GENEVA FOUNDATION

FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

WHO Collaborating Centre in Education and Research in Human Reproduction



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www.gfmer.ch

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Contents

Preface by the president	4
Mission	5
GFMER main fields of activities	6
Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research 2011	6
Course participants	7
Teachers, partner institutions	7
Course contents	7
Teaching methods	8
Final evaluation	9
Workshop in Geneva	9
Supporting institutions	. 10
Clinical training, prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula	. 11
Supporting institutions	. 13
Reproductive Health Research - GFMER - LAO PDR Programme (YM. Ebinger, Vientiane, Lao PDR)	. 14
Training course on Research Methodology in Reproductive Health	. 16
Supporting institutions	. 17
The Evidence-based Management of Pre-eclampsia and Eclampsia Training	. 18
The Pilot Test of the evidence-based Management of Pre-eclampsia and Eclampsia Training Module	. 18
The Evidence-based Management of Pre-eclampsia and Eclampsia Module - Knowledge assessment test	. 19
Dissemination of the Evidence-based Management of Pre-eclampsia and Eclampsia Training in target countries	

GFMER - Annual Report 2011

	Afghanistan, Kabul, December 11-12, 2011	. 20
	Ethiopia, Gondar, December 10, 2011	. 20
	Ethiopia, Mekelle, December 12, 2011	. 21
	India, Mumbai, December 9, 2011	. 21
	Nigeria, Sokoto, December 10, 2011	. 22
Su	pporting institutions	. 22
GFMER	Website (www.gfmer.ch)	. 23

Preface by the president

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

In 2011 the foundation and its partners launched for the second year, the distance training / online course on sexual and reproductive health research: a total of 147 health professionals from 39 countries attended the training program.

GFMER continues its active partnership with the UNFPA/WHO 'Campaign to end fistula'. The aim has been to create a 'Centre of Excellence for the prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula' in Northern Benin, which would serve other countries in the region under the name of "Tanguieta Model". During 2011 several missions were conducted to different African countries, where Dr. Charles-Henry Rochat, the overall responsible of fistula project with his team of specialists, operated a total of 405 women. Moreover local doctors in these countries were trained on the management of obstetric fistula.

GFMER has built a strong partnership with governmental and non-governmental organizations for the exchange of information and expertise at international level, where it plays the role of resource centre in terms of training and research. The website of the foundation knows an enormous success, as it has attracted 2,988,745 visitors from 224 countries in 2011.

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

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

Prof. Aldo Campana The President

Mission

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

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

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

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

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

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

GFMER main fields of activities

Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research 2011



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

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

Argentina, Cameroon, China, Indonesia, Laos and Romania (http://www.gfmer.ch/Medical_education_En/PGC_network.htm).

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" uses distance learning and offers a training package specially developed for those health professionals involved in research, whose access to learning is limited by time, financial resource or other constraints and for whom access to quality education and learning is limited. Participants of this online training course gain experience in general, day-to-day health care demands as well as specific, long-term challenges in the field of sexual and reproductive health research.

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

Course participants

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

A total of 147 health professionals from 39 countries were enrolled in the online training course of 2011. The majority of them were from developing countries.

Teachers, partner institutions



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

A total of 36 teachers from WHO, GFMER and other national and international institutions were involved in teaching and tutorship for the online training course.

Course contents

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

The online Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research consists in five modules:

- Maternal and Perinatal Health
- Sexually Transmitted Infections & HIV/AIDS
- Family Planning
- Sexual Health with a special focus on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Community Genetics

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 five modules. The contents of each module is based on the reality of health care and addresses current problems and challenges in the field of sexual and reproductive health research.

Teaching methods



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

Teaching methods consisted 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. 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. See the link below for the assignments list:

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

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 different countries.

Final evaluation

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

- Participants are required to have completed the assignments for the various course modules.
- Participants must write either a bibliographic review on a topic relevant for their practice or a research paper, under the guidance of a tutor.

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

Workshop in Geneva



http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2010/Geneva-Workshop/Geneva-Workshop-June-2011.htm

http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2010/Geneva-Workshop/Geneva-Workshop-Evaluation-Report-2011.html

Of all participants of the 2010 edition of online training course, 15 were invited to attend a workshop from 13 to 17 June 2011 at WHO 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.

Supporting institutions

The training course is supported by the Republic and Canton of Geneva. The Société coopérative médicale de Beaulieu and GlaxoSmithKline sponsored scholarships for students from developing countries.



Clinical training, prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula



Charles-Henry Rochat

http://www.gfmer.ch/Medical education En/Rochat-obstetric-fistula.htm

http://www.gfmer.ch/Presentations_Fr/Fistules_obstetricales.htm

http://www.gfmer.ch/Activites_internationales_Fr/Rapport_2011_fistules_obstetricales_Rochat.html

Each year between 50 000 to 100 000 women worldwide are affected by obstetric fistula. Women who experience obstetric fistula suffer constant incontinence, shame, social segregation and health problems. It is estimated that more than 2 million young women live with untreated obstetric fistula in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

GFMER is 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.

The objectives of the project are:

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

In 2011 Professor Charles-Henry Rochat, responsible for the fistula project, together with a group of specialists and local medical doctors conducted missions in several African countries where fistula cases were operated. In addition, Rochat and his team 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.

GFMER - Annual Report 2011



The table below shows the location of hospitals and the number of patients operated during 2011.

Hospital	Country	No of fistula cases operated
Hôpital St-Jean de Dieu de Tanguiéta	Benin	125
Hôpital Central de Yaoundé	Cameroon	25
Hôpital de Kissidougou, Labé et centre Jean Paul II Conakry	Guinea	156
Hôpital de Kissidougou et Kankan	Guinea	38
Hôpital Abéché	Chad	6
CHRR Toliary	Madagascar	55
Total		405

In 2011, an innovative tool "a digital pen" has been tested in Tanguiéta, Benin for collecting data, in order to facilitate the conversion of patients' data into the GFMER fistula database.



The fistula database has been updated to be the referral for the website: http://www.fistula-group.org

GFMER - Annual Report 2011



Another important contribution to education is a chapter edited by EMC "Vesicovaginal fistulas and obstetric fistulas" Ref. 41-17, written by Rochat CH and Gueye SM, Colas JM, Dumurgier C, Falandry L, Blanchot J, Eglin G, Tebeu PM.



Supporting institutions

The GFMER obstetric fistula program is supported by the City of Geneva, the communes of Thônex and Chêne-Bougeries, the Fondation Ambre, the Ladies' Lunch Lausanne, the Global Foundation for Life Sciences, the Fondation Rumsey et Cartier and other private donors.

Reproductive Health Research - GFMER - LAO PDR Programme (Y.-M. Ebinger, Vientiane, Lao PDR)

http://www.gfmer.ch/Activites internationales Fr/Laos/Laos Home.html

Under the umbrella of the Lao PDR Ministry of Health (Decrees 256 and 1059), in the years 2006 and 2007 GFMER signed collaborations agreements with several Lao Health Institutions, according to the mission of the Foundation "Furnish health education program and research support to developing countries".

Maternal and Infant Mortality continue to be high. Laos's health indicators are alarming for this problem.

Issues

- High maternal (and child) mortality rates are the major problems in many part of the country, especially in the remote upland area and in ethnic minority areas.
- Poor access to health services (inadequately resourced) and lack of proper care, poor knowledge
 and practice of health professionals and traditional attitudes of mothers and young women are the
 main development issues.
- Other aspects like poor access to scientific up-to date information, lack of scientific support to identify initiatives and actions are to be considered as relevant factors.

How to address these issues?

- CME training in research methodology in Maternal Health and Reproductive Health, development and research synthesis activities are the main actions needed.
- Support from partner institutions for postgraduate medical education and Continuing Medical Education (CME) as well as sustain for the Collaboration / Partnership with partners in Vientiane are the main aspects, according the needs of medical education.
- The dissemination strategy of postgraduate training courses and the support of research projects conducted locally are the outstanding aspects of GFMER's method of collaboration.
- Deployment of a subset of the RAFT telemedicine and teaching network (Geneva University Hospital) to link province hospitals to central hospitals and university.

Objectives

The overall objectives are to:

- Furnish health education programmes and research support.
- Establish collaboration between entities from the public and private sectors.
- Develop international partnerships and twinning programmes with collaborating institutions and develop a programme for staff exchange.

The Mother-and-Child-Health and Reproductive Health domains are the first priority for the Lao PDR Public Health Institute for the next five years. The GFMER collaboration will increase the accessibility of state-of-the-art relevant domain of post graduate medical knowledge, in terms of training, research support, knowledge bases (methodology and data) and scientific information availability and dissemination.

GFMER - Annual Report 2011

In agreement with the Lao PDR Health Ministry, the National Institute of Public Health, the Lao PDR University of Health Sciences and various Laotian healthcare institutions, a cooperation programme has been initiated and formally approved in November 2006 by all participating partners. The second Training Course in Reproductive Health Research takes place from October 2011 at the National University of Health Sciences, Vientiane.



MM. Y.-M.Ebinger (GFMER), Prof. B.Sihavong (Vice Minister of Health, Lao PDR), Prof. B.Sensathit (Dean of National University of Health Sciences, Director of MCH hospital), Vientiane, June 2011.

Cooperation Agreements have been signed with the following institutions:

- Lao PDR Ministry of Health, Vientiane
- National University of Health Sciences, Post-graduate Institute, Vientiane
- National Institute for Public Health, Vientiane
- Institut de la Francophonie pour la Médecine Tropicale, Vientiane
- National Mother and Child Health Hospital, Vientiane

GFMER support for the National Mother and Child Hospital (Vientiane) consist of counseling and financial support (500 HIV test kits, laparoscopy training system (POP-Simulation Trainer), RAFT computer workstation and equipments in 2011).

GFMER - Annual Report 2011



HIV screening at the National Mother and Child Hospital

Training course on Research Methodology in Reproductive Health

http://www.gfmer.ch/Activites_internationales_Fr/Laos/Laos-Course-2011.htm

Responsible institutions

Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research, Lao PDR Ministry of Health, National University of Health Sciences, Vientiane, in collaboration with four teaching hospitals (Mahosot, Sethathirath, Mother and Child, Mittaphab) and National Institute of Public Health (NIOPH), National Centre for Mother and Child Health (NCMCH), WHO.

Aims and purpose

- To strengthen to research skills of lecturers in OBGYN, public health officers who are working in the field of reproductive health including mother and child health.
- To increase the number of research studies for local and international publications.

Objectives

After completion of this course, the participants should be able to:

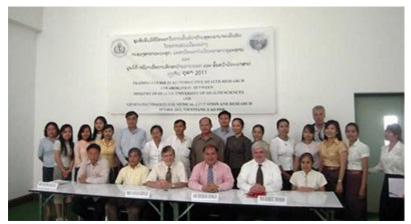
- Disseminate the new knowledge in their institutions.
- Conduct the research in reproductive health (prepare research proposal, data collection, data analysis, report writing).

Criteria of participants

- Medical doctors and officers involved in research
- Having English skills at least intermediate levels
- Having basic computer skill
- Working in the area of Reproductive Health including Mother and Child Health

Number of students: 10-12.

Professors: 20 from UHS, GFMER, MCC, NIOPH, WHO, CERCASIA.



October 2011: Opening ceremony of the Reproductive Health Research Training Course.

Centre of the table: Y.-M. Ebinger (GFMER), Prof. S. Menorath (President of the University of Health Sciences), Dr. R. Thomson (GFMER).

Supporting institutions

Lao PDR Program is supported by Bank Pictet & Cie, Geneva, and Commune de Versoix.

The Evidence-based Management of Pre-eclampsia and Eclampsia Training

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

http://www.gfmer.ch/Educacion_medica_Es/pre-eclampsia-Universidad-de-Oxford/index.htm

The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) in collaboration with the Oxford Maternal and Perinatal Health Institute (OMPHI) offers a training on Evidence-based Management of Preeclampsia 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 Pilot Test of the evidence-based Management of Pre-eclampsia and Eclampsia Training Module

As a pilot testing, this course was offered to the participants of GFMER 2010-2011 training course on sexual and reproductive health research.

The objectives of the pilot test were:

- To test and evaluate the e-learning module on eclampsia and pre-eclampsia in the context of an online training on sexual and reproductive health research.
- To obtain information on the implementation of evidence-based management of pre-eclampsia and eclampsia in different developing countries.

In order to achieve the stated objectives, the following activities have been carried out:

- The e-learning module has been made available to all the online course participants. http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2010/pre-eclampsia-University-of-Oxford/index.htm
- The participants were asked, as a requirement of the course, to complete both modules (Basic and Advanced) on pre-eclampsia and eclampsia.
- The course participants were asked to answer an online evaluation questionnaire developed by the University of Oxford and GFMER.
 http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2010/Eclampsia-University-of-Oxford-Assignment.htm

A total of 100 health care professionals from 38 countries took part in the Evidence-based Management of Pre-eclampsia and Eclampsia Training. Feedback was positive: participants rated the basic and advanced module of the training as interesting and useful.

Below are some key findings of the pilot testing of this training course:

- All the participants were satisfied with the training.
- Over 90% of the participants stated they would recommend the course to colleagues.

The Evidence-based Management of Pre-eclampsia and Eclampsia Module - Knowledge assessment test

http://www.gfmer.ch/globalvoiceseclampsia/index.htm

Health professionals who completed both the basic and advanced levels were invited to take the knowledge assessment test in English (http://www.gfmer.ch/globalvoiceseclampsia/assessment.htm) or in Spanish (http://www.gfmer.ch/globalvoiceseclampsia/index-es.htm). All participants who correctly answered at least 15 of the 20 multiple choice questions were entitled to a course certificate jointly signed by the Nuffield Department Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology of the University of Oxford and GFMER. Until now, 650 health professionals took the knowledge assessment test.

Dissemination of the Evidence-based Management of Pre-eclampsia and Eclampsia Training in target countries

In order to reach more health professionals, training sessions were organised in four countries: Afghanistan, Ethiopia, India and Nigeria. This part of the activities has been jointly organized by GFMER project managers based in Geneva and local coordinators in these countries.

A total of 153 health professionals from aforementioned countries successfully completed the training course and received certificates signed by the University of Oxford and GFMER.

Country	Number of health professionals who completed the course
Afghanistan	37
Ethiopia	56
India	26
Nigeria	34
Total	153

The sessions of the Evidence-based Management of Pre-eclampsia and Eclampsia Training in these four countries were, without any hesitation, a great success. The numbers of participants exceeded the expectations, feedback was very positive and the connections formed with local institutions will ensure further dissemination of the training among health professionals in these countries.

The following links provide detailed information on the training events organised in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, India and Nigeria:

Afghanistan, Kabul, December 11-12, 2011



http://www.gfmer.ch/omphi/Oxford-EB-management-eclampsia-Afghanistan-2011.htm

Ethiopia, Gondar, December 10, 2011



http://www.gfmer.ch/omphi/Oxford-EB-management-eclampsia-Gondar-Ethiopia-2011.htm

Ethiopia, Mekelle, December 12, 2011



http://www.gfmer.ch/omphi/Oxford-EB-management-eclampsia-Mekelle-Ethiopia-2011.htm

India, Mumbai, December 9, 2011



http://www.gfmer.ch/omphi/Oxford-EB-management-eclampsia-Mumbai-India-2011.htm

Nigeria, Sokoto, December 10, 2011



http://www.gfmer.ch/omphi/Oxford-EB-management-eclampsia-Nigeria-2011.htm

Supporting institutions

The training was developed as an e-learning module by the Nuffield Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, University of Oxford and funded by the MacArthur Foundation through EngenderHealth.



GFMER Website (www.gfmer.ch)



http://www.gfmer.ch

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

In 2011 the GFMER website had 6,046,334 pageviews, and 2,988,745 visitors from 224 countries.