FROM RESEARCH TO PRACTICE: TRAINING IN SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH 2011

COURSE GUIDE

This training aims to provide knowledge, skills and competencies in sexual and reproductive health as well as research in this field.

This program is designed to address a wider range of contemporary reproductive and sexual health problems, especially in developing countries. It has been developed with the collaboration of experts from WHO, GFMER and other national and international health training and research institutions.

The strong point of this course is that participants build direct contact with WHO (Departments of Reproductive Health & Research and Department of Child and Adolescent Health) and other important research institutions. This enforces their professional networks and open new opportunities in their carriers.

Course Period

The study year commences in 15 May 2011 and ends in November 2011. The study time required for each module is between 4- 6 weeks.

Course Structure

This course comprises of one Core Module on research methodology and five specific modules, which are listed below by chronological order:

Module	Duration
1. Maternal and Perinatal Health with	6 weeks
2. Sexually Transmitted Infections & HIV	4 weeks
3. Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health	6 weeks
4. Family Planning	6 weeks
5. Community Genetics	4 weeks

The Core Module is integrated within specific modules. The lectures/ presentations, as well as supplementary study materials are provided in electronic format. You can access the course modules by clicking on the following link:

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

Study materials

In an online course, learning is student's responsibility – he /she needs self-discipline and self-directed time management skills in-order to be successful.

The reading and writing requirements in an online course are typically more substantive than in a traditional course. Reading may replace listening to the instructor.

Reading and writing may replace classroom discussion.

Through this course participants will not only learn the course material, but will also learn how to communicate in an online learning environment and how to manage their time.

Lectures / Presentations

Each module contains a number of main lectures / presentations with or without audio support. These lectures are uploaded on the related modules sites and can be accessed whenever the participants /students wish, as they are easily accessible.

Integrated Key Readings

Reference documents are drawn from a wide range of sources and are provided as required readings. Information is also supplied regarding sources for further reading. In each module links are provided for key readings.

Study Support

The lecturers and module coordinator have individual research interests and actively collaborate in the management of the courses. They are responsible for the academic quality of the course materials as well as being involved in course development, teaching and assessing.

With extensive international experience in research and postgraduate education, the lecturers are supported by subject specialist tutors in offering technical assistance to the participants. During the time allocated for each module students will have the opportunities for receiving support from tutors and course organizers throughout the study period. Module coordinators & tutors are allocated to each module and are available to answer queries.

Question & Answer, an inspiring interactive exercise between lecturers and participants

A special page will be created for posting the questions asked by the participants and answers given by module coordinators / course organizers. We encourage the participants to feel free in addressing their questions to the course coordinator. He will manage to contact the concerned lecturer in-order to get the appropriate answer and post it on Question & Answer web-page. The name of the participant, who asks the question, will be posted with the question. It is also a good indicator showing the student's active participation.

The Online Learning Environment

The online communication provides you the opportunity to extend your studies by interacting on both academic and non-academic issues with modules coordinators, course coordinator and other participants through the Internet. The diversity within the student community and the networking facilitated by the programme provides a wonderful opportunity to learn from and share experiences with peers from different countries.

The online communication provides easy access to academic and administrative support. It also enables you to be part of a learning community.

Main features of online communication:

- student-student and student-tutor interaction
- links to relevant ressources
- course-specific discussion rooms where you can debate and find solutions to queries about your course
- administrative and technical help areas
- electronic documentation to download and print
- information about any important events, deadlines and new resources

- point of contact with the course organizer.

In-order to facilitate online learning environment we are using the following communication tools and request you to create your personal account:

Google group

The group is called GFMER/WHO-Training in Sexual and Reproductive Health research 2010.

Please note that most of the information from course organisers will be posted here and any questions can also be put here, as everyone can access it.

- You need a Gmail account in order to participate in the group.

- You will receive an invitation from the coordinator to join the group.

- You will sign up for the Gmail account and follow instructions on how to have access to the group

- Only participants can view group content, member list, can upload the file and post topics and contributions.

- You are able to
  - post topics
  - questions for discussion
  - other participants can take part in discussion
  - upload files.

Facebook

http://en-gb.facebook.com/pages/Training-in-Sexual-and-Reproductive-Health-Research-2011/189269171109136

- From the link above, you fill in your personal details using any email address that you already have. This will enable you to have a Facebook account.

- You are kindly asked to become a fan of GFMER Switzerland, where you are able to get all updates and see all upcoming events.

- From the Facebook engine, search for the page Training in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research 2010, this is a closed group for course participants so the administrators have to accept you to join.

- This group enables you to freely interact with other course participants by posting topics on discussion where you can share ideas and experiences regarding any chosen topic.

Skype

http://www.skype.com/intl/en/download/skype/windows/

- You need windows2000, XP, Vista, 7, to run Skype.

- Follow the above link, click download Skype and follow the skip down load procedure till you save the file in the end.

- To get into Skype, click the Skype icon on your computer.

- Create your account by clicking (don't have skype name).

- When you log into your account you can:

  - add contacts by clicking add contact and follow the procedure

  - click on search for Skype users and follow instructions

  - chat and call- All skype contacts appear on your left side and the green tick means that the contact is ready to chat or call .the white x means that the contact is not available. If its green you click on the name and click on either chat or call depending on what you want to do.

  - Sending files- click on the skype contact you want to send the file to then you click on menu where you find send file.

  - Conference call-you click on start skype conference and follow procedure.

Assignment

Each module will contain main lectures /presentations with or without audio support with accompanying talking points. Moreover within each main lecture some key documents will be provided.

The student are required to read the materials and based on them do the assignment. The main purpose of assignment is that the students read the lectures and accompanying documents and apply them in their own settings. It means that in each module students will have a number of short assignments.

It is worth mentioning that this course provides access to a large number of guidelines related to each specific module that can be downloaded. From this point of view this course is one of richest in the world.

Final Evaluation and Certification

At the end of the course students are required to produce a research protocol / paper, using the knowledge acquired from this course.

As for the assignments, students will receive advice from modules coordinators, the course coordinator, concerned teachers and tutors on their research project.

Moreover students have also the possibility to introduce a tutor of their choice for their research project. The tutor can be from student's country, from a research entity, university or an organization.

For any question and instruction please contact the course coordinator:

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