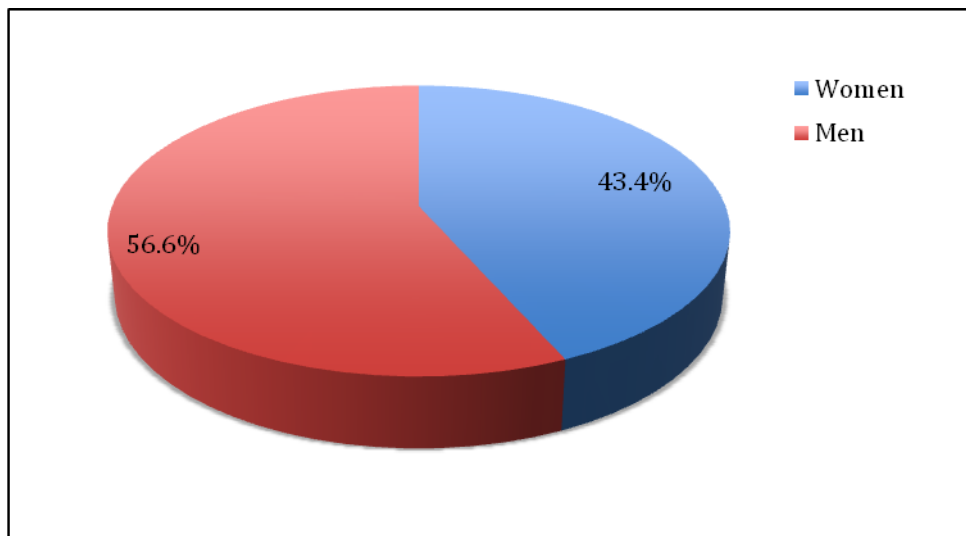
The tables below show the characteristics of the participants of this course, including age, gender, profession, and country of origin.

Table 1: Age of participants

Age Group	Number	%
20-29	33	14.9%
30-39	107	48.4%
40-49	65	29.4%
50-59	16	7.2%
Total	221	100%

The majority of participants (85%) are in the age group from 30 to 59 years of age, that is to say this age group is very active, where the care providers have professional or familial obligations and for whom this course is likely to have the most impact. In fact thanks to their flexibility and ease in updating, it offers a good opportunity to access continuing training in the field of care.

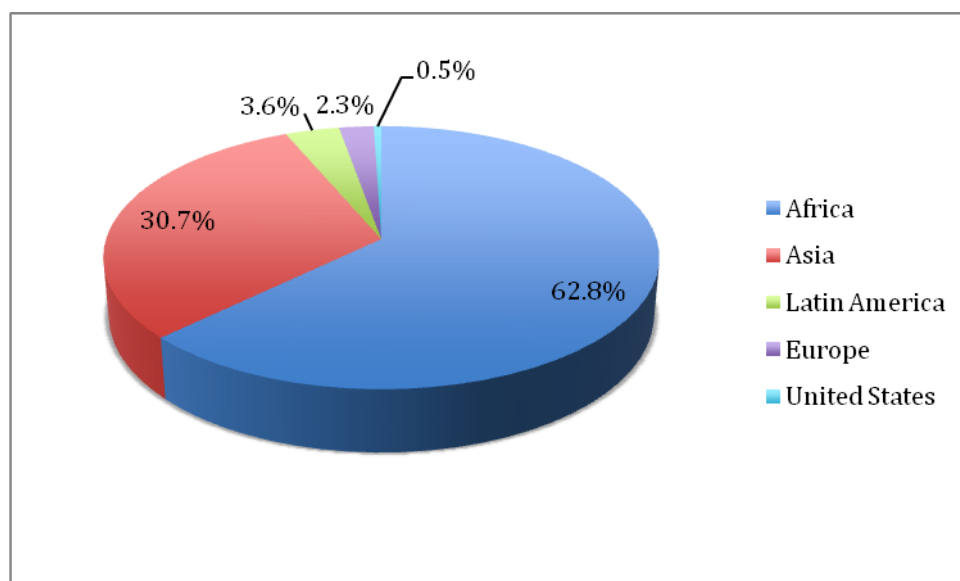
Graph 1: Sex of students



As indicated by the graph above, we observe a good representation of women who make up 43.4% of participants.

This course addresses mainly healthcare professionals in developing countries. As graph two indicates, healthcare professionals from Africa make up the majority of members (62.8%), followed by Asia (30.7%), Europe, Australia, United States (2.8%) and Latin America (3.6%).

Graph 2: Geographic distribution of students



The ten most represented countries are those experiencing the highest maternal and newborn mortality rates.

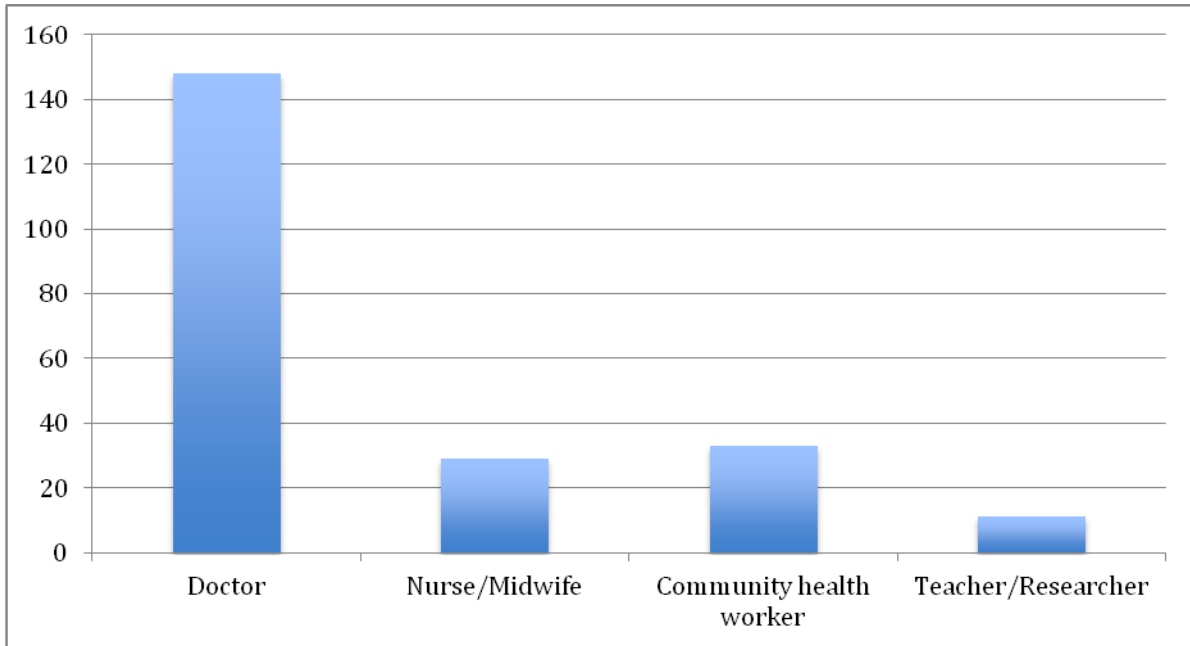
Table 2: Top 10 country participants

Countries	Total
Nigeria	46
Ethiopia	22
Uganda	13
Pakistan	12
Afghanistan	11
Kenya	11
Soudan	9
Burkina Faso	8
Bhutan	6
Nepal	6
Others	77
Total	221

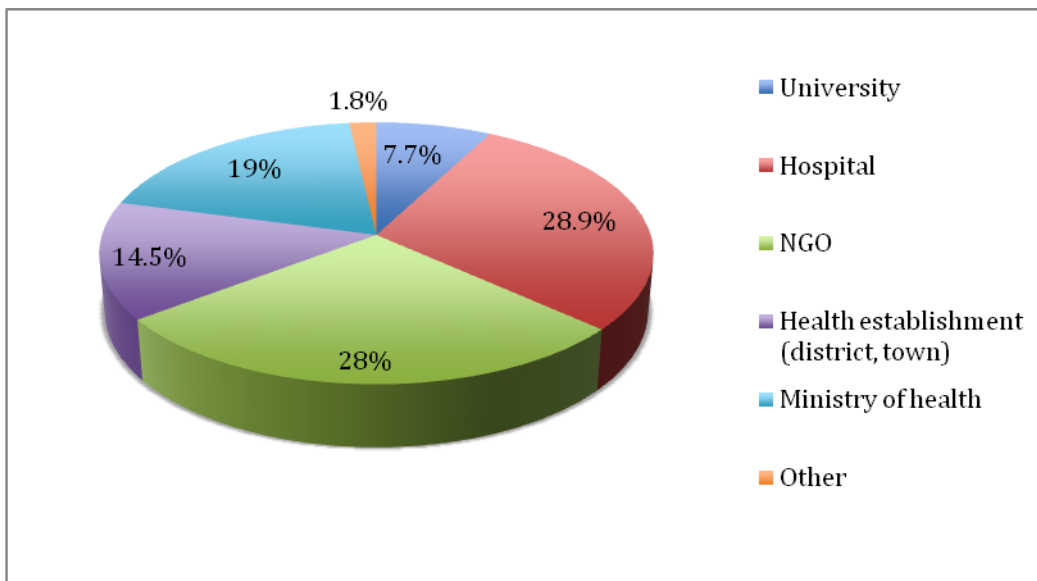
As mentioned above, this course was offered not only to doctors but also to midwives, nurses, community health workers, teachers, and researchers.

The following graph shows the proportions between these professions.

Graph 3: Student professions



Graph 4: Student employers



Recruitment of students

- Publicity for the course and local contact coordinators in the countries and regions.
- Publicity for the course on the foundation site and partner sites.
- Mobilization of the foundation and WHO networks. These include local and international NGO's, WHO collaborating centers at the country level, health ministries, and universities.

Selection of students

This course is a post-graduate/continued learning course for health professionals with a diploma involved in the field of sexual and reproductive health. The criteria for selection is the following:

- A degree in a relevant discipline of health sciences, natural sciences, or social and economic sciences.
- Involved in the domain of sexual and reproductive health.
- Preference is given to healthcare providers who work for health establishments at the district level, a NGO, or the ministry of health.
- The foundation favours the participation of woman.

It is noted that the foundation has established partnerships with NGO's, health ministries, and universities in different countries. Certain entities include this course in their human resource development programs. Moreover, each year, a number of participants find the information on their own when consulting the foundation site or on partner sites.

The application must contain the following elements:

- A CV
- A letter of motivation indicating clearly their interests and goals for the course
- An official certificate confirming mastery of the English language
- Two letters of reference in which one is written by the current employer of the candidate

Based on the application form and documents provided by the candidates, we make our pre-selection. We communicate the list of candidates to the country coordinators who we ask to contact the candidates by phone, email, or skype. When possible, we try – via our coordinators - to meet on site. For countries where we don't have local coordinators, we ask other coordinators in nearby regions to assume contact. For example, for South Sudan, we call our coordinator in Sudan. If necessary our Geneva team contacts the candidates or their employers.

After selecting a candidate, we ask them to prepare a short biography with their photo. We create a personal page for each student on our website, which contains not only the candidate's information but also (when it is possible) a link to the site of their employer.


Example of a personal page

<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2014/participants/Deborah-Mutai.htm>

Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research 2014							
Home	Course guide	Course modules	Participants	News	Files	GFMER	Search

Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research 2014 - List of participants

Deborah Mutai
International Aid Services, South Sudan



Deborah Mutai, Clinical Officer
Field Based Program Manager, International Aid Services, South Sudan
deborah.mutai@ias-intl.org

Deborah Mutai graduated from the Kenya Medical Training College in 2006 thereafter did her internship at Tenwek Mission Hospital before proceeding to South Sudan where she worked as a clinical officer with Safe Harbor International Relief in a Primary Health Care Center.

She is currently working with International Aid service still in South Sudan in the same position providing essential health services in a rural community and in addition to training Community Health Workers to provide basic health care services. She is married and blessed with one child enjoys working in marginalized areas with an aim of helping people living in those areas.

Links

- [International Aid Services \(IAS\)](#)

Course Contents

The content of this course is based on recommendations by WHO, so that other global institutions can recognize it. It is also enhanced by field experience from our teachers with a wide range of experience in the field of sexual and reproductive health. It is based on groundwork, especially in developing countries, and proposing pragmatic solutions. We provide reference materials for our students and encourage them to use it in their professional practice (prevention, treatment, training).

Based on past experience, for the 2014 course, the foundation and its partners decided together on 6 modules.

These modules are:

- Maternal and Perinatal Health
- Sexually Transmitted Infections & HIV/AIDS

- Family Planning
- Sexual Health with a special focus on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Community Genetics
- Sexual and Reproductive rights

A core module on research methods and selective lectures on gender issues, female genital mutilation and other topics related to sexual and reproductive health supplement the six modules. Regularly updated, the contents of each module is based on the reality of health care in developing countries and addresses current problems and challenges in the field of sexual and reproductive health research.

For example:

- Diseases and conditions which are principle causes of maternal mortality, the role of maternal and neonatal health services, the determinants and standards of maternal health, current challenges in the field of maternal and neonatal health.
- The prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS, the management of these diseases, the role of the health system and healthcare providers.
- The methods of contraception, problems and barriers, challenges of family planning.
- Adolescent sexual and reproductive health, pregnancy among teenagers, HIV/AIDS, sexual education and the challenges for health services to respond to the needs of adolescents.

For more information on the contents of each module see the following link:

<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2014/Course-modules.htm>

Each module is run by a module coordinator. The coordinator decides the content and schedule of the module and designates its contributors. The module coordinators are experts or scientists from WHO and/or various universities who possess important professional networks at the international level.

Since 2013, the foundation – in collaboration with coordinators in different countries, (as well as with the help of past and current participants and that of partner organizations from different countries) - has integrated into the program human rights in reproductive and sexual health. The principal idea is to raise awareness among healthcare providers of human rights, particularly sexual and reproductive health rights because there is a close link between health and compliance/non-compliance of fundamental human rights. The objective is to give them the tools to apply the principles of human rights in their professional practice, so as to engage in the defence of the rights of users of the health system, of which they are responsible. We are happy with the participant interest in this course.

Along with this training module, we created a website powered by healthcare professionals, as well as legal experts. The goal is to create a source to distribute the information in a clear and simple language in the field of sexual and reproductive health rights.

The GFMER website concerning rights related to sexuality and reproduction provides:

- A regularly updated summary of national legislation concerning the main areas of sexual and reproductive health.
- A selection of publications providing a history of jurisprudence of the different changes in legislation at the national and international level.
- A selection of publications discussing important and pertinent ethical questions in regards to sexual and reproductive health

- Case studies on alterations of social behavior resulting in changes in regards to rights in sexual and reproductive health.

The themes concerned with rights linked to sexuality and reproduction that are examined include:

- Female genital mutilation (FGM)
- The right to abortion
- The right to family planning
- The legal aspects of the mistreatment of children
- The legal aspects in regards to violence against women
- The legal aspects of HIV/AIDS
- The legal aspects of sterilization
- The rights of newborns
- The rights of sexual minorities

Teachers, partner institutions

<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2014/teachers.htm>















The speakers, lecturers, and course facilitators are highly trained professionals from WHO, universities, and specialized institutions. They have a wide range of knowledge and experience in the field of sexual and reproductive health, especially in developing countries.

In 2014, a total of 41 teachers from WHO, GFMER as well as other national and international institutions were involved in teaching and tutorship for the online training course.

The contribution of teachers is voluntary, but collaborating with world-class training is perfectly in line with WHO policy, which considers as a priority the development of human resources especially in developing countries. The GFMER training program is a good example of partnership and exchange of expertise between WHO and its centre collaborators. It helps to give a significant visibility to WHO headquartered in Geneva, and promotes an international Geneva. It also gives a significant visibility to teachers and lecturers.

Course Coordinators at country level

<http://www.gfmer.ch/country-coordinators/GFMER-country-coordinators.htm>

Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research 2014							
Home	Course guide	Course modules	Participants	News	Files	GFMER	Search
GFMER Geneva Team							
GFMER Country Coordinators							
							
Afghanistan - Homa Kabiri	Bhutan - Sonam Wangdi	Bolivia - Carlos Encinas	Brazil - Adriana Gomes Luz				
							
Brazil - Rodolfo Pacagnella	Burkina Faso - Bruno Ki	Cameroon - Gregory Edie Halle-Ekane	Ecuador - Diana Encalada Soto				
							
Egypt - Mahmoud Ahmed Mahmoud Abdel-Aleem	Ethiopia - Mengistu Asnake Kibret	India - Troy Cunningham	Iran - Shayesteh Hajizadeh				
							
Kenya - Ameyo Bonventure Masakhwe	Macedonia - Gabriela Tavchioska	MENA Region - Amr Awad	Mexico - Atziri Ramirez-Negrin				

In 2014 the GFMER appointed a total of 23 coordinators in Afghanistan, Bhutan, Brazil, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Ecuador, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Iran, Sudan, Mongolia, Turkey, Uganda, Mexico, Egypt, Mozambique, Macedonia, Nepal, Kenya, and North Africa. For 2014 the Foundation is planning to expand country coordination to Bolivia, Ecuador, Burkina Faso and Angola.

The main tasks of country coordinators consist of:

- Student coaching at local level, i.e., helping the students to access the teaching material and learning methods. As the majority of student's paper works (assignments and research

protocol) are based on the analysis of local situations in regards to sexual and reproductive health problems, the local coordinators can offer the appropriate assistance to the students.

- Ensure communication with the course organizers and students.
- Advertise the course to various local training and research institutions.
- Recruit eligible candidates for the course.
- Create a network between students from the same country.
- Organize if possible some meetings with students from the same country.
- Identify potential sponsors to provide scholarships for students. It is worth mentioning that the majority of institutions allocate funds for their human resource capacity building programs. This online course is advantageous for health professionals especially those from developing countries, where access to a quality education is limited by time, financial resource or both.

Teaching methods

<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2014/pdf/Course-guide-2014.pdf>

Teaching methods consist of on-line lectures (recorded, didactic presentations), key readings, reading materials, additional references and referrals to related websites. Compared to other courses, the Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research is extremely rich in terms of documentation and published teaching resources.

For each module participants receive assignments. At the end of each module, they must respond to a series of multiple-choice questions. For their assignments, the students receive very precise instructions. We have created a module for assignments. Before writing the assignment, the student is asked to follow the course, read the reference documents that we put at their disposal, and write their text according to the given instruction. We have also created an evaluation grid of personal work. Tutors and coordinators revise the assignments. The goal is to help students deal with problems of sexual and reproductive health in their respective countries, using what they learn in our course and preparing their work with respect to academic and scientific standards.

In terms of documentation and published educational resources, this course is one of the richest in the world. It contains the most reference documents (guidelines), continuously updated in the field of sexual and reproductive health. These help participants to become more familiar with scientific reading and writing and use the knowledge acquired in the training course in their day-to-day professional practice. A personal coach is assigned to each participant. Coaches are GFMER country coordinators, who facilitate the learning process to the participants. As the majority of students' paper works (assignments and research protocol) are based on the analysis of local situations in regards to sexual and reproductive health problems, the assistance by country coordinators is really helpful.

The participation of a student is measured by the submission of assignments in the time imparted and their response to the MCQ. Once their work is completed, reviewed, and accepted for a given module, the student is credited with a number of hours (8 hours per week), regardless of the actual time it took to complete the work.

To ensure good proceedings of the course, different mechanisms of communication and interaction (Facebook, Google Group, Skype, Twitter) are used. These tools favour interaction between participants and teachers, and allow for the creation of a rich network of exchange between health professionals. The diversity within the community of students and the establishment of communication tools has furnished an excellent means of learning and of sharing experiences between students from different countries.

The contents of our course has free access and is used as an important source of information for professionals who are involved in the domain of sexual and reproductive health (only registered students benefit from a regular monitoring and obtaining a certificate).

The Foundation website is one of the most visited in the field of reproductive and sexual health. In 2014, the number of visitors increased to 2,645,860 and came from 230 countries. This signifies that the beneficiaries of our course are still numerous and come from almost every country in the world. See the following link for the statistics of the website:

http://www.gfmer.ch/Usage_statistics/pdf/GFMER-visitors-2014.pdf

GFMER has created an online community for the training course in order to improve communication with and between participants and provide access to academic and administrative support. The diversity among participants and the network facilitated by GFMER provide an opportunity to learn from and share experiences with peers from

Final evaluation

At the end of the course, participants of the Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research receive a certificate if they meet the following conditions:

Participants are required to have completed the assignments for the various course modules.

Participants must write either a bibliographic review on a topic relevant to their practice or a research paper, under the guidance of a tutor in the domain of sexual and reproductive health.

Throughout the training course, participants are supervised by country coordinators, coordinators of the modules, teachers and tutors.

In 2014, 155 participants in the course were eligible for the certificate. This represents 70.1% of students enrolled in the 2014 course.

Our course is a post-grad/continued education (academic/university) and not pre-grad. Contrary to a certificate of diploma for pre-grad which is granted by a faculty/university, a certificate post-grad or continued learning is granted by different institutions. The foundation, as a collaboration center of WHO, received the authorization from WHO to organize this learning course (e-learning) and in this context, grant education certification to the participants of the course.

Workshop in Geneva

<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2012/Geneva-Workshop/Geneva-Workshop-Evaluation-Report-2012.html>



Of all participants of the 2013 edition of online training course, 14 were invited to attend a workshop from 15 to 19 September 2014 at WHO headquarters in Geneva. The objectives of this intensive training course were to sharpen participants' skills in research protocol development and improve their research skills.

The participants of the workshop were selected on the basis of their online course performance, completion and quality of the assignments and the quality of their review or paper. The strict selection ensured that those attending the workshop in Geneva were the most motivated participants of the online training course. The Geneva workshop provided participants with additional opportunities to interact with each other and share their experiences while improving their professional skills.

The participants attended an intensive course in “evidence-based approach” in the management of sexual health and reproduction. Moreover, each participant had the opportunity to work directly with an expert/tutor from WHO, GFMER, or other partners in order to produce a quality project that meets a standard norm.

Then the participants presented their projects to a group of experts. GFMER also helped the participants to make contact with potential sponsors in order to explore possible financing for their projects. See the following link for details on this event:

<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2013/Geneva-Workshop/>



Following students after the course

Each participant of our course becomes a member of our foundation and continues contact with them. The foundation created a personal page on its site for each student and each member. This page is also used as a virtual business card for the members and participants.

All the changes in the professional lives of our members as well as former students are communicated to us in order to update their personal page and record positive changes in the professional lives of former students. Monitoring and maintaining contact with them and between them proves to be very useful. Today the foundation has available an international network of healthcare providers on the ground in direct contact with their community. It is thanks to this network that we have established collaborations with Harvard University and Oxford, and more recently with the Service of Gynecology at the University Hospital of Geneva. These institutions collaborate with the Foundation to develop training tools for healthcare providers at the community level. The network that the foundation runs facilitates the dissemination of these tools. This allows us also to establish contacts with NGO's, ministries of health or other institutions in a number of countries.

Picture of the week

<http://www.gfmer.ch/gfmervoices/pictureoftheweek.htm>

We have created a section entitled "picture of the week". Each week, we publish the photo of a student showing their professional activities in a treatment facility, in a refugee camp, on site, in class, etc. This initiative has proved to be very gratifying for our students. It emphasizes the importance of distance training for health professionals, which access to training is sometimes limited. It also shows the application of knowledge acquired by our students in their professional practice.





Sexual and reproductive rights

<http://www.gfmer.ch/srr/index.htm>

In order to achieve sexual and reproductive health, people need to know their sexual and reproductive rights. The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) therefore sees a close relationship between sexual and reproductive health on the one hand and the legal and political system on the other. For these reasons the Foundation created a dedicated website on Sexual and Reproductive Rights. Since its establishment in 2002 GFMER has exchanged sexual reproductive health expertise with governmental and non-governmental organizations all over the world. GFMER has become a resource centre for training and research in human sexuality and reproduction, creating a vast network of health professionals in developing and developed countries.

With this website GFMER seeks to contribute to a meaningful inclusion of human rights in sexual and reproductive health issues.

Content of the sexual and reproductive right website:

- Introductions to major sexual and reproductive rights topics.
- Regularly updated summaries of national legislations for the major areas of sexual and reproductive health.
- Selected publications on (changes in) legislation and ethical issues in sexual and reproductive health.

Clinical training, prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula



Charles-Henry Rochat

<http://www.gfmer.ch/fistula/index.htm>

GFMER is a partner in the UNFPA/WHO campaign to end fistula. The aim of GFMER participation in this campaign is to create a “Centre of Excellence for the prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula” in Tanguieta (Northern Benin), which would serve as a model to other countries in the region.

Objectives

- To train local specialists in fistula repair.
- To raise awareness about prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula.
- To develop research on obstetric fistula.

In 2014 Professor Charles-Henry Rochat, responsible for the fistula project, together with a group of specialists and local medical doctors conducted missions in several African countries where fistula cases were operated. In addition, Prof. Rochat and his team (composed of specialists from Switzerland, France, USA, Cameroun and Madagascar) organized conferences and workshops on diagnosis, treatment and follow up of fistula cases and advocated for a multidisciplinary approach for care of women suffering from obstetric fistula. The table below shows the number of fistula patients operated in several countries.

Hospital	Country	No of fistula cases operated
Hôpital St-Jean de Dieu de Tanguiéta	Benin	129
Hôpital Central de Yaoundé	Cameroun	24
Hôpital de Kissidougou, Hôpital Labé, Hôpital Kankan et centre Jean Paul II Conakry	Conakry Guinée	Mission was postponed due to Ebola
Total		153



In 2014 Prof. Charles Henry-Rochat, who became an Officer of the National Order of Benin, received a medal of distinction from the president of the republic and grand master of the National Order, Dr. Boni Yayi.



In addition to the provision of training to local doctors and surgical care to fistula patients the following activities have been started in 2012 and continued throughout 2014:

- Provision of scholarships to doctors from Benin, Madagascar and Cameroun, who are involved in the provision of care to fistula patients.
- Active contribution in the mobilisation and prevention of obstetric fistula.
- Financial support to patients' hospitalisation.
- Provision of surgical equipment and materials.
- Provision of financial support for the construction of building for fistula patients' consultation.
- Dissemination of "Tanguiéta Model "for obstetric fistula repair.

Presentations and Conferences

July 11-30, 2014

“Care delivery and Training on Obstetrical and non-obstetrical Fistula” Manarkara Regional Hospital, Madagascar. Dr. PM Tebeu

October 28-31, 2014

The Fifth Convention of the International Society of Obstetric Fistula Surgeons in Kampala, Uganda. Professor Prince Hounasso and Dr. Dieudonné Zaongo

November 19-22, 2014

108th French Urology Convention

Palais des Congrès in Paris, France

Supporting institutions

The GFMER obstetric fistula program is supported by the City of Geneva, the communes of Thônex, Chêne-Bougeries and Collange-Bellerive, Bank Pictet & Cie, Amber Foundation, Rumsey & Cartier Foundation, Global Foundation for Life Sciences, Comité Philanthropique de la famille Firmenich and private donors.

The GFMER is grateful to the valuable technical support of with the technical support of UNFPA and MSF Suisse.

Publications

Tebeu P-M, Maninzou SD, Takam D, Nguéfack-Tsague G, Fomulu JN, Rochat CH. Surgical outcome following treatment of obstetric vesicovaginal fistula among HIV-positive and HIV-negative patients in Cameroon. *Int J Gynaecol Obstet.* 2014 May;125(2):168-9.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijgo.2013.10.029>

Tebeu P-M, Touka EB, Mawamba Y, Tiyou C, Fomulu JN, Rochat CH. The pattern of non-obstetric fistula: A Cameroonian experience. *Asian Pacific Journal of Reproduction.* 2014 Sep;3(3):238-40.
[http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2305-0500\(14\)60032-4](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S2305-0500(14)60032-4)

Institutional Partnerships

GFMER global consultation on WHO infertility guidelines: Addressing evidence-based guidance on infertility diagnosis, management and treatment

Heads of project: Dr. Sheryl Vanderpoel and Professor Aldo Campana

<http://www.gfmer.ch/infertility/index.htm>



GFMER and WHO in partnership with American Society for Reproductive Health, The Walking Egg Foundation and Women Create life, developed global guidelines for infertility diagnosis, management and treatment and a related on-line training course focussing on male and female infertility in developing countries.

The participants of this course are health professionals, who hold a medically-related degree or degree certificate in gynaecology or obstetrics (or related field)/ and or andrology, with at least a minimal amount of experience in reproductive medicine and/or andrology. A total of 71 health professionals from 28 countries are enrolled in this virtual training course.

<http://www.gfmer.ch/infertility/participants.htm>

A WHO expert consultation was held, 16-17 January 2012, to scope the area of infertility, with an initial six areas prioritized for evidence review and establishment of global WHO Guidelines. Participants of this GFMER virtual course and consultation were asked to join the WHO process of Guideline development in these six prioritized areas of infertility. Participants have an opportunity to interact and become part of the global expert advisory GFMER team for WHO-RHR/HRP and its Expert Working Groups generating guidelines and manuals on infertility care and treatment.

This on-line infertility review first includes modules on the official WHO Guidelines development process, and then, through ASRM eLearning courses, the participants will have an opportunity, if

required, to review the evidence-base for the basic diagnosis of the infertile male and female, coupled with review of the evidence-base for management and interventions. As a critical assignment for this course, each participant will be asked to generate an article to be assessed for publication: to evaluate the current public and private health system delivery of infertility diagnosis, management and referral; as well as, identify current access and delivery gaps within their country or within a country of interest. Participants will represent the GFMER virtual consultation component of the WHO process of global Guideline development for the infertile male, female and couple.

GFMER collaborative activities with Oxford Maternal and Perinatal Health Institute and Harvard Maternal Health Taskforce.

<http://www.gfmer.ch/omphi/index.htm>

The Evidence-based management of pre-eclampsia and eclampsia training

<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2010/pre-eclampsia-University-of-Oxford/index.htm>

The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) in collaboration with the Oxford Maternal and Perinatal Health Institute (OMPHI) offers training on Evidence-based Management of Pre-eclampsia and Eclampsia, developed by the University of Oxford. The training course is accessible online in English and in Spanish. The training is divided in two modules: a basic training for second level health workers and an advanced module for doctors and trained midwives.

The Foundation continues the dissemination of this computer-based training module through its international network of health professionals.

OMPHI - Oxford Maternal & Perinatal Health Institute

Home Pre-eclampsia and eclampsia module Course de pré-eclampsie / eclampsia Files OMPHI GFMER

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Home
Basic Course
Advanced Course

EngenderHealth
for a better life

MACARTHUR
FOUNDATION

Spanish version
Versión en español
[La evidencia basada en el manejo de la Pre-eclampsia y Eclampsia - Universidad de Oxford](#)

The evidence-based management of Pre-eclampsia and Eclampsia
An interactive course for health professionals

Basic version for healthcare professionals who want to know/revise the fundamentals
Advanced version for doctors, midwives and nurses who want to know the evidence behind the recommendations

About the development of this course
The inspiration for the development of this course came from a meeting organised by the Oxford Health and the University of Oxford in 2007, attended by groups and individuals interested in improving maternal health globally. Subsequently, the University of Oxford offered to produce an e-learning module for the management of pre-eclampsia/eclampsia, with the goal of ensuring that lack of knowledge should never be a reason for suboptimal management of patients. The production of this course has been generously funded by the MacArthur Foundation through EngenderHealth, and developed by a group of healthcare professionals, led by Stephen Kennedy, Jose Villar and Catherine Murrey (from the Nuffield Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at the University of Oxford) between March 2009 and March 2010.

1. Langer A, et al. Reducing eclampsia related deaths - a call to action. *Lancet* 2008; 371: 703-6.

How to get the most from the course
Thank you for testing this course. We hope you enjoy it and find it useful. We suggest you work through the modules in order. Follow the instructions on the screen and click all the relevant links so you don't miss out on anything! In each module you will find key articles and documents if you click on the attachments icon at the bottom of the screen. If you have internet access, you can follow links to some relevant websites. However, these are not essential and you will get all the core information you need without internet access.

If you have completed both the basic and advanced levels and would like to take the knowledge assessment test, please click on the following link: <http://www.gfmer.ch/obgyn/verceclampsia/assess.htm>

All participants who correctly answer at least 15 of the 20 multiple choice questions are entitled to a course certificate jointly signed by the Nuffield Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at the University of Oxford and GFMER.

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The evidence-based management of postpartum haemorrhage

<http://www.gfmer.ch/omphi/pph/index.htm>

Experiences with online training courses for health care professionals working in the field of reproductive health, developed through the collaborative efforts of OMPHI and GFMER, have been very positive. The collaboration first resulted in the very successful computer-based training course 'The Evidence-based management of Eclampsia and Pre-eclampsia', which was developed by OMPHI and offered (in an English and Spanish version) to a total of 1000 health care professionals in different countries through the joint efforts of the GFMER and OMPHI. After the success of this training course, OMPHI and GFMER started working on an online training course on the evidence-based management of postpartum haemorrhage (PPH) in 2012. The target beneficiaries of this course are health care professionals worldwide with a special focus to those working in developing countries. Using the much-appraised structure of 'The Evidence-based management of Eclampsia and Pre-eclampsia' it was decided that the structure of the PPH course would have a modular basis.

Module 1 - What is Postpartum Haemorrhage (PPH)?

Module 2 - What are the risks for Postpartum Haemorrhage (PPH) and how can they be minimised?

Module 3 - How should Postpartum Haemorrhage (PPH) be managed?

Module 4 - How should a retained placenta be managed?

Module 5 - How should secondary Postpartum Haemorrhage be treated?

Module 6 - Postpartum Haemorrhage (PPH) risk management

The knowledge assessment testing is done through a multiple-choice questionnaire (MCQ). All participants who correctly answer at least 15 of the 20 multiple choice questions are entitled to a certificate jointly signed by GFMER and the Nuffield Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology of the University of Oxford.

Since the launch of these two modules, a total of 3,409 health professionals have completed the course (1,900 for the eclampsia module and 1,509 for the postpartum hemorrhage).

BetterCare Together

<http://www.gfmer.ch/bct/index.htm>

Formed in partnership with the Harvard University and Oxford, BetterCare Together (BCT) is an interactive website that offers maternal and newborn healthcare providers with a trustworthy source for up-to-date resources on the best maternal and newborn health evidence and a community of health professionals to discuss how best to apply them in practice. We believe that we can close the gap between evidence and practice by supporting providers to lead the conversation about how to do so. The goal is to create a platform for the exchange of knowledge and experiences between health professionals and healthcare institutions in different countries.

INTERGROWTH-21st

<http://www.gfmer.ch/omphi/intergrowth/index.htm>

The International Fetal and Newborn Growth Consortium for the 21st Century is a global multidisciplinary network of more than 300 researchers and clinicians from 27 institutions in 18 countries worldwide. We are dedicated to improving perinatal health globally and committed to reducing the millions of preventable newborn deaths that occur as a result of preterm birth or poor intrauterine growth.

In order to meet this goal, we need international growth standards to measure and improve maternal and newborn clinical care, and compare outcomes across populations. Such standards exist to monitor the growth of infants and children. They are the WHO Child Growth Standards and their release in 2006 was a landmark achievement. These scientifically based standards are now used worldwide.

However, the fetal and newborn counterpart has been missing, which led us to implement the INTERGROWTH-21st Project. Our aim was to extend the WHO Child Growth Standards into the fetal and neonatal period, providing tools for continuity of care from conception to 5 years of age.

The INTERGROWTH-21st Consortium implemented three population-based studies using standardized methods and clinical and research protocols. We gathered a rich body of data on health, growth and nutrition from pregnancy to early infancy from close to 60,000 women and newborns across five continents, making the INTERGROWTH-21st Project the largest collaborative venture in the field of perinatal health research to date.

The resulting data provide unique insights into growth and development for the 21st century. The findings also provide new ways of classifying preterm and small for gestational age newborns. In addition, we have produced a new international equation for estimating gestational age through ultrasound early in pregnancy based on the first international crown-rump length standards, and we have developed the resources necessary for enabling the adoption and scale-up of these tools at all levels of the health care system.

By improving the ability of clinicians to monitor growth and development, standardizing research methods, and providing maternal and newborn health program and policymakers with new, practical, international tools, we believe we can improve the health of women and newborns worldwide.

The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research has been designated as one of the principle partners for the dissemination and implementation of the INTERGROWTH-21st at a global level through its international network of health professionals and partner institutions.

Collaboration with the Gynecology Service at the University Hospital of Geneva

<http://www.gfmer.ch/vic/index.htm>

GFMER is partnered with the Gynecology Service at the University Hospital of Geneva for the development and dissemination of interactive module on the detection and treatment of cervical cancer. The module is the Comprehensive Visual Inspection of the Cervix with Acetic Acid (VIA) and Lugol's Iodine (VILI).

Colon cancer is the second most predominant cancer in females. According to WHO, colon cancer affects close to 260,000 each year, with the majority in developing countries, which makes this disease one of the most serious threats to the lives of women. In numerous developing countries (95%), access to health services is limited and the detection of colon cancer is non-existent, or reaches only a small percentage of the women who actually need it.

Through this module we improve the capacity of our students for better detection of colon cancer and treatment of it with limited resources.

Since the launch of the module in July 2014, a total of 376 health professionals from 67 countries have participated in the course.

GFMER Website (www.gfmer.ch)



The GFMER website is extensive, regularly updated and provides easy access to useful information. The website contains information about the foundation, education programs (courses), Partner, international collaboration and information resources such as publications, presentations and databases. The GFMER website contains information in English, French, Italian and Spanish.

The Foundation website is one of the most visited in the field of reproductive and sexual health. In 2014, the number of visitors was 2,645,860 and came from 230 countries.

Activities planned for 2015

In addition to the activities mentioned above, the GFMER has planned the following activities for 2015:

Maternal Infections

The third online training course in the field of maternal and perinatal health by the Maternal Health Task Force (MHTF), the Oxford Maternal & Perinatal Health Institute (OMPHI), the Global Health Network (GHN), and GFMER

Since 2010, OMPHI, MHTF and GFMER have been working together to produce e-learning materials in the field of maternal and perinatal health. They have already produced two online training courses entitled “The evidence-based management of pre-eclampsia and eclampsia” and “The evidence-based management of Postpartum haemorrhage”. These two modules have been disseminated to health professionals worldwide, through the joint efforts of collaborating partners.

In reference to the significant achievement in disseminating evidence-based knowledge and the high demand for similar courses, MHTF /OMPHI/GHN/GFMER developed a third e-learning module on

Maternal infections, that is one of the six major causes of maternal death worldwide. This e-learning module has been sponsored by the Maternal Health Task Force at the Harvard School of Public Health and the funding has been provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Course contents:

Module 1. Maternal infections, general overview

Module 2. HIV /AIDS in pregnancy

Module 3. Urinary tract infections in pregnancy

Module 4. Maternal sepsis

Module 5. Maternal syphilis

Module 6. Maternal malaria

The knowledge assessment testing is done through a multiple-choice questionnaire (MCQ). All participants who correctly answer at least 80% of the multiple choice questions are entitled to a certificate jointly signed by GFMER and the Nuffield Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology of the University of Oxford. This module will officially be launched in June 2015.