

**GENEVA FOUNDATION
FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**



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www.gfmer.ch

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Preface by the director

The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) is a non-profit organization established in 2002. It is supported by the Republic and Canton of Geneva and the City of Geneva and works in close collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other Swiss and international institutions.

In 2016 the foundation and its partners launched for the seventh consecutive year, the distance training/online course on sexual and reproductive health research: a total of 231 health professionals from 42 countries attended the training programme.

GFMER continues its active partnership with the UNFPA/WHO 'Campaign to end fistula'. The aim has been 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 of "Tanguieta Model". During 2016, several missions were conducted in Benin, where Professor Charles-Henry Rochat (who has the overall responsibility for GFMER's fistula project) and his team of specialists, operated on a total of 219 obstetric fistula cases in different countries. Moreover, local doctors were trained on the management of obstetric fistula.

In 2016, the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) in collaboration with the Oxford Maternal and Perinatal Health Institute (OMPHI) developed a new Internet computer-based training module on newborn anthropometry.

GFMER has built a strong partnership with governmental and non-governmental organizations and universities for the exchange of information and expertise at international level. The website of the foundation had 1854910 page views and visitors from all over the world.

We believe our efforts to assist in many countries and the programmes we deliver contribute to improving the reproductive and sexual health status of the populations in need.

Finally, I would like to thank the Republic and Canton of Geneva, the City of Geneva, the World Health Organization and other institutions, for their financial and technical support, which have ensured the successful implementation of our projects and programmes.



Prof. Aldo Campana
The Director

Mission

The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) is a non-profit organization, co-sponsored by the Republic and Canton of Geneva and the Department of Social Affairs of the City of Geneva and works in close collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO). It aims at mobilizing resources, both technical and financial, from the public and private sectors.

GFMER has a mandate to address challenges, such as:

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

Foundation Council

- Prof. José Villar (President)
- Dr. Blaise Bourrit (Secretary)
- Alain Gris (Treasurer)
- Prof. Giuseppe Benagiano

Executive Committee

- Prof. Aldo Campana (Director)
- Prof. Charles-Henry RoCHAT (Co-director)
- Dr. Karim Abawi
- Dr. Heli Bathija
- Dr. Hongguang Dong
- PD Dr. Pierre Vassilakos

GFMER main fields of activities

1. Training course in sexual and reproductive health research 2016

<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2016/index.htm>

Since 2003 GFMER, in partnership with the WHO and other partner institutions, has organized a training course on sexual and reproductive health research. The course focuses on research methodology and attracts the participation of health professionals from different countries, particularly from developing countries. Through the pool of participants, GFMER has managed to disseminate the course in different countries including Afghanistan, Argentina, Cameroon, China, Indonesia, Laos and Romania.

In order to reach more health professionals, in 2010 GFMER in collaboration with WHO and other partners launched the online course on sexual and reproductive health research "From Research to Practice: Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research" that offers a training package specially developed for those health professionals involved in research, whose access to learning is limited by time, financial resources or other constraints and for whom access to quality education and learning is limited. The programme is designed to meet a wide range of contemporary issues in sexual and reproductive health, especially in developing countries. It helps students to better identify the problems related to reproductive and sexual health, it helps to improve the skills of caregivers, and it promotes good practices.

In 2016, GFMER successfully implemented the seventh edition of its online training course, bringing to bear the experience gained from the previous editions.

This course is part of the WHO policy for increasing human resources in the field of sexual and reproductive health, particularly in developing countries. GFMER is mandated to organize the course.

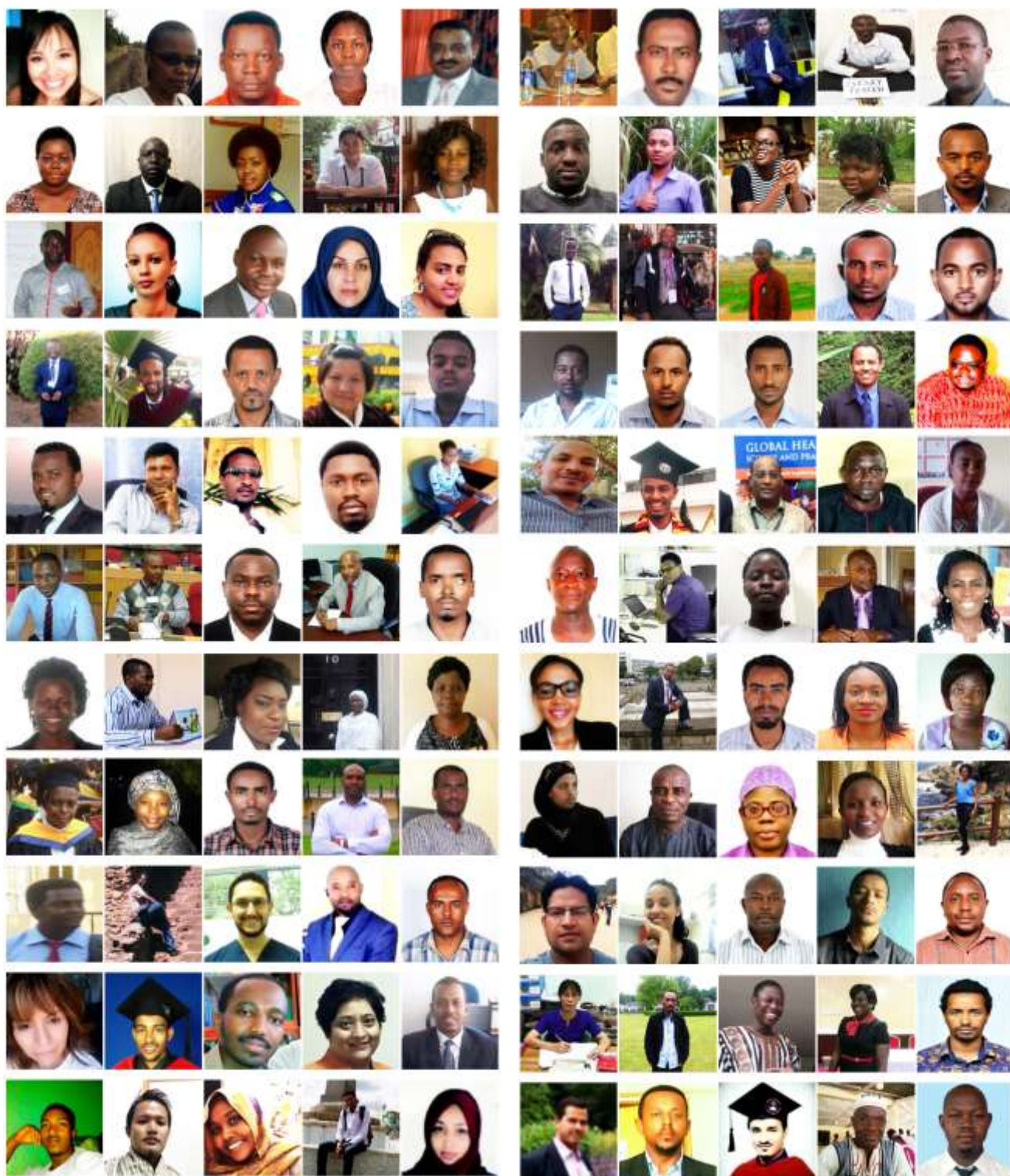
Objectives

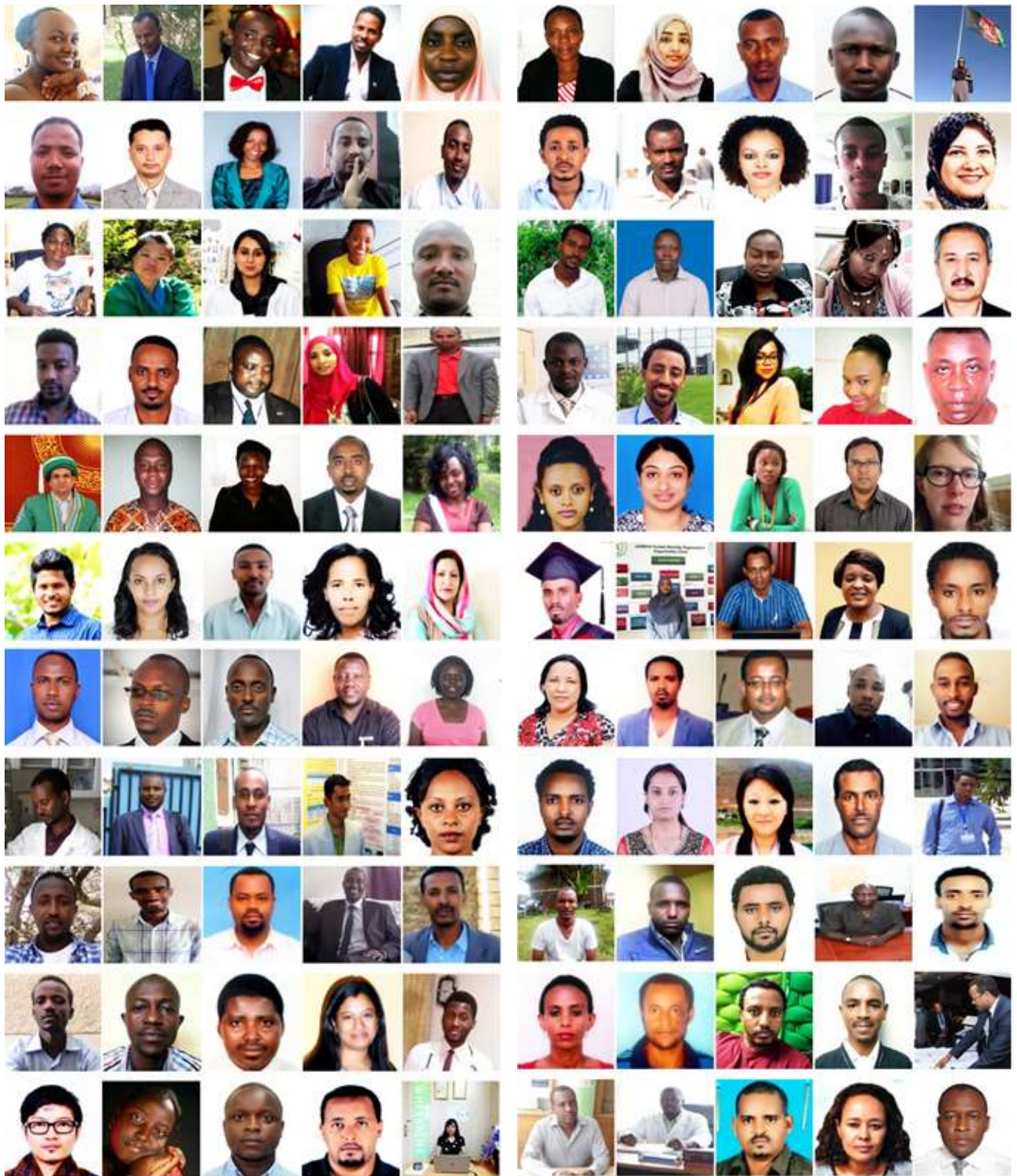
The objectives of this course are as follows:

1. Provide appropriate training adapted to the needs of health professionals in different countries, notably developing countries.
2. Help reduce morbidity and mortality in women of reproductive age and newborns through the development of human resources capacity.
3. Contribute to a better sharing of expertise between health professionals and local and international institutions, especially in developing countries.
4. Organize a continuing learning project in the field of sexual and reproductive health intended for developing countries and economies in transition.
5. Provide training and quality learning for a total of 450 (150 each year) health professionals.
6. Create a network between health professionals from different backgrounds, institutions, and research, for the exchange of knowledge and information.
7. Engage students in research work in an area related to health programmes in their home country.

Course participants

<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2016/participants.htm>





The majority of students in our course are healthcare providers involved in the area of reproductive and sexual health and whose access to healthcare training is limited by time and/or financial resources. This course is not only offered to doctors, but also to midwives, nurses, health educators, social workers, and reproductive and sexual health programme managers.

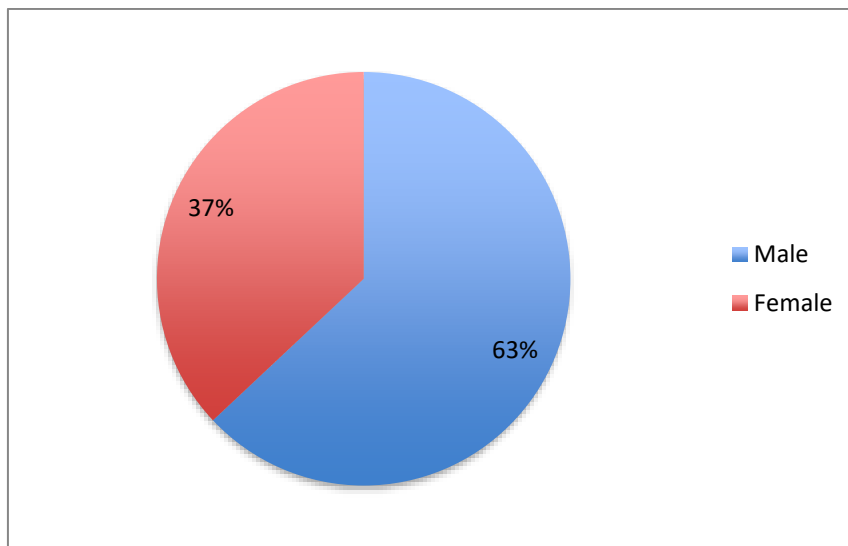
A total of 231 health professionals from 42 countries were registered in the online training course in 2016. The majority of them were from developing countries.

Table 1: Age of participants

Age Group	Number	%
20-29	46	20%
30-39	113	49%
40-49	63	27%
50-59	9	4%
Total	231	100%

The majority of participants (80%) are in the age group from 30 to 59 years of age. The care providers in this age group have professional or familial obligations and, for them, this course is likely to have the most impact. In fact, thanks to the flexibility of the course, it offers a good opportunity to access continuing training in the field of care.

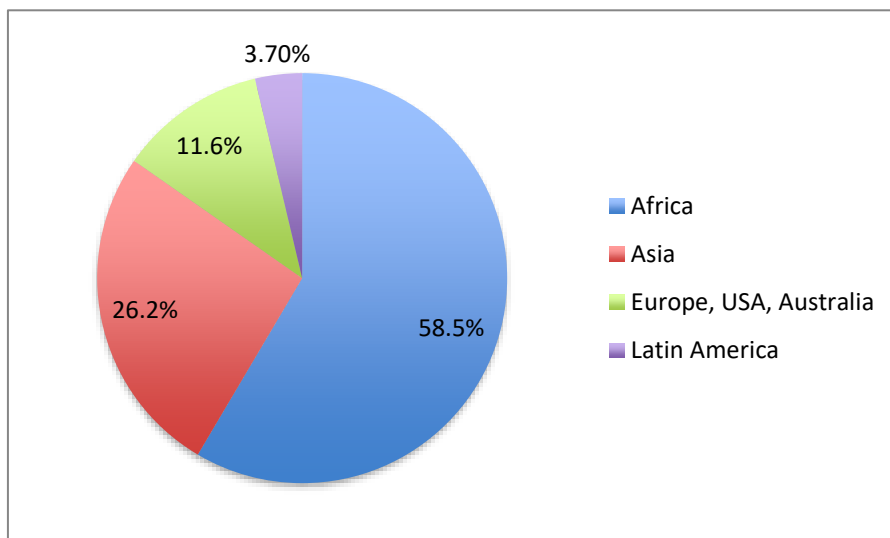
Graph 1: Gender of students



As indicated by the graph above, women are well-represented as they make up 44.5% of participants.

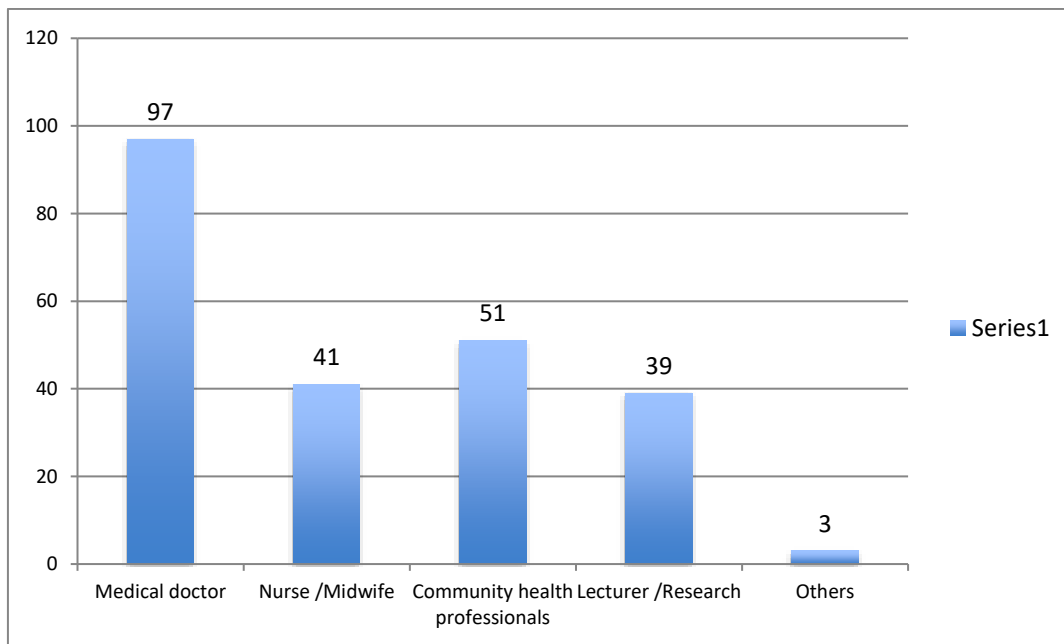
This course addresses mainly healthcare professionals in developing countries with the following distribution: Africa (58.5%), Asia (26.2%), Europe, Australia, United States (11.6%) and Latin America (3.7%).

Graph 2: Geographic distribution of students



As mentioned above, this course was offered not only to doctors but also to midwives, nurses, community health workers, teachers, and researchers.

The following graph shows the proportions between these professions.

Graph 3: Students' professions**Recruitment of students**

The students became aware of the course through the following means:

- Publicity for the course and local contact coordinators in the countries and regions.
- Publicity for the course on the GFMER website and partner sites.
- Mobilization of the GFMER and WHO networks. These include local and international NGOs, WHO collaborating centres at the country level, health ministries, and universities.

Selection of students

This course is a post-graduate/continued learning course for health professionals with a diploma involved in the field of sexual and reproductive health. The criteria for selection is as follows:

- A degree in a relevant discipline of health sciences, natural sciences, or social and economic sciences.
- Involved in the domain of sexual and reproductive health.
- Preference is given to healthcare providers who work for health establishments at the district level, an NGO, or a ministry of health.
- The foundation favours the participation of woman.

It is noted that the foundation has established partnerships with NGOs, health ministries, and universities in different countries. Certain entities include this course in their human resource development programmes. Moreover, each year, a number of participants find the information on their own when consulting the foundation site or on partner sites.

The application must contain the following elements:

- A CV

- A letter of motivation indicating clearly their interests and goals for the course
- An official certificate confirming mastery of the English language
- Two letters of reference in which one is written by the current employer of the candidate

Based on the application form and documents provided by the candidates, we make our pre-selection. We communicate the list of candidates to the country coordinators who we ask to contact the candidates by phone, email, or skype. When possible, we try – via our coordinators - to meet on site. For countries where we don't have local coordinators, we ask other coordinators in nearby regions to assume contact. For example, for South Sudan, we call our coordinator in Sudan. If necessary our Geneva team contacts the candidates or their employers.

After selecting a candidate, we ask them to prepare a short biography with their photo. We create a personal page for each student on our website, which contains not only the candidate's information but also (when it is possible) a link to the site of their employer.

Example of a personal page

<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2016/participants/Dawa-Dema.htm>

Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research 2016
Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research

[Home](#) [General information](#) [The team](#) [Participants](#) [Course modules](#) [Files](#) [What's new](#) [GFMER](#)

Dawa Dema

Damphu General Hospital, Tsirang, Bhutan



Dawa Dema, Midwife
Senior Health Assistant, in-charge of the Community Health Unit, Damphu General Hospital, Tsirang, Bhutan
dawadema11@gmail.com

I work as a Sr. Health Assistant and as in-charge of the community health unit (CHU) Damphu General Hospital under the Public Health Service, Ministry of Health, Thimphu. I have completed my 1-year diploma course in Midwifery from Asian Institute for Health Development(AIHD), Mahidol University, Thailand. I joined Damphu hospital in August 2014.

The major components of this community health unit are to provide sexual and reproductive health services to people of Bhutan. This demands skill and training to plan, manage and execution of sensitive health issues such as sexual and reproductive health.

The skill and knowledge gained from this course will be of great help to me and to my organization.

Links

- [Ministry of Health | Royal Government of Bhutan](#)

Course contents

The content of this course is based on recommendations by WHO, so that other global institutions can recognize it. It is also enhanced by field experience from our teachers with a wide range of experience in the field of sexual and reproductive health. It is based on groundwork, especially in developing countries, and proposing pragmatic solutions. We provide reference materials for our students and encourage them to use it in their professional practice (prevention, treatment, training).

There are six modules:

- Maternal and Perinatal Health
- Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV/AIDS
- Family Planning
- Sexual Health with a special focus on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Community Genetics
- Sexual and Reproductive rights

A core module on research methods and selective lectures on gender issues, female genital mutilation and other topics related to sexual and reproductive health supplement the six modules. Regularly updated, the contents of each module are based on the reality of health care in developing countries and addresses current problems and challenges in the field of sexual and reproductive health research.

For more information on the contents of each module see the following link:

<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2016/Course-modules.htm>

Each module is run by a module coordinator. The coordinator decides the content and schedule of the module and designates its contributors. The module coordinators are experts or scientists from WHO and/or various universities who possess important professional networks at the international level.

Teachers, partner institutions

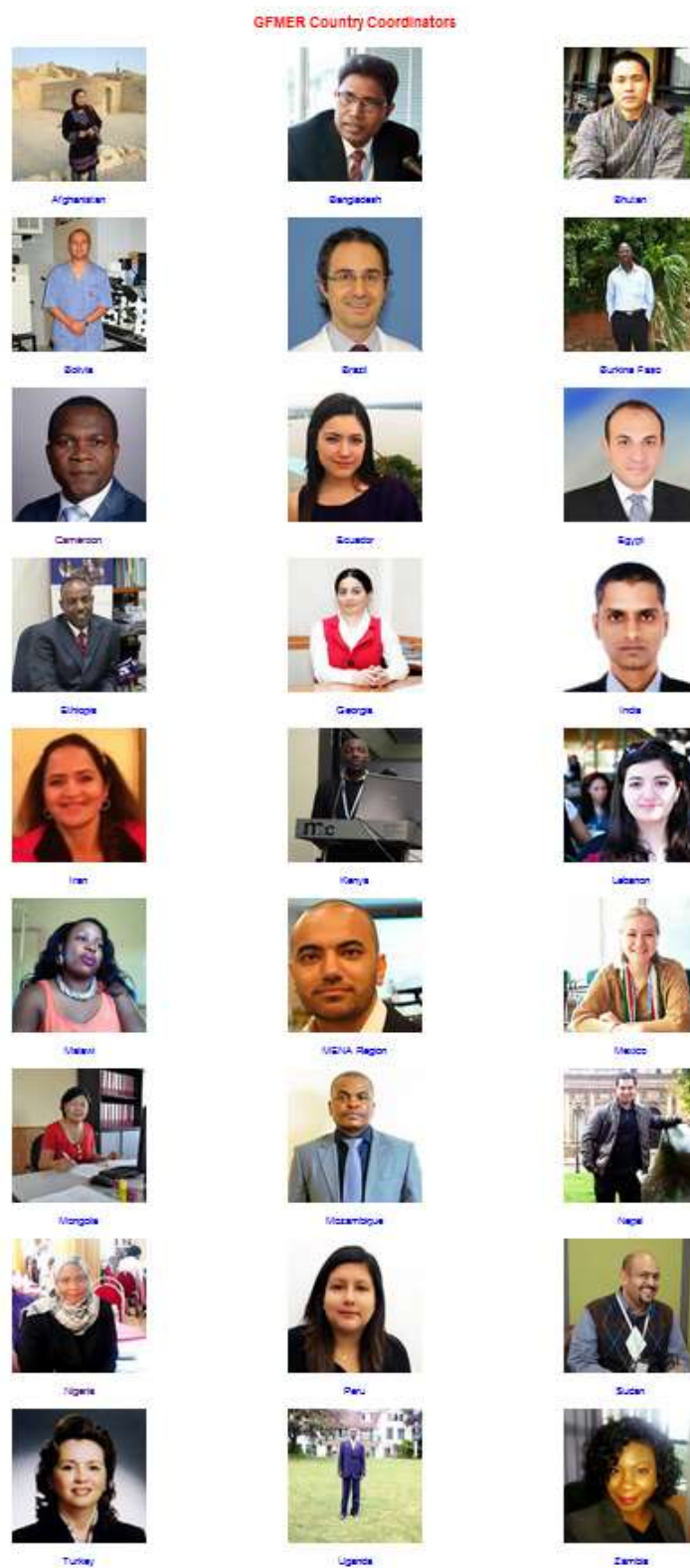
The speakers, lecturers, and course facilitators are highly trained professionals from WHO, universities, and specialized institutions. They have a wide range of knowledge and experience in the field of sexual and reproductive health, especially in developing countries.

In 2016, a total of 36 teachers from WHO, GFMER as well as other national and international institutions were involved in teaching and tutorship for the online training course.

The contribution of teachers is voluntary, but collaborating with world-class training is perfectly in line with WHO policy, which considers as a priority the development of human resources especially in developing countries. The GFMER training programme is a good example of partnership and exchange of expertise between WHO and its centre collaborators. It helps to give a significant visibility to WHO headquartered in Geneva, and promotes an international Geneva. It also gives a significant visibility to teachers and lecturers.

Course coordinators at country level

<http://www.gfmer.ch/country-coordinators/GFMER-country-coordinators.htm>



GFMER has appointed a total of 27 coordinators in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, India, Iran, Kenya, Lebanon, Malawi,

MENA Region, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, Sudan, Turkey, Uganda, and Zambia.

The main tasks of country coordinators consist of:

- Student coaching at local level, i.e., helping the students to access the teaching material and learning methods. As the majority of student's work (assignments and research protocol) is based on the analysis of local situations in regard to sexual and reproductive health problems, the local coordinators can offer the appropriate assistance to the students.
- 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. This online course is advantageous for health professionals especially those from developing countries, where access to a quality education is limited by time, financial resources or both.

Teaching methods

<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2016/pdf/Course-guide-2016.pdf>

Teaching methods consist of on-line lectures (recorded, didactic presentations), key readings, reading materials, additional references and referrals to related websites. Compared to other courses, the Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research is extremely rich in terms of documentation and published teaching resources.

For each module participants receive assignments. At the end of each module, they must respond to a series of multiple-choice questions. For their assignments, the students receive very precise instructions. We have created a module for assignments. Before writing the assignment, the student is asked to follow the course, read the reference documents that we put at their disposal, and write their text according to the given instruction. We have also created an evaluation grid of personal work. Tutors and coordinators revise the assignments. The goal is to help students deal with problems of sexual and reproductive health in their respective countries, using what they learn in our course and preparing their work with respect to academic and scientific standards.

In terms of documentation and published educational resources, this course is one of the richest in the world. It contains the most reference documents (guidelines), continuously updated in the field of sexual and reproductive health. These help participants to become more familiar with scientific reading and writing and use the knowledge acquired in the training course in their day-to-day professional practice. A personal coach is assigned to each participant. Coaches are GFMER country coordinators, who facilitate the learning process with the participants. As the majority of students' work (assignments and research protocol) is based on the analysis of local situations in regard to sexual and reproductive health problems, the assistance of country coordinators is very important.

The participation of a student is measured by the submission of assignments in the time given and their response to the multiple-choice questions. Once their work is completed, reviewed, and

accepted for a given module, the student is credited with a number of hours (8 hours per week), regardless of the actual time it took to complete the work.

To support the participants, different mechanisms of communication and interaction (Facebook, Google Group, Skype, Twitter) are used. These tools favour interaction between participants and teachers, and allow for the creation of a rich network of exchange between health professionals. The diversity within the community of students and the establishment of communication tools has furnished an excellent means of learning and of sharing experiences between students from different countries.

GFMER provides free access to the course contents, which are an important source of information for professionals who are involved in the domain of sexual and reproductive health (only registered students benefit from a regular monitoring and obtaining a certificate).

GFMER has created an online community for the training course in order to improve communication with and between participants and provide access to academic and administrative support. The diversity among participants and the network facilitated by GFMER provide an opportunity to learn from and share experiences with peers from around the world.

Final evaluation

At the end of the course, participants of the Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research receive a certificate if they meet the following conditions:

- Participants are required to have completed the assignments for the various course modules.
- Participants must develop a research protocol relevant to their practice, under the guidance of a tutor in the domain of sexual and reproductive health.

Throughout the training course, participants are supervised by country coordinators, coordinators of the modules, teachers and tutors.

Workshop in Geneva

<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2015/Geneva-Workshop/pdf/Geneva-Workshop-Evaluation-Report-2016.pdf>



From the participants of the 2015 edition of the online training course, 14 were invited to attend a workshop from 24 to 28 October 2016 at WHO headquarters in Geneva. The objectives of this intensive training course were to sharpen participants' skills in research protocol development and improve their research skills.

The participants of the workshop were selected on the basis of their online course performance, completion and quality of the assignments and the quality of their review or paper. The strict selection ensured that those attending the workshop in Geneva were the most motivated participants of the online training course. The Geneva workshop provided participants with additional opportunities to interact with each other and share their experiences while improving their professional skills.

The participants attended an intensive course in “evidence-based approach” in the management of sexual health and reproduction. Moreover, each participant had the opportunity to work directly with an expert/tutor from WHO, GFMER, or other partners in order to produce a quality project that meets a standard norm.

Then the participants presented their projects to a group of experts. GFMER also helped the participants to make contact with potential sponsors in order to explore possible financing for their projects. See the following link for details on this event.

<http://www.gfmer.ch/SRH-Course-2015/Geneva-Workshop/index.htm>



Following students after the course

Each participant of our course becomes a member of our Foundation and continues contact with them. GFMER created a personal page on its website for each student and each member. This page is also used as a virtual business card for the members and participants.

All the changes in the professional lives of our members as well as former students are communicated to us in order to update their personal page and record positive changes in the professional lives of former students. Monitoring and maintaining contact with them and between them proves to be very useful. Today GFMER has available an international network of healthcare providers on the ground in direct contact with their community. It is thanks to this network that we have established collaborations with Harvard University and Oxford, and more recently with the Service of Gynaecology at the University Hospital of Geneva. These institutions collaborate with GFMER to develop training tools for healthcare providers at the community level. The network that the foundation runs facilitates the dissemination of these tools. This allows us also to establish contacts with NGOs, ministries of health or other institutions in a number of countries.

Picture of the week

<http://www.gfmer.ch/gfmervoices/index.htm>

We have created a section on our website entitled "Picture of the week". Each week, we publish the photo of a student showing their professional activities in a treatment facility, in a refugee camp, on site, in class, etc. This initiative has proved to be very gratifying for our students. It emphasizes the

importance of distance training for health professionals where access to training is sometimes limited. It also shows the application of knowledge acquired by our students in their professional practice.



2. Sexual and reproductive rights

<http://www.gfmer.ch/srr/index.htm>

In order to achieve sexual and reproductive health, people need to know their sexual and reproductive rights. The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) therefore sees a close relationship between sexual and reproductive health on the one hand and the legal and political system on the other. For these reasons, the Foundation created a dedicated website on Sexual and Reproductive Rights. Since its establishment in 2002, GFMER has exchanged sexual and reproductive health expertise with governmental and non-governmental organizations all over the world. GFMER has become a resource centre for training and research in human sexuality and reproduction, creating a vast network of health professionals in developing and developed countries.

With this website GFMER seeks to contribute to a meaningful inclusion of human rights in sexual and reproductive health issues.

Content of the sexual and reproductive rights website:

- Introductions to major sexual and reproductive rights topics.
- Regularly updated summaries of national legislations for the major areas of sexual and reproductive health.
- Selected publications on legislation and ethical issues in sexual and reproductive health.

3. Clinical training, prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula

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



GFMER is a partner in the UNFPA/WHO campaign to end fistula. The aim of GFMER participation in this campaign is to create a “Centre of Excellence for the prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula” in Tanguieta (Northern Benin), which would serve as a model to other countries in the region.

Objectives

- To train local specialists in fistula repair.
- To raise awareness about prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula.
- To develop research on obstetric fistula.

In 2016 Professor Charles-Henry Rochat, responsible for the fistula project, together with a group of specialists and local medical doctors conducted missions in several African countries to operate on

fistula cases. In addition, Professor Rochat and his team (composed of specialists from Switzerland, France, USA, Cameroun and Burkina Faso) organized conferences and workshops on diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of fistula cases and advocated for a multidisciplinary approach for care of women suffering from obstetric fistula. In 2016 a total of 219 Obstetric fistula cases were operated.

Publications

Pierre-Marie Tebeu, Roger Guy Michel Ekono, Jovanny Tsuala Fouogue, Gregory Ekane Halle, Joel Domgue Fokom, Charles-Henry Rochat. Pattern of non-obstetric infectious recto-vaginal fistula: a case series and literature review in Cameroun, Central Africa. International Journal of Reproduction, Contraception, Obstetrics and Gynecology. 2016 Jul;5(7):2239-2242.

Supporting institutions for obstetric fistula project

The GFMER obstetric fistula programme is supported by the City of Geneva, the communes of Thônex, Chêne-Bougeries and Collange-Bellerive, Bank Pictet & Cie, Amber Foundation, Rumsey & Cartier Foundation, Global Foundation for Life Sciences, Comité Philanthropique de la famille Firmenich and private donors.

Ongoing activities for obstetric fistula project

- Collaboration with WILDAF-Togo association.
- Collaboration with Synergies africaines in Cameroon.
- Raising awareness amongst the population on the prevention of obstetric fistula.
- Financial support for the hospitalisation costs for fistula patients.
- Logistical support for the surgeon teams.
- Purchase of surgical equipment.
- Contribution to the construction of a new operating theatre in Tanguiéta hospital.
- Provision of scholarships.
- Dissemination of «le modèle de Tanguiéta».
- Dissemination of the fistula database and fistula group website.
- Financial support to ensure the sustainability of Guinea-Conakry, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, and Madagascar programmes.
- Detailed analysis of 400 patients files (compiled by the NGO Sentinelles), who were operated in Tanguiéta hospital.
- Organization of local events to provide the training module on fistula to health professionals.
- Translation of fistula module from English to French.

4. Institutional partnerships

GFMER collaborative activities with Oxford Maternal and Perinatal Health Institute and Harvard Maternal Health Taskforce

<http://www.gfmer.ch/omphi/index.htm>

The evidence-based management of postpartum haemorrhage

<http://www.gfmer.ch/omphi/pph/index.htm>

After the success of the evidence-based pre-eclampsia and eclampsia training course, OMPHI and GFMER also developed another online training course on the evidence-based management of postpartum haemorrhage (PPH) in 2012.

The dissemination of this module continued during 2016 and, since its launch, a total of 2767 health professionals from 115 countries have successfully completed the training and knowledge assessment and been awarded certificates.

Maternal infections

<http://www.gfmer.ch/omphi/maternal-infections/index.htm>

Following the success in disseminating evidence-based knowledge and the high demand for similar courses, in 2016 GFMER in partnership with the Maternal Health Taskforce of the Harvard School of Public Health, the Oxford Maternal and Perinatal Health and the Global Health Network developed a third e-learning module on Maternal infections, that is one of the six major causes of maternal death worldwide.

Since the launch of this module a total of 718 health professionals from 76 countries took this module, completed the knowledge assessment, and were awarded certificates.

Obstetric fistula

<http://www.gfmer.ch/fistula/Obstetric-fistula-2015.htm>

A fourth training module was developed on obstetric fistula. Since its launch, the fistula module has been disseminated to a total of 677 health professionals from 76 countries who have completed the knowledge assessment and been awarded certificates.

It is worth mentioning that the above-mentioned modules can also be accessed by Smartphone and tablet. Moreover, a PDF version is also made available for each module to allow their offline use.

INTERGROWTH-21st

<http://www.gfmer.ch/omphi/intergrowth/index.htm>

The International Fetal and Newborn Growth Consortium for the 21st Century is a global multidisciplinary network of more than 300 researchers and clinicians from 27 institutions in 18 countries worldwide. We are dedicated to improving perinatal health globally and committed to reducing the millions of preventable newborn deaths that occur as a result of preterm birth or poor intrauterine growth.

In order to meet this goal, we need international growth standards to measure and improve maternal and newborn clinical care, and compare outcomes across populations. Such standards exist

to monitor the growth of infants and children. These are the WHO Child Growth Standards and their release in 2006 was a landmark achievement. These scientifically based standards are now used worldwide.

However, the fetal and newborn counterpart has been missing, which led us to implement the INTERGROWTH-21st Project. Our aim was to extend the WHO Child Growth Standards into the fetal and neonatal period, providing tools for continuity of care from conception to 5 years of age.

The INTERGROWTH-21st Consortium implemented three population-based studies using standardized methods and clinical and research protocols. We gathered a rich body of data on health, growth, and nutrition from pregnancy to early infancy from close to 60,000 women and newborns across five continents, making the INTERGROWTH-21st Project the largest collaborative venture in the field of perinatal health research to date.

The resulting data provide unique insights into growth and development for the 21st century. The findings also provide new ways of classifying preterm and small for gestational age newborns. In addition, we have produced a new international equation for estimating gestational age through ultrasound early in pregnancy based on the first international crown-rump length standards, and we have developed the resources necessary for enabling the adoption and scale-up of these tools at all levels of the health care system.

By improving the ability of clinicians to monitor growth and development, standardizing research methods, and providing maternal and newborn health programme and policymakers with new, practical, international tools, we believe we can improve the health of women and newborns worldwide.

GFMER has been designated as one of the principle partners for the dissemination and implementation of the INTERGROWTH-21st at a global level through its international network of health professionals and partner institutions.

The INTERGROWTH-21st course on maternal, fetal and newborn growth monitoring was jointly developed by the [Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research \(GFMER\)](#), [The Global Health Network](#), [Maternal Health Task Force at the Harvard School of Public Health](#) and [Oxford Maternal & Perinatal Health Institute \(OMPHI\)](#). The course development was motivated by the commitment of the INTERGROWTH-21st Consortium to improving perinatal health globally. The course communicates the methodology of maternal, fetal and newborn growth monitoring and the application of the INTERGROWTH-21st international growth standards to make judgement about appropriateness of growth.

This open, online training course was officially launched in June 2016 with the publication of its first module “Assessing newborn size by anthropometry”. The module was published first in response to the need for guidance on the correct measurement technique for newborn head circumference and an international prescriptive standard for comparisons, following the outbreak of ZIKA virus infection in some part of the world. The module is available in three languages, English, Portuguese and Spanish. The remaining modules will be available soon. GFMER planned to disseminate the course through its vast network of health care professionals in three phases: 1) Provision of training to the current participants of the annual course ‘From Research to Practice: Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research 2016’ as well as the participants from the 2010 to 2015 editions of the course; 2) provision of the training module to a much larger number of health care providers worldwide and 3) dissemination of this course, through the Foundation network of country coordinators, collaborating institutions and former students in selected countries. As at 31 December

2016, a total of 401 health professionals from 59 countries took the first module "[Assessing newborn size by anthropometry](#)".

GFMER website (www.gfmer.ch)



The GFMER website is extensive, regularly updated and provides easy access to useful information. The website contains information about the foundation, education programmes (courses), partners, international collaboration and information resources such as publications, presentations and databases. The GFMER website contains information in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish.

In 2016, the website of the foundation had 1854910 page views and visitors from all over the world. See the following link for the statistics of the website:

http://www.gfmer.ch/Usage_statistics/pdf/GFMER-visitors-2016.pdf

Activities planned for 2017

Interpractice-21st

It is an Internet computer-based training on preterm anthropometry and breastfeeding.

The development of this course has been motivated by the commitment of the INTERGROWTH-21st Consortium to improving perinatal health globally.

Introduction to sexual health

In partnership with the World Health Organisation and UNESCO the GFMER will develop an Internet computer-based training module on sexual health. As for other module, it will be offered to our online course students and it will globally be disseminated to health professionals, through the GFMER and partners' networks.