

Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research 2017



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
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)
3. OMPHI - Oxford Maternal & Perinatal Health Institute

Course period

The study year starts on 15 May 2017 and ends in November 2017. The study time required for each module is between 4- 6 weeks.

A selected number of participants (15-20) with an outstanding performance will be invited to attend a 5-day intensive training on research protocol development at the WHO headquarters in Geneva in 2018.

Course structure

The course consists of two core modules on research methodology and sexual and reproductive rights and five specific modules, which are listed below by chronological order:

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

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-2017/>

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, through your personal time management, but also learn how to communicate in an online learning environment. In order to complete the course, you need self-discipline and time management skills.

Presentations

Each module contains a number of presentations and interactive e-learning modules. They are available on the related sites and can be accessed whenever the participant wishes.

Moreover, some Internet /Computer based training modules are also incorporated within the modules: Postpartum haemorrhage, Maternal infections, Obstetric fistula and Intergrowth-21st.

The presentations and Internet /computer based modules can also be accessed by smartphone and tablets. They are also available in PDF format.

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. A personal coach is assigned to each participant. The role of personal coach is to facilitate the learning process to the participants, review her /his assignment and other paper works. Personal coach is the primary contact of the participant.

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

Below are the explanations assignment requirements for different modules:

Maternal and perinatal health

The participants are required to complete the following modules and knowledge assessment test:

- Evidence-based management of postpartum haemorrhage
- Maternal infections
- Obstetric fistula
- Intergrowth-21st: Assessing newborn size by anthropometry

The pass mark is 80%.

Sexually transmitted infections

1. Paperwork assignment is required for this module, which consists of two parts.

In the first part the participants are required to provide information on the overall situation in their countries in terms of sexually transmitted infections (STI). The analysis should include information about the occurrence of STI (prevalence, incidence and health services data), current country strategies, prevention measures, care services and existing barriers and challenges. The status of the relation of STI and HIV/AIDS prevention and care interventions should also be explored and described.

In the second part of the assignment participants are asked to provide in-depth information on one of the main topics covered in this module (for example HIV/AIDS, congenital syphilis or STI).

The assignment should be based on literature search and, if relevant, professional experiences and should reflect the situation of participant's country. It should not exceed 7 pages.

2. Multiple choice questions

At the end of this module participants are required to answer multiple-choice questions. In order to provide the correct answers, participants need to study the module presentations and documents. The pass mark is 70%.

Family planning module

In order to validate this module, participants are required to answer to multiple choice questions, which will be communicated to them at the end of the module. The pass mark is 70%.

Adolescent sexual and reproductive health module

This module is comprised of six presentations (also called modules). For each presentation /module, participants should:

- Go through the slides and talking points.
- Read the 1-3 accompanying documents.
- Do the short (1-2 pages) assignment, after going through the slide sets and documents.

Community genetics module

A paperwork assignment (Maximum 5 pages) is required for this module.

Based on the WHO report WHO. Community genetics services: report of a WHO consultation on community genetics in low- and middle-income countries. Geneva: WHO; 2010, participants are required to write a 3-5 pages of assignment on:

1. A situation analysis of the rates of common congenital disorders and the available community genetic services in their country.
2. The factors that contribute to the prevalence of congenital disorders and the current impediments that are limiting community genetic services in their country.

Note:

Timely completion of assignment is taken into consideration for the final evaluation and certification of participants.

Final evaluation and certification

At the end of the course, participants are required to produce a research protocol 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 their personal coach, course coordinator, module coordinators and concerned teachers on their research project.

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 will 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/srhr2017>), course coordinators will post their information.

In order to participate in the group, you need a (free) Gmail account. You will then 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 and 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 easily find instructions to sign up and create your personal profile. You can then become friends of GFMER on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/gfmer>) and get updated about upcoming events.

Skype, Whatsapp, Viber

These applications (computer and phones) allow you to make free calls to people (Internet charges may however apply). The applications can be downloaded for free. Once an account has been created, you can add contacts, chat, call and send files. Skype even allows you to make conference calls.

Contact

For any question and instruction please contact the course coordinator:

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