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Embedding operational research into national disease control programme: Lessons from 10 years of experience in Indonesia

Mahendradhata, Yodi^{a,b} ; Probandari, Ari^{a,c}; **Widjanarko, Bagoes^d**; Riono, Pandu^e;
Mustikawati, Dyah^f; Tiemersma, Edine W.^g; Alisjahbana, Bachtih^{h,i}

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^a Center for Health Policy and Management, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

^b Faculty of Medicine, Institute of Public Health, University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany

^c Department of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, Sebelas Maret University, Surakarta City, Indonesia

^d Department of Health Education and Behavioral Science, Faculty of Public Health, Diponegoro University, Semarang, Indonesia

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There is growing recognition that operational research (OR) should be embedded into national disease control programmes. However, much of the current OR capacity building schemes are still predominantly driven by international agencies with limited integration into national disease control programmes. We demonstrated that it is possible to achieve a more sustainable capacity

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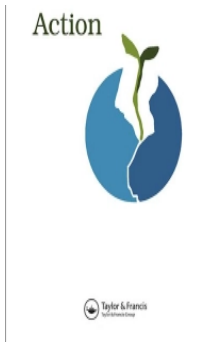
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Capacity Building



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Service, training, mentorship: first report of an innovative education-support program to revitalize primary care social service in Chiapas, Mexico >

Andrew Van Wieren, Lindsay Palazuelos, Patrick F. Elliott, Jafet Arrieta, Hugo Flores & Daniel Palazuelos

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Embedding operational research into national disease control programme: lessons from 10 years of experience in Indonesia >

Yodi Mahendradhata, Ari Probandari, **Bagoes Widjanarko**, Pandu Riono, Dyah Mustikawati, Edine W. Tiemersma, Bacht Alisjahbana & on behalf of the Tuberculosis Operational Research Group (TORG)

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Article



CAPACITY BUILDING

A case study of global health at the university: implications for research and action

Andrew D. Pinto^{1,2,3*}, Donald C. Cole⁴, Aleida ter Kuile⁵, Lisa Forman^{4,6}, Katherine Rouleau^{1,3}, Jane Philpott^{3,7}, Barry Pakes^{3,4,8}, Suzanne Jackson⁴ and Carles Muntaner^{4,9}

¹Department of Family and Community Medicine, St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; ²Centre for Research on Inner City Health, Keenan Research Centre, Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; ³Department of Family and Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; ⁴Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; ⁵Department of Family and Community Medicine, Credit Valley Hospital, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada; ⁶Comparative Program on Health and Society, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; ⁷Department of Family Medicine, Markham Stouffville Hospital, Markham, Ontario, Canada; ⁸Global Health Education Initiative, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; ⁹Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Background: Global health is increasingly a major focus of institutions in high-income countries. However, little work has been done to date to study the inner workings of global health at the university level. Academics may have competing objectives, with few mechanisms to coordinate efforts and pool resources.

Objective: To conduct a case study of global health at Canada's largest health sciences university and to examine how its internal organization influences research and action.

Design: We drew on existing inventories, annual reports, and websites to create an institutional map, identifying centers and departments using the terms 'global health' or 'international health' to describe their activities. We compiled a list of academics who self-identified as working in global or international health. We purposively sampled persons in leadership positions as key informants. One investigator carried out confidential, semi-structured interviews with 20 key informants. Interview notes were returned to participants for verification and then analyzed thematically by pairs of coders. Synthesis was conducted jointly.

Results: More than 100 academics were identified as working in global health, situated in numerous institutions, centers, and departments. Global health academics interviewed shared a common sense of what global health means and the values that underpin such work. Most academics interviewed expressed frustration at the existing fragmentation and the lack of strategic direction, financial support, and recognition from the university. This hampered collaborative work and projects to tackle global health problems.

Conclusions: The University of Toronto is not exceptional in facing such challenges, and our findings align with existing literature that describes factors that inhibit collaboration in global health work at universities. Global health academics based at universities may work in institutional siloes and this limits both internal and external collaboration. A number of solutions to address these challenges are proposed.

Keywords: *global health; international health; academia; university; collaboration*

*Correspondence to: Andrew D. Pinto, St. Michael's Hospital, 410 Sherbourne Street, 4th floor, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M4X 1K2, Email: andrew.pinto@utoronto.ca

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Globalization has accelerated universities' reach in recent decades. National organizations of educational institutions have taken a role in promoting international partnership programs (1), primarily bilateral and consortia relationships (2). Activities have included the recruitment of students from other countries (3), sending students overseas (4), and greater mobility and

joint production of graduate students (5–7). Casting universities' response to globalization as 'internationalization', Knight (5) has noted that 'internationalization brings new opportunities, new benefits, new risks, and new challenges'.

One arena of internationalization is 'global health', a term that has gained ascendancy in high-income countries

CAPACITY BUILDING

Sharing perspectives and experiences of doctoral fellows in the first cohort of Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa: 2011–2014

Babatunde Adedokun^{1*}, Peter Nyasulu^{2,3}, Fresier Maseko⁴, Sunday Adedini^{5,6}, Joshua Akinyemi¹, Sulaimon Afolabi^{6,7}, Nicole de Wet⁶, Adedokun Sulaimon⁵, Caroline Sambai⁸, Wells Utembe^{2,9}, Rose Opiyo¹⁰, Taofeek Awotidebe^{11,12}, Esnat Chirwa^{13,14}, Esther Nabakwe^{15,16}, François Niragire¹⁷, Dieudonné Uwizeye^{18,19}, Celine Niwemahoro^{17,19}, Mphatso Kamndaya^{2,13}, Victoria Mwakalinga^{2,20} and Kennedy Otwombe^{2,21}

¹Department of Epidemiology and Medical Statistics, Faculty of Public Health, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria; ²School of Public Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa; ³School of Health Sciences, Monash University, Johannesburg, South Africa; ⁴College of Medicine, Faculty of Community Health, University of Malawi, Lilongwe, Malawi; ⁵Demography and Social Statistics, Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife, Nigeria; ⁶Demography and Population Studies, Faculty of Humanities, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa; ⁷MRC/Wits Rural Public Health and Health Transitions Research Unit (Agincourt), School of Public Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa; ⁸Department of Literature, Theatre and Film Studies, Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya; ⁹Department of Physics and Biochemical Sciences, Malawi Polytechnic, University of Malawi, Blantyre, Malawi; ¹⁰School of Public Health, University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya; ¹¹Department of Medical Rehabilitation, College of Health Sciences, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria; ¹²Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, Faculty of Education, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria; ¹³Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Malawi, Blantyre, Malawi; ¹⁴MRC/Wits Developmental Pathways for Health Research Unit, School of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa; ¹⁵Department of Child Health and Pediatrics, College of Health Sciences, Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya; ¹⁶Department of Anthropology and Human Ecology, School of Arts and Social Sciences, Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya; ¹⁷Department of Applied Statistics, University of Rwanda, Huye, Rwanda; ¹⁸Department of Sustainable Development, University of Rwanda, Huye, Rwanda; ¹⁹Centre for Population Studies and Research, University of Dar es Salaam, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; ²⁰Ifakara Health Institute, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; ²¹Perinatal HIV Research Unit, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Background: Resolution of public health problems in Africa remains a challenge because of insufficient skilled human resource capacity. The Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA) was established to enhance capacity in multi-disciplinary health research that will make a positive impact on population health in Africa.

Objective: The first cohort of the CARTA program describes their perspectives and experiences during the 4 years of fellowship and puts forward suggestions for future progress and direction of research in Africa.

Conclusions: The model of training as shown by the CARTA program is an effective model of research capacity building in African academic institutions. An expansion of the program is therefore warranted to reach out to more African academics in search of advanced research training.

Keywords: *CARTA; JAS; doctoral fellow; first cohort; advanced research training*

*Correspondence to: Babatunde Adedokun, Department of Epidemiology and Medical Statistics, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, PMB 5017, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria, Email: badedokun@cartafrica.org

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CAPACITY BUILDING

Service, training, mentorship: first report of an innovative education-support program to revitalize primary care social service in Chiapas, Mexico

Andrew Van Wieren¹, Lindsay Palazuelos², Patrick F. Elliott^{1,2}, Jafet Arrieta³, Hugo Flores^{1,2} and Daniel Palazuelos^{1,2,3*}

¹Division of Global Health Equity, Department of Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA, USA; ²Partners in Health/Compañeros en Salud, Boston, MA, USA; ³Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA

Background: The Mexican mandatory year of social service following medical school, or *pasantía*, is designed to provide a safety net for the underserved. However, social service physicians (*pasantes*) are typically unpracticed, unsupervised, and unsupported. Significant demotivation, absenteeism, and underperformance typically plague the social service year.

Objective: *Compañeros en Salud* (CES) aimed to create an education-support package to turn the *pasantía* into a transformative learning experience.

Design: CES recruited *pasantes* to complete their *pasantía* in CES-supported Ministry of Health clinics in rural Chiapas. The program aims to: 1) train *pasantes* to more effectively deliver primary care, 2) expose *pasantes* to central concepts of global health and social medicine, and 3) foster career development of *pasantes*. Program components include supportive supervision, on-site mentorship, clinical information resources, monthly interactive seminars, and improved clinic function. We report quantitative and qualitative *pasante* survey data collected from February 2012 to August 2013 to discuss strengths and weaknesses of this program and its implications for the *pasante* workforce in Mexico.

Results: *Pasantes* reported that their medical knowledge, and clinical and leadership skills all improved during the CES education-support program. Most *pasantes* felt the program had an overall positive effect on their career goals and plans, although their self-report of preparedness for the Mexican residency entrance exam (ENARM) decreased during the social service year. One hundred percent reported they were satisfied with the CES-supported *pasantía* experience and wished to help the poor and underserved in their careers.

Conclusions: Education-support programs similar to the CES program may encourage graduating medical students to complete their social service in underserved areas, improve the quality of care provided by *pasantes*, and address many of the known shortcomings of the *pasantía*. Additional efforts should focus on developing a strategy to expand this education-support model so that more *pasantes* throughout Mexico can experience a transformative, career-building, social service year.

Keywords: *global health; primary care; social service; medical education; health systems strengthening; underserved; Mexico; Latin America*

Responsible Editors: Isabel Goicolea, Umeå University, Sweden.

*Correspondence to: Daniel Palazuelos, Brigham and Women's Hospital Division of Global Health Equity 75 Francis St. Boston, MA 02115, USA, Email: dpalazuelos@pih.org

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Ever since the President of Mexico and the Dean of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México established an agreement in 1937, graduating Mexican medical students have been required to complete a year of primary care social service (called *pasantía*) before obtaining their full medical license (1, 2). Distributing social service physicians (*pasantes*) throughout

Mexico is intended to provide a safety net for the underserved. In reality, however, *pasantes* are typically unsupervised and unpracticed (meaning that they are both inexperienced and have not undergone enough mentored training to adequately practice without further oversight). In addition, they are often distracted by pending residency entrance exams, and regularly try to secure