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 télémedecine (RAFT), HUG (Geneva University Hospitals)

Contact

The Administrative Office:

Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER)

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Introduction

The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners announces the online training course on research methodology in sexual and reproductive health for 2012: "From Research to Practice: Training in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research". This course is an appropriate training package that meets the needs of health care providers and other professionals involved in research in many countries.

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

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

In 2011 a total of 147 health professionals from 48 countries have been enrolled in this training program. The majority of them was from developing countries.

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

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

Course Duration

May-November 2012
2013
7 months distance learning
One week intensive training in WHO Geneva

Course Objectives

- To contribute to an increased sharing of competence and knowledge between health professionals in developing countries and local and international health and training institutions.
- To provide access to education by establishing a distance learning program for professionals who want to acquire knowledge in their field but have limited access to training due to time, location and/or financial constraints.
- To provide skills in research methodology in order to improve the capacity of health professionals to initiate or participate in research on sexual and reproductive health and enable them to identify and address priority areas in this field.
- To offer high-quality instruction through online facilities that include a broad range of information, integrating course content with information resources on the Web.
- To create a network between health professionals of different horizons and training backgrounds as well as research institutions for the exchange of knowledge and information.

Course Content

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

Course Modules

- Core module on research methodology
- Maternal and perinatal health
- Sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS
- Adolescent sexual and reproductive health
- Family planning
- Community genetics
Eligible Candidates

Eligible candidates are health professionals, paramedical staff, project planners and managers in health-related areas and social scientists from developing as well as developed countries. Candidates are carefully selected by a scientific committee.

Learning Objectives

- Improving the capacity of health professionals to do evidence-based research.
- Increasing awareness that research plays a crucial role in the identification of reproductive health needs within communities.
- Generation of knowledge for the advocacy of health care.
- Selection and testing of priority prevention and care interventions.
- Resolution of reproductive health problems.
- Improvement of health policies through evidence-based recommendations.
- Improvement of service programs by applying research generated technologies and up-to-date practice guidelines about appropriate allocation of health resources with the overall aim of promoting the well-being of communities.

Our Teachers

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

1. Our online and interactive course is developed using a combination of the following teaching tools and technologies:

- Online presentations: including synchronous (real-time) presentations and/or playback.
- Individual mentoring and follow-up: feedback and consultation with the course mentor via email and/or audio/video chat.
- Online interaction with peers and tutors: forums, news groups and audio/video chat.
- Evaluation by the mentor and course coordinators: assignments submitted electronically, feedback about corrections by the mentor and coordinators.

The course is divided into modules. For each course module participants will receive assignments from the coordinator of that particular module. During the orientation phase of the course, participants will be informed about the requirements of assignments. Teachers determine the appropriate time frame for the participants to complete their work. Participants will be instructed on how to submit work for evaluation and when and how they receive feedback.

2. Intensive Training Course in Geneva: participants with high scores and a relevant research project will be invited to participate in an intensive training course organized in the WHO Head Quarters in Geneva. This training will give participants the opportunity to further develop their research project and to meet, in person, WHO staff and other researchers.

Teaching Language

The teaching language of the course is English. For the preparation of the research project both English and French can be used. In order to follow the course however it is of the utmost importance that the participant’s level of understanding English is adequate. For that reason an official attestation of English proficiency is required to attend the training program.

Evaluation

The performance of the participants will be supervised by the course coordinator and module coordinators. The final assessment of the participants and selection of candidates for the intensive training course at WHO in Geneva is done by a scientific committee.

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

In order to obtain the course certificate, participants will have to prepare a bibliographic review on a topic relevant to their professional practice and/or a research paper, 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.
Admission Procedures

The following documents are required to process admission:

- A completed application form.
- A curriculum vitae, including sections on current and previous positions; responsibilities in research, teaching and clinical work; current employment; a list of publications (if applicable).
- A certified copy of university diploma(s).
- A letter of motivation showing interest in and reasons for attending the course.
- An outline of the bibliographic review and/or research paper that will be developed as part of the course.
- An official attestation confirming proficiency in English.
- Two reference letters, 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.

Course Duration

May-November 2012
2013

6 months distance learning
One week Intensive training in WHO Geneva

Costs

The tuition fee is CHF 500 per participant.

Application Submission Deadline

15 April 2012

The application form is available on:

http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2012/

Contact

All application documents can be sent by email, post or by fax to:

The Administrative Office
Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER)

Villa Grand-Montfleury
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1290 Versoix - Switzerland

Phone : +41 (0)22 3467716
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E-mail : application2012@gfmer.org
Web site : http://www.gfmer.ch
APPLICATION FORM

PERSONAL DATA

Family name: ________________________________
First/other names: ____________________________
 Female  Male
Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy): ____________________
Place & country of birth: _______________________
Present nationality: ___________________________
Professional address: __________________________

Telephone: __________________________________
Fax: _____________________
(with country code & area code)
E-mail address: _____________________________

Present position (period: mm/yyyy, title, institution):
___________________________________________
___________________________________________

Previous positions (period: mm/yyyy, title, institution):
___________________________________________
___________________________________________

Professional affiliations/memberships:
___________________________________________

List of publications:
___________________________________________

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 of, expression 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:
________________________________________________________

FINANCING

If you are accepted to the course, please indicate who will finance your participation:

________________________________________________________

ATTACHMENTS

1. curriculum vitae
2. certified copy of university diploma(s)
3. letter of motivation (1 A4 page maximum)
4. attestation confirming proficiency in the English language
5. two letters of reference
6. letter from a Head of Department (if possible)

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Application Submission Deadline

15 April 2012

Submitted by E-mail/Post/Fax

To GFMER office

*** Including the copies of diplomas, copy of attestation of English language proficiency and letters of reference.

Application Form is Available on

http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2012/Application.htm

END