

GENEVA FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

WHO Collaborating Centre in Education and Research in Human Reproduction



ANNUAL REPORT 2008

www.gfmer.ch

Villa Grand-Montfleury. Chemin du Grand-Montfleury 48, 1290 Versoix – CH

Tel. ++41 22 346 77 16 Fax : ++41 22 346 78 34

E-mail : info@gfmer.org - Website: <http://www.gfmer.ch>

Activity report

1 January - 31 December 2008

WHO Collaborating Centre in Education and Research in Human Reproduction

The activities carried out include the provision of postgraduate training courses in clinical research in reproductive health and the assistance to partner institutions in the conduct of medical education programmes; the development and conduct of research and research synthesis and the provision of expertise to WHO or to centres of WHO's network requesting collaboration in research, research training or clinical aspects in human reproduction.

Training courses and Research

Postgraduate Research Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health: 4 February – 5 March 2008

(http://www.gfmer.ch/Medical_education_En/PGC_RH_2008/pgcrh_brochure_2008.htm)

Twenty eight participants from 24 different nations attended the 2008 Training Course in Research in Reproductive Health/Sexual Health. This 5-weeks annual course has been established in 1992 and is jointly conducted with the Department of Reproductive Health and Research, World Health Organization (RHR/WHO), the International Association for Maternal and Neonatal Health (IAMANEH), the [San Raffaele del Monte Tabor Foundation](#) and the Fonds Universitaire Maurice Chalumeau (FUMC).

Short training courses

(http://www.gfmer.ch/Services/GFMER_short_training_courses.htm)

GFMER offers short training courses (1-2 days) for use of internet-based applications relevant to health care workers as well as basic courses on evidence-based medicine and its clinical implications.

Teaching evidence-based medicine in postgraduates – WHO RHL evidence-based medicine course

(<http://www.rhl-ebm.org/>)

GFMER is involved in a multicenter, international trial to evaluate novel teaching and

learning techniques for postgraduate and continued medical education. The trial compares a learner-centred, problem-based, e-learning course with clinical activities in the workplace to traditional lectures to teach evidence-based medicine. When successfully implemented, the course is designed to provide just-in-time learning through on-the-job-training, with the potential for teaching and learning to directly impact on clinical practice without increasing the burden on staff, especially in already busy clinical centres.

The trial is conducted in collaboration with WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research and Birmingham University, UK, WHO Collaborating Centre in Research Synthesis. The partners in this trial are University institutions in Argentina, Brazil, Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Philippines, South Africa and Thailand.

GFMER is responsible for the overall development and coordination of the trial and the electronic data handling.

The aim is to disseminate the course to a larger audience, to other countries and settings. The clinically integrated e-learning approach can be scaled up without major investment at teaching institutions worldwide.

Publications

Publications of GFMER members are listed at:

(http://www.gfmer.ch/Presentations_En/GFMER_Publications.htm)

Reproductive Health – the official journal of GFMER

(<http://www.reproductive-health-journal.com>)

Reproductive Health is an open-access, peer-reviewed, online specialist journal, with its content freely universally available. GFMER aims to encourage especially researchers from low - and middle income settings to submit their research findings and making them available to a wider audience. The submission and peer review process are electronically, thus allowing swifter publication.

Website

(<http://www.gfmer.ch>)

The GFMER website is extensive, regularly updated and provides easy access to useful information. The website offers a collection of links to free medical journals, medical schools, dictionaries, search engines, medical images, guidelines and free full text articles as well as free access to the postgraduate and continuing education programmes of the Foundation.

Informatics

(<http://www.gfmer.ch/Informatics>)

The development of a new online learning tool was initiated (modelling and first implementation) for the RHL-EBM Evidence-Based Medicine Course. This is a pilot development in the use of the Ruby development language and the Rails architecture to help speed the process of future database application development in other GFMER projects. The application contains a number of streaming videos accessible via the website converted to the more modern 'Flash' (FLV) format at GFMER. The data collection for this project is entirely online. Data management and storage is hosted at GFMER.

In addition, GFMER has developed online data entry platforms for the below studies. All data is maintained and stored at the GFMER website.

The list of currently ongoing studies:

- RHL EBM Study, WHO, Switzerland
- Misoprostol for the treatment of primary postpartum hemorrhage, Gynuity Health Projects, New York
- Obstetric Fistula, C-H Rochat, Geneva, Switzerland
- Robotic Laparoscopic Prostatectomy, EGRU, Geneva, Switzerland
- Hepatitis Cohort Study, FValse, Saigon, Vietnam

Clinical Training

Prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula

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

GFMER is a partner in the UNFPA/WHO 'Campaign to end fistula'. The aim is 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 the "Tanguieta Model". This programme is supported by the Ville de Genève, Esperanza Foundation, Ambra Foundation and private donators, and is conducted in collaboration with WHO and UNFPA.

The aims of the project are:

- Training local specialists in fistula repair
- Raising awareness about prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula
- Development of research programmes

Following the extension of the "Tanguieta Model" to new centres in 2007, the following activities were carried out in 2008:

- Two missions in St. Jean de Dieu Hospital, Tanguieta - Benin, one mission in Fada N'gourma Hospital - Burkina Faso, one mission in Manambaro Hospital – Madagascar, two missions in UCYA, Abidjan – Côte d'Ivoire, three missions in Abeche Hospital – Chad, and three missions in Conakry and Kissidougou Hospitals - Guinea, during which 333 women underwent fistula repair and local doctors (from the sub region) received training in fistula surgery.
- Following the development of the internet-based obstetric fistula database, many centres started entering their data in the database. These data will be used for future research.

Meetings and Conferences

Cochrane Collaboration Editors' meeting; January 24-25 2008; London, UK

Geneva Health Forum - Clinical Research Cooperations with Developing Countries;
4th Workshop - May 28, 2008; Geneva, Switzerland

Leonardo da Vinci: Training-the-trainers project – Steering committee meeting;
June 17-20 & September 14-15 2008; Birmingham, UK

16th Cochrane Colloquium; October 3-7 2008; Freiburg, Germany

Philippine Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society Annual Convention; November 11-24 2008; Manila, Philippines

Partnerships

Programme Syni Lausanne - GFMER works closely with Syni Lausanne, a programme that encourages the placement of professionals within the international, governmental and non-governmental organizations. So far, 4 professionals have been placed at the Foundation.

Foundation membership

(<http://www.gfmer.ch/membership.htm>)

Health professionals interested in collaborating with GFMER can apply for membership. Benefits of becoming a member:

- Being part of the Foundations' international network
- Receiving assistance for research training activities
- Publishing on the website of the Foundation:
 - Institutional and/or personal page
 - Scientific presentations

- Possibility of free of charge publications in peer reviewed journals

Duties:

- To support the Foundation in its activities:
 - In clinical research training
 - In the dissemination of knowledge and good quality medical information by the website of the Foundation

Forthcoming issues

1. From Research to Practice: Postgraduate Research Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health (2 February - 4 March 2009)
(http://www.gfmer.ch/Medical_education_En/PGC_SRH_2009/pgcsr_h_brochure_2009.htm)

Organised in collaboration with the UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank Special Program for Research in Human Reproduction, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, Family and Community Health Cluster, and the International Association of Maternal and Neonatal Health (IAMANEH).

2. Short courses

(http://www.gfmer.ch/Services/GFMER_short_training_courses.htm)

Short courses on training in Informatics, systematic reviews and evidence-based medicine and communication skills for health care professionals will be offered.

3. Planned missions of Obstetric Fistula repair with partner institutions

Four missions in Conakry, Guinea, two missions in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, three missions in Abeche, Chad, one mission in Manambaro, Madagascar and three missions in Tanguieta, Benin.