

GENEVA FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

WHO Collaborating Centre in Education and Research in Human Reproduction



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

www.gfmer.ch

Authors

Karim Abawi, Jan Cumming and Fionna Poon

Route de Ferney 150, 1211 Genève 2

Tel.: +41 22 346 77 16

E-mail: info@gfmer.org

Website: <http://www.gfmer.ch>

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Preface by the director

The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) is a non-profit organization 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 2015 the foundation and its partners launched for the sixth consecutive year, the distance training/online course on sexual and reproductive health research: a total of 234 health professionals from 54 countries attended the training programme.

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 2015, several missions were conducted in different African countries, where Prof. Charles-Henry Rochat (who has the overall responsibility for GFMER's fistula project) and his team of specialists, operated on a total of 210 fistula cases in different countries. Moreover, local doctors were trained on the management of obstetric fistula.

In 2015, the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) in collaboration with the Oxford Maternal and Perinatal Health Institute (OMPHI) developed two additional Internet/computer-based training modules on Maternal infections and Obstetric fistula (in addition to modules on evidence-based management of eclampsia and preeclampsia and Postpartum haemorrhage, which were already developed). Moreover, another training module on the screening and treatment of the cancer of cervix has been developed in collaboration with the Department of Gynaecology of Geneva University Hospitals. The Internet-based training modules were offered to 4,175 health professionals from 121 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 has enjoyed enormous success, as it has attracted 2,328,555 visitors from 230 countries in 2015.

We believe our efforts to assist in many countries and the programmes we deliver contribute to 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, the World Health Organization and other institutions, for their financial and technical support, which have ensured the successful implementation of our projects and programmes.



Prof. Aldo Campana
The Director

Mission

The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) is a non-profit organization, co-sponsored by the Republic and Canton of Geneva and 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.

GFMER 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 programme to end obstetric fistula.

GFMER 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, GFMER is involved in the following activities:

- To provide a postgraduate training in research methodology in Reproductive Health.
- To develop and conduct research and research synthesis activities.
- To assist partner institutions in the conduct of postgraduate medical education programmes.
- 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 centres of WHO's network requesting collaboration in research, research training or clinical aspects in human reproduction.

Board Members

- Prof. José Villar (President)
- Dr. Blaise Bourrit (Secretary)
- Alain Gris (Treasurer)
- Prof. Giuseppe Benagiano

Executive Committee

- Prof. Aldo Campana (Director)
- Prof. Charles-Henry Rochat (Co-director)
- Dr. Karim Abawi
- Dr. Heli Bathija
- Dr. Hongguang Dong
- PD Dr. Pierre Vassilakos

GFMER main fields of activities

Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research 2015

<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2015/index.htm>

Since 2003 GFMER, in partnership with the WHO and other partner institutions, has organized a training course on sexual and reproductive health research. The course focuses on research methodology and attracts the participation of health professionals from different countries, 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 programme 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 2015, GFMER successfully implemented the sixth edition of its online training course, bringing to bear the experience gained from the previous 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 centre, is mandated to organize the course.

Objectives

The objectives of this course are as follows:

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 resources capacity.
3. Contribute to a better sharing of expertise between health professionals and local and international institutions, especially in developing countries.
4. Organize a continuing learning project in the field of sexual and reproductive health intended for developing countries and economies in transition.
5. Provide 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 programmes in their home country.

Course participants

<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2015/participants/participants-images/participants-images.htm>

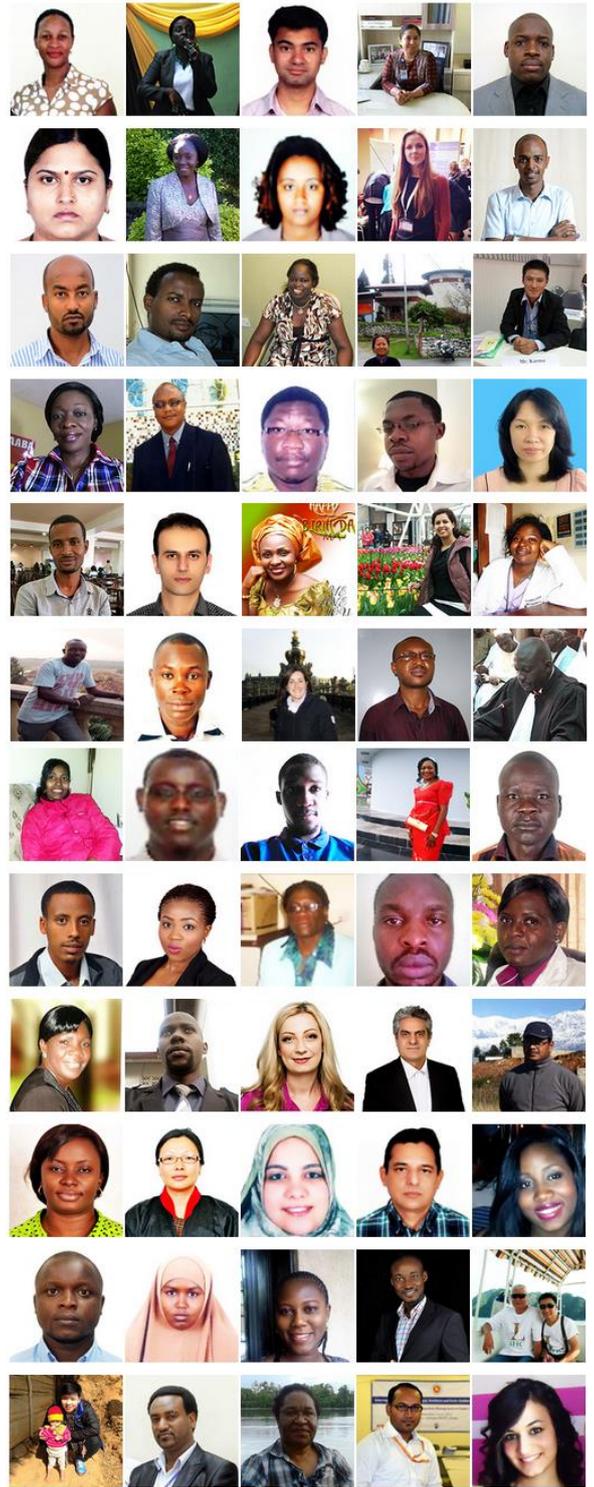
Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research 2015
Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research

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List of Participants - Map of Participants

Participants - Images

Clickable thumbnails linking to personal pages





The majority of students in our course are healthcare providers involved in the area of reproductive and sexual health and whose access to healthcare training 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 programme managers.

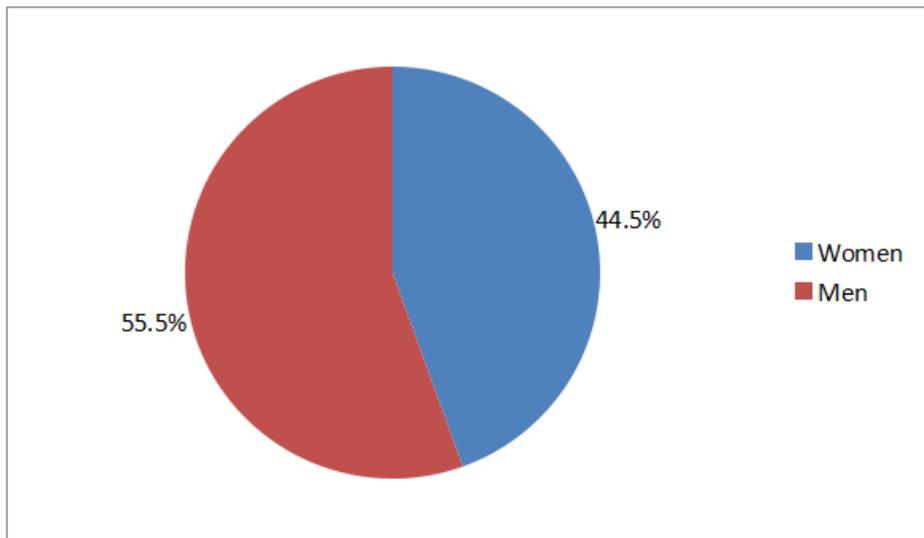
A total of 234 health professionals from 54 countries were registered in the online training course in 2015. The majority of them were from developing countries.

Table 1: Age of participants

Age Group	Number	%
20-29	63	27%
30-39	122	52%
40-49	41	17%
50-59	8	8%
Total	234	100%

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

Graph 1: Gender of students

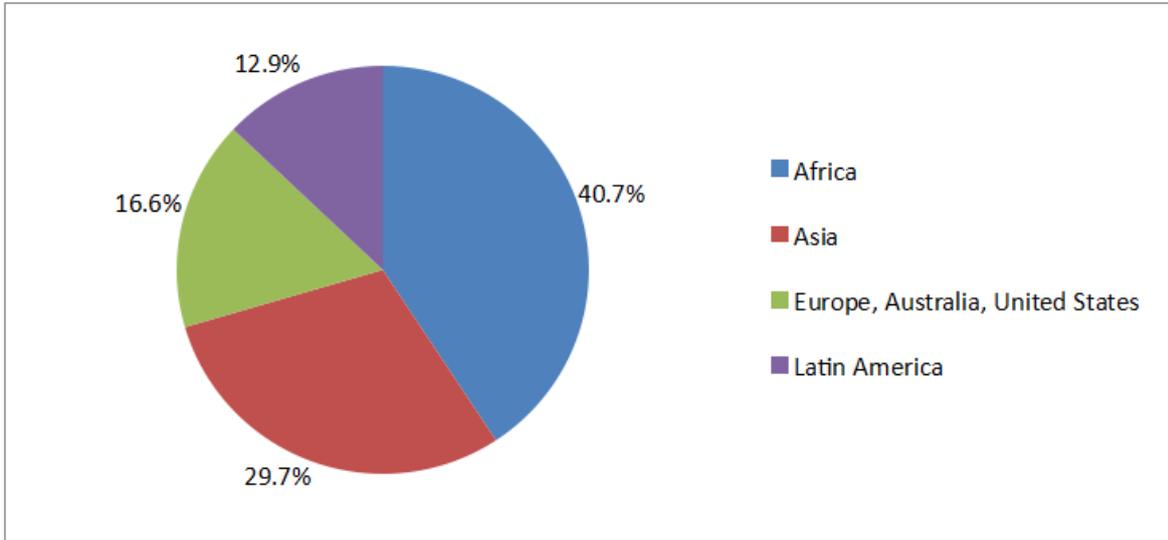


As indicated by the graph above, women are well-represented as they make up 44.5% of participants.

This course addresses mainly healthcare professionals in developing countries with the following distribution: Africa (40.7%), Asia (29.7%), Europe, Australia, United States (16.6%) and Latin America (12.9%).

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

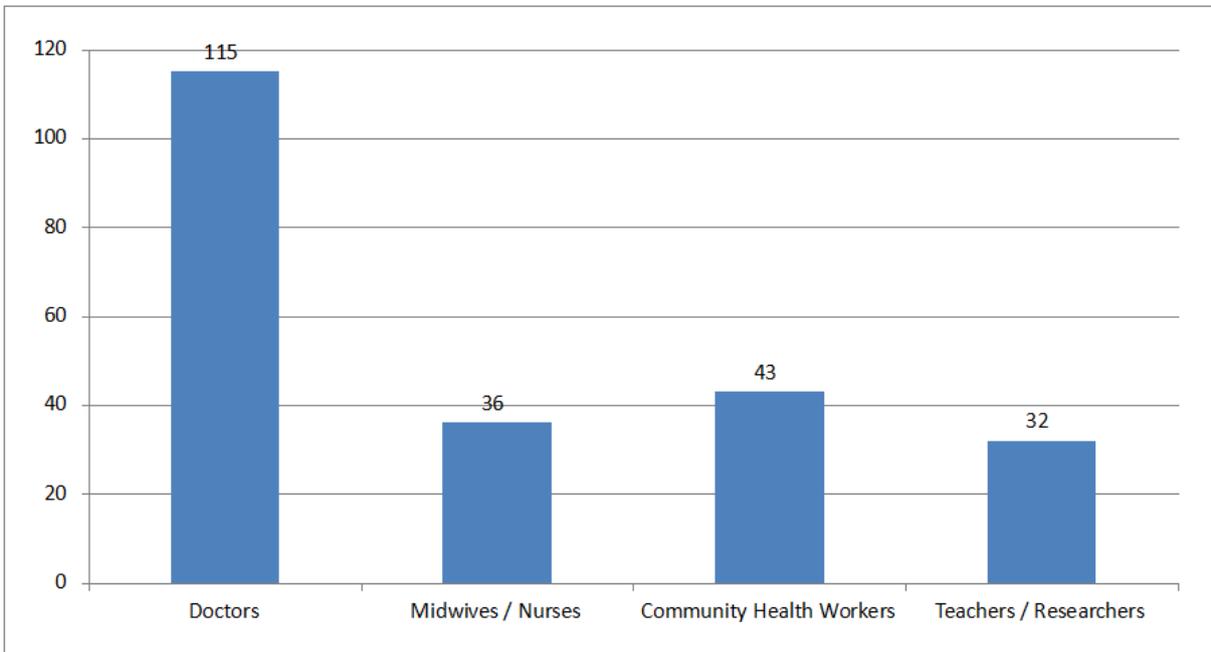
Graph 2: Geographic distribution of students



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



Recruitment of students

The students became aware of the course through the following means:

- Publicity for the course and local contact coordinators in the countries and regions.
- Publicity for the course on the GFMER website and partner sites.
- Mobilization of the GFMER and WHO networks. These include local and international NGOs, WHO collaborating centres 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 as follows:

- 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, an NGO, or a ministry of health.
- The foundation favours the participation of woman.

It is noted that the foundation has established partnerships with NGOs, health ministries, and universities in different countries. Certain entities include this course in their human resource development programmes. 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-2015/participants/Carine-Uwakunda.htm>

Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research 2015

Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research

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Carine Uwakunda

University Teaching Hospital of Kigali, Rwanda



Carine Uwakunda, MD
Medical Officer, University Teaching Hospital of Kigali, Rwanda
Société coopérative médicale de Beaulieu scholarship
uwacary2@gmail.com

Dr Carine Uwakunda, Bachelor in General Medicine and Surgery from University of Rwanda. Currently based in University Teaching Hospital of Kigali (CHUK).

Links

- [CHUK](#)

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).

There are six modules:

- Maternal and Perinatal Health
- Sexually Transmitted Infections and 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 more information on the contents of each module see the following link:

<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2015/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.

Teachers, partner institutions

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 2015, 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 programme 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/SRH-Course-2015/GFMER-country-coordinators.htm>

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Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research

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GFMER Country Coordinators

 <small>Afghanistan - Homa Kabiri</small>	 <small>Bhutan - Sonam Wangdi</small>	 <small>Bolivia - Carlos Encinas</small>
 <small>Brazil - Adriana Gomes Luz</small>	 <small>Brazil - Roberto Pacagnella</small>	 <small>Burkina Faso - Bruno Ki</small>
 <small>Cameroon - Gregory Ede Halle-Ekane</small>	 <small>Ecuador - Diana Encalada Soto</small>	 <small>Egypt - Mahmoud Ahmed Mahmoud Abdel-Azem</small>
 <small>Ethiopia - Mengistu Asake Kibret</small>	 <small>India - Troy Cunningham</small>	 <small>Iran - Shayesteh Hajzadeh</small>
 <small>Kenya - Ameyo Sonventare Masakhe</small>	 <small>Macedonia - Gabriela Tavchioska</small>	 <small>Malawi - Tazriwa Mumbali Chipeta</small>
 <small>MENA Region - Amir Awad</small>	 <small>Mexico - Azizi Ramirez-Negrin</small>	 <small>Mongolia - Oyunsal Likhagassuren</small>
 <small>Mozambique - Chadreque Muliana</small>	 <small>Nepal - Anil Thapa</small>	 <small>Nigeria - Aminu Magashi Garba</small>
 <small>Sudan - Khalifa Elmusharaf</small>	 <small>Tanzania - Maryam Seif Hemed</small>	 <small>Turkey - Ayge Nilüfer Özyaydin</small>
 <small>Uganda - Morris Okwar</small>		

GFMER has appointed a total of 26 coordinators in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Ecuador, Ethiopia, India, Iran, Kenya, Macedonia, Malawi, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, North Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Turkey and Uganda. For 2016 the Foundation is planning to expand country coordination to Peru.

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 work (assignments and research protocol) is 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 programmes. This online course is advantageous for health professionals especially those from developing countries, where access to a quality education is limited by time, financial resources or both.

Teaching methods

<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2015/pdf/Course-guide-2015.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 with the participants. As the majority of students' work (assignments and research protocol) is based on the analysis of local situations in regards to sexual and reproductive health problems, the assistance of country coordinators is very important.

The participation of a student is measured by the submission of assignments in the time given and their response to the multiple choice questions. 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 support the participants, 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.

GFMER provides free access to the course contents which are 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 GFMER website is one of the most visited in the field of reproductive and sexual health. In 2015, the number of visitors increased to 2,328,555 and came from 230 countries. This signifies that the beneficiaries of our course are 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-2015.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 around the world.

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 develop a research protocol relevant to their practice, 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.

Workshop in Geneva

<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2014/Geneva-Workshop/pdf/Geneva-Workshop-Evaluation-Report-2015.pdf>



From the participants of the 2014 edition of the online training course, 16 were invited to attend a workshop from 14 to 18 September 2015 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-2014/Geneva-Workshop/index.htm>





Following students after the course

Each participant of our course becomes a member of our Foundation and continues contact with them. GFMER created a personal page on its website 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 GFMER 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 Gynaecology at the University Hospital of Geneva. These institutions collaborate with GFMER 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 NGOs, ministries of health or other institutions in a number of countries.

Picture of the week

<http://www.gfmer.ch/gfmervoices/pictureoftheweek-2015.htm>

We have created a section on our website 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 where access to training is sometimes limited. It also shows the application of knowledge acquired by our students in their professional practice.

The picture of the week

Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research

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GFMER picture of the week - Images 2015

Clickable thumbnails linking to the corresponding picture of the week





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 and 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 rights 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 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 to operate on fistula cases. 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 on in several countries.

Hospital	Country	No of fistula cases operated
Hôpital St-Jean de Dieu de Tanguiéta	Benin	87
Hôpital Saint Camille, Ouagadougou	Burkina Faso	53
Hôpital Central de Yaoundé	Cameroun	26
Hôpital de Kissidougou, Hôpital Labé, Hôpital Kankan et centre Jean Paul II Conakry	Conakry Guinée	44
Total		210

Presentations and Conferences

13 Septembre 2015

« Which further development over 18 years personal experience in obstetrical fistula surgery? »
 Charles-Henry Rochat in behalf of Global Foundation for Life Sciences 40th Anniversary - JCR
 Pharmaceuticals Co, Japan





28 Octobre 2015

« Quels enseignements retenir après 18 ans d'expérience en chirurgie humanitaire » Charles-Henry Rochat, Salle de séminaire 4-5, CMU - Genève Palabres Humanitaires

18-21 Novembre 2015

109^{ème} Congrès Français d'Urologie

Réunion de l'AFOA. Participation à la table ronde : les fistules obstétricales : qu'elle voie d'abord ?

Supporting institutions

The GFMER obstetric fistula programme 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.

Publications

P.-M. Tebeu, J.Fokom-Domgue, G. Kengne Fosso, P.Tjek Biyaga, J.Nelson Fomulu, C.-H. Rochat. *Etude comparative du résultat de la cure des fistules vésico-vaginales avec et sans interposition du lambeau de Martius : une étude camerounaise*. *Prog Urol* (2015)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.purol.2015.07.005>

Pierre-Marie Tebeu, Kemfang Ngowa Jean Dupont, Noa Ndoua Claude, Michel Roger Ekono, Suzy Dorine Maninzou and Charles-Henry Rochat. *Causes of obstetric genitor-urinary fistula: an experience from the University Hospital, Yaoundé, Cameroon*. *International Journal of Current Research Vol 7, Issue, 09, pp.20589-20593, September, 2015*

Internet/computer-based interactive training module

Obstetric fistula module developed in collaboration with the Maternal Health Task Force (MHTF), the Oxford Maternal & Perinatal Health Institute (OMPHI) and the Global Health Network (TGHN).

<https://globalhealthtrainingcentre.tghn.org/obstetric-fistula/>

Ongoing activities

- Collaboration with WILDAF-Togo association.
- Collaboration with **Synergies africaines** in Cameroon.
- Raising awareness amongst the population on the prevention of obstetric fistula.
- Financial support for the hospitalisation costs for fistula patients.
- Logistical support for the surgeon teams.
- Purchase of surgical equipment.
- Contribution to the construction of a new operating theatre in Tanguiéta hospital.
- Provision of scholarships.
- Dissemination of «le modèle de Tanguiéta» <http://www.fistula-group.org/fr/partenaires/189-lemodele-de-tanguieta>
- Dissemination of the fistula database and Fistula group website: www.fistula-group.org
- Financial support to ensure the sustainability of Guinée-Conakry, Burkina Faso, Cameroun
- Madagascar programme.
- Detailed analysis of 400 patients files (compiled by the NGO Sentinelles), who were operated on in Tanguiéta hospital.
- Organization of local events to provide the training module on Fistula to health professionals.
- Translation of Fistula module from English to French.

Institutional Partnerships

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 screenshot shows the website for the Oxford Maternal and Perinatal Health Institute (OMPHI), part of the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER). The page features a red header with the OMPHI name and logo. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, Courses, INTERGROWTH-21st, Files, OMPHI, and GFMER. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains navigation links for Home, Basic Course, and Advanced Course, along with logos for EngenderHealth, MacArthur, and Maternal Health Task Force. The right column contains the title of the course, 'The evidence-based management of Pre-eclampsia and Eclampsia', and a detailed description of the course, including its purpose, development, and funding. A list of references is provided at the bottom of the right column. The footer of the page states 'Copyright © 2010 University of Oxford. All rights reserved.'

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. Since its launch a total of 2015 health professionals from 121 countries have successfully completed the training and knowledge assessment and been awarded certificates.

The evidence-based management of postpartum haemorrhage

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

After the success of the evidence-based pre-eclampsia and eclampsia training course, OMPHI and GFMER also developed another online training course on the evidence-based management of postpartum haemorrhage (PPH) in 2012.

The dissemination of this module continued during 2015 and, since its launch, a total of 1624 health professionals from 110 countries have successfully completed the training and knowledge assessment and been awarded certificates.

Maternal Infections

Following the success in disseminating evidence-based knowledge and the high demand for similar courses, in 2015 GFMER in partnership with the Maternal Health Taskforce of the Harvard School of Public Health, the Oxford Maternal and Perinatal Health and the Global Health Network developed a third e-learning module on Maternal infections, that is one of the six major causes of maternal death worldwide.

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

Final Quiz

Since the launch of this module a total of 287 health professionals from 59 countries took this module, completed the knowledge assessment and were awarded certificates.

Obstetric fistula

A fourth training module was developed on obstetric fistula. This module was offered to a total of 813 health professionals.

Course contents

Module 1. Introduction, definition, epidemiology, etiology, pathogenesis and prevention of obstetric fistula

Module 2. Diagnosis and classification of obstetric fistula

Module 3. Management of obstetric fistula

Module 4. Social reintegration

Final quiz

Since its launch, the fistula module has been disseminated to a total of 249 health professionals from 57 countries who have completed the knowledge assessment and been awarded certificates.

It is worth mentioning that this module can also be accessed by Smartphone and tablet. Moreover, a PDF version is also made available for each module to allow their offline use.

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. These 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 programme and policymakers with new, practical, international tools, we believe we can improve the health of women and newborns worldwide.

GFMER 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 Gynaecology Service at the University Hospital of Geneva

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

GFMER is partner with the Gynaecology Service at the University Hospital of Geneva for the development and dissemination of an 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).

Through this module, we improve the capacity of our students to contribute to the better detection of cervical cancer and the treatment of it with limited resources.

Since the launch of the module in July 2014, a total of 447 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 programmes (courses), partners, international collaboration and information resources such as publications, presentations and databases. The GFMER website contains information in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish.

The website of the foundation has attracted 2, 328,555 visitors from 230 countries in 2015.

Activities planned for 2016

In addition to the activities mentioned above, the GFMER has planned the following activity for 2015:
Internet /computer-based training on Intergrowth-21st

The development of this course has been motivated by the commitment of the INTERGROWTH-21st Consortium to improving perinatal health globally. The objective of the course is to communicate the methodology of maternal, fetal and newborn growth monitoring and the application of the

INTERGROWTH-21st international growth standards to make judgements about appropriateness of growth.

Course contents

- Course overview
- Module 1. Assessing maternal and newborn size by anthropometry
 - Assessing newborn size by anthropometry
 - Maternal weight gain and anthropometry size
- Module 2. Monitoring of fetal growth by ultrasound
- Final Quizzes