From Research to Practice: Training in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research

Organizers
- Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (WHO Collaborating Centre in Education and Research in Human Reproduction)
- UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank Special Program for Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction, Department of Reproductive Health and Research; Family and Community Health Cluster (WHO/RHR)
- Réseau en Afrique francophone pour la télémédecine (RAFT), HUG (Geneva University Hospitals)
- Oxford University (UK)
- Boston University (USA)
- Parma University (Italy)
- San Raffaele (Italy)

Contact
The Administrative Office
Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER)
Villa Grand-Montfleury,
Chemin du Grand-Montfleury 48,
1290 Versoix – Switzerland

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E-mail: application@gfmer.org
Web site: http://www.gfmer.ch
Introduction

The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) in collaboration with World Health Organization and other partners announces for 2011 the on-line training course on research methodology in sexual and reproductive health labeled as "From Research to Practice: Training in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research." This course is an appropriate package of training, which meets the needs of health care providers and other professional involved in research in many countries.

The course aims to provide a cadre of health practitioners in different countries with knowledge, skills and competencies in sexual and reproductive health as well as research in this filed, especially for those health care providers, whose access to learning is limited by time, financial resource or other constraints and where access to quality education and learning in the field of reproductive health is limited.

With this training program, participants will learn from first hand health experiences in day to day demands and through longer term challenges in the field of sexual and reproductive health and research.

In 2010 a total of 149 health professionals from 48 countries have been enrolled in this training program. The majority of them are from developing countries.

What distinguishes this course from other courses is that the participants build direct contact with WHO (Department of Reproductive Health and Research) and other important research institutions. This enforce their professional network and will open new opportunities in their carrier if they are motivated and have innovative ideas and ambitions.

From Research to Practice: Training in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research

Course Duration

- May-October 2011 6 months distance learning
- June 2012 One week Intensive training in WHO Geneva

Course Objectives

- To contribute to greater sharing of competence and knowledge between health workers in developing countries, local and international health and training institutions.
- To provide access to education and learning by establishing a distance learning program to professionals who want to learn more in their field but have limited access to training due to time, place and financial constraints.
- To provide skills in research methodology in order to improve the capacity of health workforce to initiate or participate in research on sexual and reproductive health and enable them to identify and address priority areas on research in this field.
- To offer a quality of instruction through online facility incorporating a broader range of information, integrating course content with the informational resources of the Web. To create a network between health professionals of different horizons and training and research institutions for the exchange of knowledge and information.

Course Content

The course content is designed to address a wider range of contemporary reproductive and sexual health problems as well as research in this field with a particular focus on developing countries.
Our Teachers

A total of 43 teachers from the World Health Organization, Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research and 12 other national and international universities are involved to assist in teaching and tutorship for this course.

Eligible Candidates

Public health professionals, project planners and managers, paramedical staff, social scientists from developing as well as developed countries. Selection of candidates will be undertaken by a scientific committee comprised of Partner agencies and universities.

Learning Objectives

- Improving the capacity of professionals for research and evidence-based approach;
- The recognition that research plays a crucial role in the identification of reproductive health needs within communities;
- The generation of new knowledge for advocacy;
- The selection and testing of priority prevention and care interventions;
- The resolution of reproductive health problems;
- The improvement of policy formulation through evidence-based recommendations;
- The strengthening of service programs by applying research generated technologies and up-to-date practice guidelines and decisions about the appropriate allocation of health resources with the overall aim of promoting the well-being of communities.
Learning Methods

1. Our on-line and interactive course is designed using a combination of the following teaching styles and technologies:

- On-line presentations: may include synchronous (real-time) presentations and/or playback.
- Individual mentoring & follow-up: feedback & consultation with the course mentor via email, audio/video chat...
- Live on-line interaction with peers, tutors & mentors: participative, forums, news groups, audio/video chat...
- Evaluation by mentor and coordinators: assignments submitted electronically and corrected by the course mentor / coordinator.

For each module students will receive assignment from course organizers, especially the coordinator of a specific module. These expectations for student work will be clearly defined during the orientation. Teachers will need to determine the appropriate time frame in which to expect students to complete work. The students will be instructed on how to submit work for evaluation and when and via what mechanism(s) they will receive feedback.

2. Intensive Training Course in Geneva: The students with high score and with a relevant research project will be invited to participate in an extensive training which will be organized in WHO Head Quarters in Geneva. This will give these students the opportunity to work more on their research projects and to get in contact with WHO and other partners resource persons.

Teaching Language

The teaching language of the course is English. Both English and French can be used for the preparation of the mini-thesis. However, in order to follow the course lectures, it is of utmost importance that the participant's level of understanding English is adequate. Thus, an official attestation of English proficiency is required to attend the training program.

Evaluation

The students' activities will be under the supervision of course coordinator and elective modules coordinators. The scientific committee for this course will do the final assessment of the students and will choose the eligible candidates for the intensive training course which will be held at WHO in Geneva.

Throughout the course, the participants receive various assignments for each module. They will also receive advice from the course coordinator, module coordinators, concerned teachers and tutors.

In order to obtain the certificate, participants will have to prepare a bibliographic review on a topic relevant to their professional practice and/or a research project, under the guidance of a tutor.

Certification

After required course attendance and having passed the exams, the participant will obtain a certificate delivered by the organizing institutions.
Course Duration

May-October 2011 6 months distance learning
June 2012 One week Intensive training in WHO Geneva

Costs

The tuition fee is CHF 1500 per participant. Through contributions from several donor organizations, the course organizers are making available a limited number of study grants, which will be offered to selected participants to meet some of the costs of their participation in the course.

Application Submission Deadline

15 April 2011

The application form is available on:

http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2011/

Admission Procedures

The following documents are required to process the admission:

- a completed application form
- a curriculum vitae, including sections on: current and previous positions; responsibilities in research, teaching and clinical work; the institution currently employed; a list of publications (if available)
- a certified copy of the university diploma/s
- a letter of motivation stating clearly the interests and reasons for applying to the course
- an outline of the scientific paper that will be completed/written up as part of the exams
- an official attestation confirming proficiency in the English language
- two letters of reference, preferably one from the current employer
- if possible, an introduction by the candidate’s Head of Department stating her/his current role and future involvement in the country’s National Reproductive Health Program.

Contact

All application documents along with copies of diplomas, certificates and letters of reference can be sent by email, post or by fax to:

The Administrative Office
Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER)
Villa Grand-Montfleury
Chemin du Grand-Montfleury 48
1290 Versoix - Switzerland

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Fax: +41 (0)22 3467834
E-mail: application@gfmer.org
Web site: http://www.gfmer.ch
PERSONAL DATA
Family name: ________________________________
First/other names: ____________________________
☐ Female  ☐ Male
Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy): ____________________
Place & country of birth: _______________________
Present nationality: ____________________________
Professional address: __________________________
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Telephone: __________________________________
Fax: _________________________________________
(with country code & area code)
E-mail address: _______________________________
Present position (period: mm/yyyy, title, institution):
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Previous positions (period: mm/yyyy, title, institution):
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Professional affiliations/memberships:
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List of publications:
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LANGUAGE SKILLS
Mother tongue:

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*** Please note that the lectures and exams will be held in English. Therefore, it is extremely important that your level of understanding, expressing yourself and writing in English is adequate.

EDUCATION
Give details in chronological order (date, name of the institution and title of degrees/certificates). Include courses and postgraduate studies in your professional field:

____________________________________________
____________________________________________
____________________________________________

Specialty and subspecialty certifications:
____________________________________________
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FINANCING
If you are accepted to the Course, please indicate, who will finance your participation in the Course:
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____________________________________________

ENCLOSURES
1. curriculum vitae, including sections on: your current and previous positions; responsibilities in research, teaching and clinical work; the institution in which you work; and a list of publications (if available)
2. a certified copy of the diploma in medicine and any additional diplomas
3. a letter of motivation stating clearly your interests and reasons for applying to the Course (1 A 4 page maximum)
4. a 1-2 page summary of the research project/thesis that will be developed as part of the exams
5. an official attestation confirming your proficiency in the English language
6. two letters of reference, preferably one from your current employer
7. if possible, please submit the following document: an introduction by your Head of Department stating your role and future involvement in your country’s National Reproductive Health Programme

Application Form is Available on
http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2011/