



# **WORKSHOP EVALUATION REPORT**

## **GFMER Research Workshop, 15-19 September 2014**

### **Geneva**



**GENEVA FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**  
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**24 September 2014**

## Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by Lynn Gertiser, Dr. Karim Abawi and Alison Chatfield with valuable assistance from Ms. Fionna Poon, Ms. Dragana Perenceric and Ms. Julie Morris. Dr. Karim Abawi was the coordinator and main facilitator of the workshop, while Dr. Ling-Yen Pan and Alison Chatfield co-facilitated the workshop sessions. Dr. Karim Abawi, Dr. Raqibat and Lynn Gertiser contributed in reviewing the research projects.

The GFMER appreciates the valuable contribution of the WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research for its continuous support, providing the venue for the workshop and teaching research related topics by experts with years of experience in the field of sexual and reproductive health.

The GFMER is also grateful to Republic and Canton of Geneva, Geneva Welcome Centre and La Société Médicale de Beaulieu for their financial support in covering the travel costs and accommodation of the workshop participants in Geneva.

I would like to thank Dr. Marleen Temmerman, Director, WHO RHR /HRP, Dr. Lale Say, Dr. Dr. Chandra Mouli, Dr. Mario Festin, Dr. Igor Toskin, Dr. Rita Kabra and Pr. Hanan Hamamy for their continuous support.

GFMER expresses its gratitude and thanks to the following persons, who despite their busy schedule and numerous commitments contributed their time in providing quality lectures and technical support at the workshop: Dr. Marleen Temmerman, Dr. Giuseppe Benagiano, Dr. Moazzam Ali, Dr. Sheryl Vanderpoel, Dr. Rita Kabra, Tomas Allen, Animu Magashi Garba, Alison Chatfield and Sari Laukkanen.

Thanks to Dr. Blaise Bourrit's arrangement and patience for a special field visit during which the participants visited the beautiful Old City of Geneva, took a boat ride on Lake Geneva and even visited the Geneva Parliament, a rare chance!

Finally GFMER congratulates the participants of the workshop for completing the course and producing relevant research projects that reflected the health needs in their respective countries.

With the valuable support from our partners we continue our commitment in providing training with the aim that lack of knowledge should not be barrier to quality care provision. We are also committed to strengthen research capacity of health professionals and contribute in making research a local dynamic.

Professor Aldo Campana  
President, GFMER  
24 September 2014

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## **Background**

Since 2003, the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partner institutions organizes an intensive training course on sexual and reproductive health research. "From Research to Practice: Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research" uses distance learning to offer 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. Participants of this online training course gain clinical and research skills needed to manage their general, day-to-day health care demands, as well as the tools to engage with long-term challenges in the field of sexual and reproductive health research in their contexts. The overall goal of this training is to strengthen the capacity of health professionals to formulate, conduct, and disseminate meaningful, locally-driven sexual and reproductive health research. The course attracts participants from a wide array of countries, particularly, low- and middle-income countries. The course provides participants with training, access to evidence-based resources and experts, and a powerful network of sexual and reproductive health clinicians and researchers. This network has led to widespread global dissemination of the course, reaching countries such as Afghanistan, Argentina, Cameroon, China, Indonesia, Laos and Romania.

The 2013 version of the course leverages the experience of implementing partners and participants from the course's previous iterations. For example, in order to reach more health professionals, GFMER transitioned to online learning in 2003. This has enabled the course to scale up and reach additional participants, as well as provide participants with greater flexibility in how they fit their course schedule around their personal and professional lives. In addition to the lectures, frequent communication between participants and GFMER coaches over email and Skype, and a potential in-person workshop week in Geneva for exceptional participants, provides the face-to-face mentoring that is critical to the success of this training. Each participant was allocated a coach who was in charge of reviewing his/her project, providing continuous support and feedback and identifying key areas for review within the research protocol. Moreover the coaches helped the participant to synthesize the information into a concise and clear presentation.

The aim of this report is to provide a brief account of the event and a qualitative and quantitative evaluation of the research projects presented during the workshops.

## **Workshop Methodology**

In 2013, GFMER successfully implemented the fourth edition of its online training course. In total, 257 individuals completed the course. From this group, 14 participants were chosen to attend an intensive workshop week at the WHO headquarters in Geneva. The participants of the workshop were selected on the basis of their online course performance, completion and quality of their assignments, and the quality of their research protocol. The strict selection ensured that those attending the workshop in Geneva are the most motivated participants of the online training course.

The workshop in Geneva provided participants with an intensive week of interactive lectures designed to strengthen their protocols, as well as the opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience with each other and with their respective coaches. When deciding on the content of the course, a series of factors were taken into account: participants' needs, time constraints and available resources. Without repeating information from the online course, the GFMER Research Workshop was organized so that participants could get further training in key components of research protocol planning and development. Many participants had expressed their desire to get extra training in data management and sampling methods and those requests were prioritized when setting the agenda. The preliminary contents were reviewed with other stakeholders and, once agreed, were finalized for implementation. (See Table 1 for course schedule). The workshop was organized around a series of presentations on selected topics given by highly qualified experts from WHO, GFMER, Harvard and other partners. The aim of these presentations was to help participants improve the quality and accuracy of their research protocols as well as to provide them with solid grounding for future research projects.

Open discussion was highly encouraged among participants and their comments and feedback were used on many occasions, as the backbone for many presentations. Handouts of exercises

and extra materials were distributed among the participants to actively engage them in discussions and help them follow the presentations. Each presenter devoted several minutes to answer questions and provided participants with contact details for further enquiries.

The workshop culminated in participants' presentations of their own research protocols and substantive feedback on ways they can move their proposed research forward. Peer-review and monitoring of the presentations and discussion of research protocols was carried out not only at the end of the workshop but also after every protocol presentation. In an attempt to audit the quality of the projects, immediately after a protocol presentation, participants were asked to score their colleague's project on a scale from 1 to 5 (5 being the highest and indicating no further review and 1 the lowest and indicating complete revision of the protocol). Furthermore, at the end of the workshop, participants were invited to fill in a brief end of the workshop evaluation that included both quantitative and qualitative components, and were also awarded with a certificate of completion (sample attached) based on their attendance, participation, presentation and evaluation.

## **Profile of the Participants**

The 14 participants who attended the workshop were selected from a pool of 257 people who had attended the online-training program. There were 8 women and 6 men from 12 different countries, all of them involved in the health professions. Different types of research methods were implemented: qualitative, quantitative and mixed.

## **Performance and End-of-the-Workshop Feedback**

The overall performance of each participant was calculated based on several factors, including: punctuality and organization, level of participation in discussions, critical thinking (as demonstrated by providing accurate feedback, asking relevant questions, reviewing papers and designing research protocols), degree of engagement in feedbacks and peer-review, ability to present and support research study protocol, cope with pressure and constructive criticism and make amendments and improve quality of work. (See Table 4 for the results of the peer review

and evaluation).

Two main conclusions can be reached from the results. Firstly, all of the 14 participants scored well on his/her evaluations: on a scale of 1 to 5, with the latter being the highest. Secondly, 13 participants scored 4 or higher. As discussed during the workshop, those receiving 4 or higher meant that their proposal could proceed further with only minor modifications. A score lower than 4, on the other hand, meant that their proposals needed further revision and modifications (some of them triggered from the feedback obtained at the workshop) before proceeding to the next stage. No participant scored less than 3, which meant that none of the research protocols had to be redesigned or significantly modified.



## Appendix

**Table 1: Agenda**

Schedule of Main Activities for the GFMER Research Workshop

Time	Day/Presentation	Presenters
<b>September 15, Monday, WHO Library</b>		
09:00-10:00	Welcome and introduction	Marleen Temmerman (WHO), Maria Jesus Alonso Lormand (Geneva State), Valeska Jeandupeux (Geneva Welcome Centre), Rita Kabra (WHO), Alison Chatfield (Harvard School of Public Health), Aldo Campana (GFMER), Blaise Bourrit (GFMER)
	Review of the agenda	Karim Abawi (GFMER)
	<a href="#">Research capacity strengthening</a>	Marleen Temmerman (WHO)
10:00-12:00	Valid and effective literature search	Thomas Allen (WHO)
<b>September 15, Monday, Room L10</b>		
13:00-15:30	<a href="#">Ethical issues in research</a>	Sheryl vanderPoel (WHO)
15:45-17:30	<a href="#">Critical appraisal of research protocol</a>	Moazzam Ali (WHO)
<b>September 16, Tuesday, Room L10</b>		
09:00-09:30	Review of the agenda	Karim Abawi, Ling Yen Pan (GFMER)
09:30-10:30	<a href="#">Dissemination of research findings to a non-scientific audience</a>	Aminu Magashi Garba (GFMER Nigeria)
11:00-12:00	<a href="#">Qualitative research: introduction, sampling and approaches - Part I</a>	Lynn Gertiser (GFMER)
13:00-14:30	<a href="#">Sampling and sample size estimation</a>	Moazzam Ali (WHO)
14:45-16:15	<a href="#">Using information and communication technologies to improve sexual and reproductive health research</a>	Alison Chatfield (MHTF, Harvard School of Public Health)
16:30-17:30	General remarks on participants' research projects, strengths, points to be improved	Raqibat Idris, Lynn Gertiser (GFMER)



<b>September 17, Wednesday, WHO Library</b>		
09:00-09:30	Review of the agenda	Karim Abawi (GFMER), Alison Chatfield (Harvard School of Public Health)
09:30-10:30	Pregnancy outcome of HIV/AIDS	Marleen Temmerman (WHO)
11:00-12:00	<a href="#">Sexual violence and medico-legal linkage</a>	Sari Laukkanen (GFMER)
<b>September 17, Wednesday, Room L10</b>		
13:00-14:00	<a href="#">Data collection instruments</a>	Karim Abawi (GFMER)
14:00-15:00	<a href="#">Women's and children's health: evidence of impact of human rights</a>	Giuseppe Benagiano (GFMER)
15:00	Field tour	
<b>September 18, Thursday, Room L10</b>		
09:00-09:30	Review of the agenda	Karim Abawi (GFMER), Alison Chatfield (Harvard School of Public Health)
09:30-10:45	<a href="#">Qualitative research: introduction, sampling and approaches - Part II</a>	Lynn Gertiser (GFMER)
11:00-12:00	<a href="#">Research capacity strengthening in sexual and reproductive health. The HRP Alliance</a>	Rita Kabra (WHO)
13:00-14:00	Open Discussion (questions & answers)	
14:00-14:30	Antenatal techniques decreasing postpartum perineal injury and urinary incontinence in Mexico	<a href="#">Atziri Ramirez-Negrin - Instituto Nacional de Perinatología, Mexico City, Mexico</a>
14:30-15:00	Adolescent pregnancies: a retrospective cohort study of maternal and fetal outcomes at a tertiary health institution in Northeastern Nigeria	<a href="#">Abdulkarim Garba Mairiga - University of Maiduguri, Nigeria</a>
15:00-15:30	Practice of illegal abortion and its determinants in the city of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	<a href="#">Bruno Ki - Marie Stopes International, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso</a>
15:30-16:00	Infertility, a neglected problem among indigenous populations. A study on the	<a href="#">Carlos Encinas - Embriovid, La Paz, Bolivia</a>

	prevalence and determinants of infertility among Andean people from the Bolivian high-lands (Altiplano)	
16:00-16:30	Acceptability of the female condom among HIV positive Nigerian women- a comparative cross over trial of the male and female condom	<a href="#">Barbara Avershima Akinbuwa - Federal Medical Centre, Makurdi, Benue State, Nigeria</a>
<b>September 19, Friday, Room L10</b>		
09:00-09:30	Addressing female reproductive system cancer: a look at the prevalence of cervical cancer and women characteristics in Zanzibar, Tanzania	<a href="#">Maryam Hemed - African Union Commission, Department of Medical Services, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</a>
09:30-10:00	Immediate pregnancy outcomes among adolescent expectant mothers at the Moi teaching hospital, Kenya	<a href="#">Doris Nthenya - Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya</a>
10:00-10:30	Shock index performance for the diagnosis of post-partum hemorrhage	<a href="#">Anderson Pinheiro - Centro de Atenção Integral à Saúde da Mulher, University of Campinas, Brazil</a>
10:30-11:00	Factors influencing institutional delivery in Bhutan	<a href="#">Sonam Wangdi - National Reproductive Health Program, Department of Public Health, Thimphu, Bhutan</a>
11:00-11:30	An investigative study on factors that influence parents' involvement in adolescent sexual and reproductive health education in Lilongwe district, Malawi	<a href="#">Tazirwa Munthali Chipeta - Daeyang College of Nursing, Lilongwe, Malawi</a>
11:30-12:00	Magnitude of prosecution of rape offences among adolescents and children over the past two years in Dire Dawa City Administration, Ethiopia	<a href="#">Girma Legesse Beyan - Columbia University International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs, Dire Dawa, Ethiopia</a>
13:00-13:30	Assessment of the impact of a behavior change communication project on knowledge and behavior of mothers in 3 mountainous provinces of Vietnam	<a href="#">Trang Nguyen - Center for Community Health Research and Development, Hanoi, Vietnam</a>
13:30-14:00	Adolescent health in Nigeria: availability, accessibility, and awareness of youth-friendly health	<a href="#">Onyinye Edeh - School of Public Health, University of Washington, Seattle, USA</a>
14:00-14:30	HIV-related risk perception among female sex workers and preventive interventional HIV strategies in Khartoum	<a href="#">Tamara Ahmed Abdelaziz Abdelmoneim - Ahmed Gasim Specialised Hospital for Children, Federal Ministry of Health, Khartoum, Sudan</a>

14:30-15:00	Discussion	
	End of the workshop session	



**Table 2: Participants' Profile**

Family Name	First Name	Country	Education
Akinbuwa	Barbara	Nigeria	Bm, BcH, FWACP
Ki	Bruno	Burkina Faso	MD
Abdelmoneim	Tamara	Sudan	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS)
Chipeta	Tazirwa	Malawi	Nursing and midwifery
Nguyen	Trang	Vietnam	MBA
Garba	Abdelkarim	Nigeria	MBBS and Masters of Health Planning and Management; Cert of Understanding and Managing reproductive health
Beyan	Girma	Ethiopia	MD
Hemed	Maryam	Ethiopia	MD, MMed, MSc
Nethenya	Doris	Kenya	Bachelor of medicine and surgery (MBCHB) and post-grad student in reproductive health
Wangdi	Sonam	Bhutan	Bachelor of life science; Post-grad diploma in Public Administration
Pinheiro	Anderson	Brazil	Bachelor of Medicine, Master's in clinical medicine; Doctoral student
Edeh	Onyinye	Nigeria & USA	Master's of Public Health
Ramirez Negrin	Atziri	Mexico	MD
Encinas	Carlos Daniel	Bolivia	BSc in Molecular Biology and Genetics



**Tazirwa Muskhali Chipeta**  
(Malawi)



**Tamara Ahmed Abdelaziz**  
(Sudan)



**Bruno F.**  
(Burkina Faso)



**Sonam Wangdi**  
(Bhutan)



**Anderson Pinheiro**  
(Brazil)



**Onyinye Edah**  
(USA/Nigeria)



**Trang Nguyen**  
(Vietnam)



**Atzira Ramirez-Negris**  
(Mexico)



**Maryam Hemed**  
(Ethiopia)



**Doris Nthenya**  
(Kenya)



**Barbara Amehere A. Abubuwa**  
(Nigeria)



**Gena Legesse Beyan**  
(Ethiopia)



**Abdulkarim Garba Mairiga**  
(Nigeria)



**Carlos Encinas**  
(Bolivia)

**Table 3: Participants' Summary of Research Protocols**

<b>Participants</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Research Project Title</b>	<b>Substantive Area</b>	<b>Research Design</b>
Barbara Akinbuwa	Nigeria	Acceptability of the female condom among HIV positive Nigerian women-a comparative cross over trial of the male and female condom	Sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS	Cross-over randomized control trial
Bruno Ki	Burkina Faso	Practice of illegal abortion and its determinants in the city of Ougadougou, Burkina Faso	Sexual and reproductive rights	Descriptive analytical
Tamara Abdelmoneim	Sudan	HIV-related risk perception among female sex workers and preventive interventional HIV strategies in Khartoum	Sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS	Observational community based cross-sectional study
Tazirwa Chipeta	Malawi	An investigative study on factors that influence parents' involvement in adolescent sexual and reproductive health education in Lilongwe district, Malawi	Sexual and reproductive health	Cross-sectional population based
Mai Trang Nguyen	Vietnam	Assessment of the impact of a behaviour change communication project on knowledge and behaviour of mothers in 3 mountainous provinces of Vietnam	Maternal and Child Health	Cross-sectional analytical
Abdelkarim Garba	Nigeria	Adolescent Pregnancies: A retrospective cohort study of maternal and fetal outcomes at a tertiary health institution in Northeastern Nigeria	Maternal and perinatal health/Adolescent health	Retrospective cohort
Beyan Girma Legesse	Ethiopia	Magnitude of prosecution of rape offences among adolescents and children over the past two years in Dire Dawa City Administration, Ethiopia	Sexual and reproductive rights	Descriptive cross-sectional
Hemed Maryam Seif	Ethiopia	Addressing female reproductive system cancer: A look at the prevalence of cervical cancer and women characteristics in Zanzibar, Tanzania	Sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS	Cross-sectional descriptive
Nethenya Doris	Kenya	Immediate pregnancy outcomes among adolescent expectant mothers at the Moi teaching hospital, Kenya	Maternal and perinatal health	Cross-sectional descriptive

**Table 3: Participants' Summary of Research Protocols (Cont'd)**

Wangdi Sonam	Bhutan	Factors influencing institutional delivery in Bhutan	Maternal and perinatal health	Cross-sectional retrospective
Pinheiro Anderson	Brazil	Shock index performance for the diagnosis of post-partum hemorrhage	Maternal and perinatal health	Prospective cohort study
Edeh Onyinye Anitha	United States & Nigeria	Adolescent Health in Nigeria: Availability, Accessibility, and Awareness of Youth-Friendly Health	Adolescent health	Cross-sectional, observation
Ramirez Negrin Atziri	Mexico	Antenatal techniques decreasing postpartum perineal injury and urinary incontinence in Mexico	Maternal and perinatal health	Single blind randomized controlled study
Carlos Daniel Encinas	Bolivia	Infertility, a neglected problem among indigenous populations. A study on the prevalence and determinants of infertility among Andean people from the Bolivian high-lands (Altiplano)	Sexual and reproductive health	Cross-sectional



### Table 4: Participants' Presentation Results

Presentations results (average score\*) of Peer Review and Evaluation:

Participant	Score
Atziri Ramirez Negrin	4.2
Abdulkarim Garba	4.0
Bruno Ki	4.0
Carlos Daniel Encinas	4.4
Barbara Akinbuwa	4.5
Anderson Pinheiro	4.2
Maryam Seif Hemed	4.5
Doris Nthenya	4.2
Sonam Wangdi	4.1
Tazirwa Chipeta	4.4
Girma Legesse Beyan	4.2
Mai Trang Nguyen	4.4
Onyinye Anitha Edeh	4.7
Tamara Abdelmoneim	3.8

\* Participants we marked on a scale of 1 to 5, 5 as the highest mark. The scores are averages of the individual scores given anonymously by all (n=14) the participants.

Note: Names are listed in order of presentation.





**Table 5: Participants' Feedback: Overall Perceived Effectiveness of Workshop Topics**

<b>Item</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%*</b>
<b>1. To what extent was this workshop relevant and useful to your work?</b>		
1 (not relevant and useful)	0	--
2	0	--
3	0	--
4	1	7
5 (highly relevant and useful)	13	93
<b>2. Were the concepts, principles and subject matter clearly presented and discussed?</b>		
1 (not clear)	0	--
2	0	--
3	0	--
4	6	43
5 (clear)	8	57
<b>3. Please choose the statement that expresses your opinion about the technical level of this workshop.</b>		
Most of it was too technical and difficult for me to understand	0	--
Some of it was too technical and difficult for me to understand	4	29
All of it was just about right for me to understand	10	71
Some of it was too simple for me to understand	0	--
Most of it was too simple for me to understand	0	--
<b>4. To what extent was the workshop interactive and participatory?</b>		
1 (not interactive and participatory)	0	--
2	0	--
3	0	--
4	2	14
5 (highly interactive and participatory)	12	86
<b>5. How well were the participants' questions answered?</b>		
1 (not satisfactory)	0	--
2	0	--
3	0	--
4	6	43
5 (highly satisfactory)	8	57
<b>6. Was the length of this workshop satisfactory for you?*</b>		
1 (not satisfactory)	0	--

2	0	--
3	4	31
4	7	54
5 (highly satisfactory)	2	15
<b>7. To what extent do you think you will be able to use and apply in your work with the tools and techniques introduced and discussed in this workshop?</b>		
1 (not likely)	0	--
2	0	--
3	0	--
4	4	29
5 (highly likely)	10	71
<b>8. At the end of this workshop, how would you rank your level of knowledge and skills of development of research protocol?</b>		
1 (poor)	0	--
2	0	--
3	1	7
4	8	57
5 (excellent)	5	36
<b>9. To what extent did the workshop meet your expectation that you had before the workshop?</b>		
1 (not met)	0	--
2	0	--
3	0	--
4	4	29
5 (well met)	10	71

n=14

-- indicates no value

\* indicates n=13 (question was missed by one participant)

\*\* totals may not equal 100 due to rounding

**Table 6: Participants' Responses to Usefulness of Lectures in their Research**

<b>Lecture Topic</b>	<b># of Responses</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>1. Research Capacity Strengthening</b>		
Very useful	14	100
Occasionally useful	0	--
Not useful	0	--
<b>2. Valid and Effective Literature Search</b>		
Very useful	14	100
Occasionally useful	0	--
Not useful	0	--
<b>3. Research Ethics</b>		
Very useful	13	93
Occasionally useful	1	7
Not useful	0	--
<b>4. Critical Appraisal of Research Protocols*</b>		
Very useful	12	92
Occasionally useful	1	8
Not useful	0	--
<b>5. Dissemination of Research Findings to a Non-Scientific Audience</b>		
Very useful	11	79
Occasionally useful	3	21
Not useful	0	--
<b>6. Women's and Children's Health: Evidence of Impact of Human Rights</b>		
Very useful	11	79
Occasionally useful	3	21
Not useful	0	--
<b>7. Sampling Techniques</b>		
Very useful	14	100
Occasionally useful	0	--
Not useful	0	--
<b>8. Using Information and Communication Technologies to Improve Sexual and Reproductive Health Research</b>		
Very useful	9	64

Occasionally useful	5	36
Not useful	0	--
<b>9. Pregnancy Outcome of HIV/AIDS</b>		
Very useful	11	79
Occasionally useful	3	21
Not useful	0	--
<b>10. Sexual Violence and Medico-legal Linkage</b>		
Very useful	7	50
Occasionally useful	7	50
Not useful	0	--
<b>11. Data Collection Instruments</b>		
Very useful	14	100
Occasionally useful	0	--
Not useful	0	--
<b>12. Qualitative Research (Introduction, Sampling Techniques and Approaches)</b>		
Very useful	9	64
Occasionally useful	5	36
Not useful	0	--
<b>13. General Remarks on Participants' Research Projects, Strengths, Points to Improve</b>		
Very useful	13	93
Occasionally useful	1	7
Not useful	0	--
<b>14. WHO Work on Research Capacity Strengthening in Sexual and Reproductive Health</b>		
Very useful	13	93
Occasionally useful	1	7
Not useful	0	--

n=14

-- Indicates no value

\* indicates n=13 (question was missed by one participant)

## Participants' Answers to Open-Ended Questions

The following narrative report coalesces the answers participants communicated via open-ended questions regarding the usefulness of the workshop to their profession, and what elements could be added to future workshops to increase its utility.

Numerous students enjoyed every aspect presented and discussed in the workshop. The topics specifically mentioned to be useful were data collection tools, research capacity building, research ethics, and human rights. Many students found the presentations addressing research protocol design and appraisal beneficial for their future research endeavors.

Participants noted the importance and value of the research ethics and medico-legal presentations and were grateful for the useful applications of the valid and effective literature search workshop.

An additional focus was suggested for qualitative research with practical applications, implementation strategies and sampling methods. It was also proposed to introduce presentations incorporating statistics, data analysis and quantitative study techniques.

Students recommended additional workshop activities such as video lectures, prepared quizzes to test their ability during the workshop, as well as a greater emphasis on discussion forums to engage student learning.

Multiple students requested the length of the workshop to be increased to two weeks, as this would enable an in-depth understanding of topics presented and additional networking opportunities.

Lastly, the participants agreed upon the beneficial gain from the information presented for the implementation of their research projects and future education.



## Remarks by Participant – Onyinye Edeh

There's a saying that "You get in life what you have the courage to ask for." This is exactly how my journey to Geneva began, and I am still pinching myself as I reflect on this wonderful opportunity. Following my graduation with my Master of Public Health degree, I sought out opportunities to advance my training in adolescent sexual and reproductive health research. Hence, I reached out to some of my professors, and I was put in contact with Dr. Venkatraman Chandra-Mouli at the WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research. Dr. Chandra-Mouli then referred me to the wonderful Dr. Karim Abawi at the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER). And the rest, like they say, is history.

It's amazing what your networks can do for you!

Participating in the GFMER online course is one of the best investments that I (and my beloved supporters) have made in my professional development. And, I am especially honored to have been selected to participate in the intensive workshop at the WHO in Geneva. From the first day I arrived and interacted with two of my fellow participants - a nurse from Malawi and an Obstetrician/Gynecologist from Mexico, I knew that I would be inspired and enlightened during the course of the workshop. Sexual and Reproductive Health, despite its sensitive nature, is a critical area of public health that requires adequately trained, dedicated, and empathetic health professionals. These are attributes that I have seen in every one of my fellow colleagues at the workshop. I am delighted that the GFMER and its partners have chosen to invest in training and providing evidence-based resources to health professionals in developing/low-resource countries - the areas of the world with the greatest needs.

I have learned a lot in one week; from how to conduct valid and effective literature searches to how to critically appraise a research protocol and how to use information and communication technologies to improve sexual and reproductive health research. It's been an ah-mazing workshop! As I prepare to go back to my home country of Nigeria to utilize the skills I have gained, I leave with these take-home messages:

- As researchers, we should always ask ourselves if our research is needed. What new information are we adding to existing knowledge?
- As public health professionals, we need to stop being *reactive* to the situations in our communities, but rather, adopt *proactive* strategies so that we can always be prepared to effectively deal with public health issues. This will help us anticipate potential epidemics and ensure that we achieve better health for all.
- As was stated by Dr. Abawi, "We create demands." Let us begin to demand for good health services in our countries.
- Ethical consideration in research is critical. As researchers, we need to be gatekeepers of ethical considerations and ensure that any research we do adheres to the highest ethical standards and respects the rights of our study participants and stakeholders.

I have had a blast in Geneva, and I am going to miss all of the wonderful and beautiful people who have become my family in the space of one week. This experience would not have been

possible without several remarkable people who have supported me financially, spiritually, and professionally. I would like to thank all of the staff at GFMER and the WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research, the Maternal Health Task Force at the Harvard School of Public Health, the Geneva State, and other partners who contributed resources to ensure that this workshop was a success. I would also like to thank my current employer, Action Health Incorporated, for their support, as well as my immediate and extended family and friends who continue to support me as I pursue my passion for improving the health of young people globally. As one of my fellow participant mentioned earlier, “we have each other.” Let us ensure that we maintain our strong network and be resources and advocates for each other. On behalf of my fellow workshop participants, thank you, thank you, and thank you for an enriching and ridiculously fun time in Geneva! Warm wishes for continued program success.

Onyinye Edeh (Nigeria & United States)

#### **Remarks by Participant – Sonam Wangdi**

It is my honour and privilege to speak on behalf of my highly esteemed team of colleagues. First of all, I, on behalf of my colleagues, would like to express our extreme pleasure for being part of this noble initiative and deep gratitude to have been invited to Geneva as best performers.

I take this opportunity to share that the course is of high quality and an interesting package, which enhances the capacity of professionals from education to research to practice on sexual and reproductive health. It is inspiring to see that such a course, provided from an advanced city in Europe, can make a big difference in the lives of health care providers working on far flung Himalayan Mountain ranges in Bhutan in terms of enhancing their clinical skills and research capacity. As a course coordinator in Bhutan, I am really impressed with my participants to see their great enthusiasm for the course and their improvement in research writing skills as a result of this course.

The intensive course in Geneva is another interesting package for the best performers as it is a great opportunity to meet the main drivers behind this exciting course. It is a privilege to meet our course coordinators in person for exchange of views and further enhancing our capacity. Besides, being with the selected team from different countries who are highly educated, experienced, motivated and enthusiastic is another educative and enriching experience. It is also a great opportunity to visit one of the most beautiful and safest cities in the world, which many envy to visit.

Lastly, with highly motivated team of GFMER and advancement of ICT technology in many developing countries, I strongly believe that such a course has a great potential to grow from strength to strength and make great impact to the lives of many in the years to come. As a member of GFMER, I think it is important for all of us to live up to the spirit of GFMER by imparting knowledge and experiences we gained from the course and promoting sexual and reproductive health education, research and practice in our respective countries.


Sonam Wangdi (Bhutan)







## Sample of Certificate



**FROM RESEARCH TO PRACTICE:  
TRAINING COURSE IN SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH**

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**THE GENEVA FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**  
WHO COLLABORATING CENTER IN EDUCATION AND RESEARCH IN HUMAN REPRODUCTION  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION THE DEPARTMENT OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RESEARCH

**CERTIFIES THAT**

**Ms./MR./DR. ....**

**HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE RESEARCH WORKSHOP, HELD IN GENEVA, 16-20 SEPTEMBER 2013,  
AS FINAL PART OF THE TRAINING COURSE IN SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH**

<hr/> <p><b>Prof. Aldo Campana</b> President Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research</p>	<hr/> <p><b>Dr. Blaise Bourrit</b> General Secretary Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research</p>	<hr/> <p><b>Dr. Karim Abawi</b> Course Coordinator Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research</p>
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