Course Guide

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Introduction
This training course advances your knowledge and research skills in the field of sexual and reproductive health.

The program is designed to address a wide range of contemporary reproductive and sexual health problems and is especially relevant for developing countries. Its development is the result of collaboration between experts from World Health Organization (WHO), GFMER, and other national and international health training and research institutes.

Participants make direct contact with WHO (Department of Reproductive Health & Research and Department of Child and Adolescent Health) and other research institutes. This enhances their professional network and offers new opportunities for their career.

Organizers
1. Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research
   (WHO Collaborating Centre in Education and Research in Human Reproduction)
2. UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank Special Programme for Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction, Department of Reproductive Health and Research; Family and Community Health Cluster (WHO/RHR)

Course Period
The study year starts on 15 May 2015 and ends in November 2015. The study time required for each module is between 4- 6 weeks.

Participants with an outstanding performance will be invited to attend a sponsored, 5-day intensive training at the WHO headquarters in Geneva in 2016.

Course Structure
The course consists of one core module on research methodology and five specific modules, which are listed below by chronological order:

1. Maternal and Perinatal Health (duration: 6 weeks)
2. Sexually Transmitted Infections & HIV (duration: 4 weeks)
3. Family Planning (duration: 6 weeks)
4. Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (duration: 6 weeks)
5. Community Genetics (duration: 4 weeks)

The core module on research methodology and the module on sexual and reproductive rights are integrated within specific modules. Presentations and 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-2015/

Study materials
To compensate for live meetings and instructions, the reading and writing requirements in online courses are typically more substantive than in traditional courses. The advantage is that you not only acquire knowledge through course materials, but also learn how to communicate in an online learning environment. Throughout the Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research, participants are responsible for their own success in the learning process. In order to complete the course you need self-discipline and time management skills.

Presentations
Each module contains a number of presentations (with or without audio support) and interactive e-learning modules. They are available on the related sites and can be accessed whenever the participant wishes.

Integrated Key Readings
We have selected reference documents from a wide range of sources. You can find these required readings by following the links in each module. We also provide suggestions for further reading.

Study Support
The coordinators for presentations and modules each have specific research interests and actively collaborate in the management of the courses. They are responsible for the academic quality of the course materials and they are involved in course development, teaching, and assessment.

With extensive international experience in research and postgraduate education, specialist tutors support the lecturers by offering technical assistance to the participants.
During the time allocated for each module, participants have the opportunity to get training from tutors and course organizers.

Question & Answer: an inspiring interactive exercise between lecturers and participants
A special page will be created for questions from participants and responses from lecturers and course organizers. We encourage participants to feel free in addressing relevant topics. The course organizers will monitor the questions and alert the concerned lecturer. The responses will be posted on the Questions & Answer web page. Asking questions shows that you are actively participating in the course.

Assignments
Each module comes with an assignment. The purpose of this assignment is that participants get acquainted with presentations and accompanying documents and show they can apply their knowledge. Participants receive assistance and precise instructions for the assignments, as well as an Assignment Guide that contains information about the required format of the assignments. Timely completion of assignment is taken into consideration for the final evaluation and certification of participants.

Multiple Choice Questions
At the end of each module the participants are required to answer to a number of multiple-choice questions. The results are used as an indicator of the participants' overall performance during the course.

Final Evaluation and Certification
At the end of the course, participants produce a research protocol and/or paper using the knowledge acquired from this course. The topic chosen for the research should be relevant to the participant's professional occupation and based on a real issue in his/her country. 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 the possibility to introduce a tutor of their choice for the research project. The tutor can be from the participant's country, a research institute, university, or organization.

Participant's ID
Each participant will be assigned a unique number as a participant's ID. Participants are asked to use this ID in all communications with GFMER.

Assignment's Code
Each assignment will get a unique number as an assignment's code. When participants submit their assignments, both their participant's and the assignment's code should be used as part of the file name and in the content. An assignment template will be provided during the course.

The Online Learning Environment

Personal web pages
Each participant gets a personal web page on the GFMER website that serves as his/her virtual business card. This page will contain:
- A short biography including the participant's affiliation
- A list of publications, which can be updated with publications from the course
- Relevant professional activities
- Assignments from course modules if they meet the requirements for publication
- Relevant information about the participant's country in terms of sexual and reproductive health

Online communication
Online communication not only gives you administrative and technical support, but also offers the opportunity to broaden your education. Course-specific discussion rooms offer you the chance to bring both academic and non-academic issues under the attention of module coordinators as well as other participants. You'll find electronic documentation to download, links to other relevant resources, and information about important events. The diversity within the community of participants and the network facilitated by the program provides a wonderful opportunity to learn from and share experiences with people from different countries.

Google Groups
Google Groups is a Google product allowing internet users to create online and email groups about a specific subject. Through the group (https://groups.google.com/d/forum/gfmer2015) course coordinators will post their information.
In order to participate in the group, you need a (free) Gmail account. You will receive an invitation from the coordinator to join the group. Google has clear online instructions on how to access the group. Only participants can view the group content, view its member list, upload files, and post topics.

Facebook
Facebook is a social utility that connects people with friends and others. On www.facebook.com you can easy find instructions to sign up and create your personal page. You can then become friends of GFMER on Facebook (http://www.facebook.com/gfmer) and get updated about upcoming events.
You can also join the Training in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research page (https://www.facebook.com/GFMER2015), which only course participants can join. This page enables you to chat with other course participants and keeps you updated about their activities.

Skype
Skype (www.skype.com) allows you to make free calls to people who also have the program. You can download the program for free. Once you've created an account, you can add contacts, chat, call and send files. Skype even allows you to make conference calls. You can find the course coordinator by searching for "coordinatorgfmer" through the tap "add contact".

Contact
For any question and instruction please contact the course coordinator:
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