

# GENEVA FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH



**Virtual meeting with MSc Global Health Students, University of Glasgow**

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# The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER)



- Is a non-profit organisation established in 2002.
- A World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre in Education and Research in Human Reproduction till 2016.
- Continues to work in close collaboration with WHO.
- Is supported by the Department of Social Affairs of the City of Geneva and other Swiss and international institutions.
- Has built a strong partnership with governmental and non-governmental organizations for the exchange of information and expertise at international level and plays the role of resource centre in terms of training and research.



# Mission of the GFMER



GFMER has a mandate to address challenges, such as:

- The organization 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 dissemination of clinical guidelines for use in clinical training programmes.
- The collaboration with the UNFPA/WHO programme to end obstetric fistula.





# Structure



- Foundation Council
- Executive Committee
- Project Managers
- GFMER Country Coordinators
- Other support
  - Volunteers
  - Interns
  - On demand staff



# Structure

## Council and Committee Members



### Foundation Council Members

- Prof. Giuseppe Benagiano (President)
- Dr. Blaise Bourrit (Secretary)
- Prof. Ana Maria Langer Glas

### Executive Committee Members

- Prof. Aldo Campana (Director)
- Prof. Charles-Henry Rochat (Codirector)
- Dr. Karim Abawi
- Dr. Anne-Caroline Benski
- Dr. Hongguang Dong
- PD Dr. Pierre Vassilakos



# Structure

## Project managers



- Raqibat Idris - From research to practice: Training in sexual and reproductive health research
- Charles-Henry Rochat - Clinical training, prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula
- Aldo Campana, Karim Abawi, Raqibat Idris - Oxford Maternal & Perinatal Health Institute (OMPHI)/GFMER collaborative initiatives
- Pierre Vassilakos - Cervical cancer in developing countries
- Karim Abawi - Sexual and reproductive rights
- Meena Nathan Cherian - Emergency and Surgical Care





# Structure

## GFMER Country Coordinators

- A total of 30 coordinators from countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Middle East and South America.

### Main tasks:

- Student coaching at local level.
- 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.

The screenshot displays the GFMER website's 'Country Coordinators' page. At the top, the GFMER logo and tagline 'Network Foundation for Medical Education and Research' are visible. Below the navigation menu, the page is titled 'GFMER Country Coordinators' and features a grid of 30 individual portraits, each with a small caption below it. The coordinators are arranged in three columns and ten rows. The countries represented include: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

# GFMER Training Course in Sexual Health Research



POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH TRAINING  
IN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Faculty of Medicine, University of Indonesia  
Jakarta, 21 - 25 October 2003



- From 2003 to 2009 for health professionals from around the globe at WHO headquarters in Geneva.
- Disseminated in Afghanistan, Argentina, Cameroon, China, Laos, Indonesia, and Romania through the active collaboration of participants of the course in Geneva.
- Became a distance learning course from 2010.





# GFMER Online Training Course Sexual and Reproductive Health Research



- Distance training, online course launched in 2010 by GFMER and its partners.
- Offers quality training to health professionals and health care providers, whose access to learning is limited by time, financial resources or other constraints.
- And where access to quality education and learning in the field of reproductive health is limited.
- Designed to address a wider range of contemporary reproductive and sexual health problems, especially for developing countries.



# GFMER Online Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research



## Aims

- Sharing of competence and knowledge.
- Provide skills in research methodology.
- Integrate course contents with the informational resources of the Internet.
- Create a network between health professionals.



# GFMER Online Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research

**From 2010 - 2017**

- May-October: 6 months distance learning
- **Modules:**
  - Research methodology and other research related topics
  - Maternal and perinatal health
  - Family planning
  - Sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS
  - Adolescent sexual and reproductive health
  - Community genetics
- One week intensive training in WHO Geneva for the participants with best research projects, selected after an in-depth evaluation of participants' performance by the scientific committee of the course.





# GFMER Online Training Courses in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research

**From 2018**



- Individual modular courses, each with its own goal and objectives
- Course duration – variable
- **Modules:**
  - Adolescent sexual and reproductive health
  - Family planning
  - Research methodology and other research related topics
  - Sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS



# GFMER Online Training Courses in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research

## Course partners



- Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research
- UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank Special Program for Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction
- WHO Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health & Research
- Réseau en Afrique Francophone pour la Télémédecine (RAFT)
- HUG (Geneva University Hospitals)
- Oxford University (UK)
- Parma University (Italy)
- University of San Raffaele (Italy)
- Boston University (USA)



# GFMER Online Training Courses in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research

## Course support persons



### Course Coordinators:

- Experts or scientists from WHO and/or various universities
- Decide the content and schedule of the course and designate its contributors

### Lecturers:

- World Health Organization (WHO),
- GFMER and other national and international institutions

### Coaches:

- GFMER country coordinators and former participants, who facilitate participant's learning process

### GFMER Geneva Team:

- Course Manager - Dr Raqibat Idris
- Course Administrator - Mrs Fiona Poon
- Web Manager - Prof Aldo Campana





# GFMER Online Training Courses in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research

## Application



### Eligible participants

- Healthcare providers - doctors, midwives, nurses
- Health project managers
- Paramedical staff
- Social scientists
- Other health professionals involved in the area of reproductive and sexual health

### Admission

- A completed application form
- A curriculum vitae
- A certified copy of the university diploma
- A letter of motivation stating clearly the interests and reasons for applying to the course



# GFMER Online Training Courses in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research

## Teaching and Learning Methods

### Learning methods:

- On-line lectures and key readings
- Assignments
- Interaction among the participants and between participants and course organizers through e-mail, Google Groups, Skype, Facebook
- Throughout the course, participants constantly receive guidance and support from module coordinators and coaches



### Teaching Language:

- English (both English and French can be used for the preparation of the research proposal)



# GFMER Online Training Courses in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research Certification and Follow-up



## Final evaluation / certification based on:

- Successful completion of all assignments for the module, or
- Development of a research protocol on a topic of the choice of the participant relevant to his/her professional practice (Research methodology course only)

## Follow-up:

- Participants become members of the Foundation
- Continues contact
- Established international network of healthcare professionals on ground in direct contact with local communities
- Proven benefit for the dissemination of training tools and to establish contacts with NGOs, ministries of health or other institutions in a number of countries





# GFMER Online Training Courses in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research Success

- In 2019 a total of **134 health professionals** from **45 countries** attended the training programme (<https://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2019/index.htm>).
- In 2020 a total of **310 health professionals** from **55 countries** attended the training programme (<https://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2020/index.htm>).



Oxford Maternal & Perinatal Health Institute  
(OMPHEI)/GFMER collaborative initiatives  
<https://www.gfmer.ch/omphi/index.htm>



E-learning module	GFMER mandate	Duration	No. of unique participants who successful completed the test
<a href="#"><u>Pre-eclampsia and eclampsia</u></a>	Dissemination	June 2011 - December 2020	3169 (over 100 countries)
<a href="#"><u>Postpartum haemorrhage</u></a>	Development and dissemination	June 2013 - December 2020	3160 (over 100 countries)
<a href="#"><u>Maternal infections</u></a>	Development and dissemination	May 2015 - December 2020	1295 (over 90 countries)
<a href="#"><u>Obstetric fistula</u></a>	Development and dissemination	July 2015 - December 2020	1202 (over 90 countries)
<a href="#"><u>INTERGROWTH-21st/Assessing newborn size and /Assessing maternal anthropometry and weight gain during pregnancy</u></a>	Development and dissemination	June 2016 - December 2020	5327 (over 150 countries)
<a href="#"><u>INTERPRACTICE-21st/Assessing preterm infant feeding and growth monitoring</u></a>	Development and dissemination	September 2017 - December 2020	3061 (over 100 countries)
<a href="#"><u>INTERCOVID- COVID-19 in pregnancy, delivery and the neonatal period - An interactive e-Learning course for health professionals</u></a>	Development and dissemination	April 22, 2021	N/A

# Obstetric fistula

<https://www.gfmer.ch/fistula/index.htm>



- Today, at least two million women needlessly suffer from untreated fistula.
- GFMER is a partner in the UNFPA/WHO campaign to end fistula.

## Objectives:

- Reconstructive surgery, with mainly treatment of obstetric fistulas and complex urological cases
- Medical training and research
- Improving healthcare system, preventative care and reintegration of patients
- Raising awareness among political leaders at the regional level

## Success:

- Since 1993, Prof Charles Henry Rochat together with a group of specialists and local medical doctors, delivered fistula repair surgery to more than 3600 women.





# E-learning public health course on Emergency and surgical care in Universal Health Coverage

<https://www.gfmer.ch/surgery/index.htm>



- Launched in July 2019
- Developed in partnerships with academic experts
- Till date, the course has registered 1300 professionals from over 65 countries



# GFMER



- Meeting its overall objectives to promote and develop health education and research programs.

End of presentation



**Thank you for listening!**

