

Operational Research (OR) in TB, HIV and NCDs - PHFI and the Union collaboration

Title: Collaboration/Partnership between 'The Union' and 'Public Health Foundation of India (PFHI)' for promoting Operational Research (OR) on Lung Health, Tuberculosis, HIV and other non-communicable diseases (NCD)

We are pleased to announce that we are organizing a year long capacity building program on operational research (June 2010 to May 2011) project, funded by the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD) which aims at building OR capacity of 10 selected candidates for conducting operational research in the fields of lung health, Tuberculosis, HIV and/or other non-communicable diseases.

This OR project formally begins with the **first five day workshop (07 to 11 June, 2010)** on Operational Research (OR) protocol development for health professionals working in the fields of TB, HIV and NCDs, that will specifically introduce operational (qualitative, quantitative and mixed) research methods with an emphasis on implementable and cost effective techniques and tools and basic data analysis, culminating in the participant developing his/her own feasible proposal at the end of the first workshop. Applications of the qualitative, quantitative approaches; formulation of specific, measurable, relevant research questions; study designs and selection of appropriate methodology; research design issues; techniques for data collection-Interview, observation, focus group; library, field and action based methodological approaches, introductory techniques for sampling, power and sample size calculations; assessment of data validity and reliability in study designs; critical appraisal and ethical perspective of OR will be covered using adult learning and reflective style of pedagogy during the first workshop. The overarching **goal** of the first workshop is development of an original, implementable, and evaluable quality OR proposal by each of the participant in their respective chosen professional areas.

This will be followed by a **9 month operational research project** in which the participant conducts the study according to the his/her developed research question in an operational domain. A **second workshop** on report writing will be conducted in March 2011 at the end of 9 months of field work. An original publication in an international peer reviewed scientific journal before the end 12 months of this collaboration (May 2011), minimum one per participant, by each one of the trainees is the envisaged outcome for the OR project.

Both the workshops are being envisaged to be conducted at Indian Institute of Public Health, Hyderabad (IIPHH). The Center for Operational research, a research wing of the Union (International Union for action on TB and lung diseases) is the funder for this capacity building for eligible researchers. Specific, Measurable, Activity oriented (Attainable), Related and Time bound (SMART) 'problems and solution' approach will be the overall focus of this workshop.

Objective : To build capacity of 10 candidates for conducting operational research on lung health, Tuberculosis, HIV and/or other non-communicable diseases.

The nodal Centre for this collaboration from the Union is "Centre for Operational Research (COR)". The selected candidates should be from an institution/organization wherein direct supervision by a qualified supervisor is available.

The candidates should send us the following documents by **10th May 2010** as the selection is due by **15 May 2010** for all the candidates.

- a. A **concept note** upto a maximum of 500 words on the operational research proposal that he / she will do in the field for 9 months in the fields of TB (and or) HIV and NCDs which includes – Study Title; Aims; Objectives; Methodology and Design and Data Analysis Plan.
- b. A **one page statement** on the feasibility and operationalization of the project (why he / she wants to do the OR and the impact on TB, (and or) HIV or NCDs
- c. An excel sheet depicting the **budget** and **timeline** for taking up the above research activity with an upper limit of Rs.40,000/- (which would be for the duration of 9 months)
- d. A signed agreement by the at site supervisor to support the candidate in the study, together with a brief CV.
- e. Agreement to bring a laptop to the course.

All the above documents should reach us via email addressed to krishnaiiph@gmail.com / krishna.gayathri@iiph-hydedu.in with a copy marked to docraghu8@gmail.com and nandu.k@iiph-hydedu.in on or before **10th May 2010** (extendable until 15 May 2010).

Process:

First workshop (revising research questions, methods and study design. research protocol development)



Followed by 6-9 months of operational research work by all the 10 candidates (mentor the candidates...each candidates will be given up to a maximum of \$1000 for conducting an operational research project during this time frame.)



Followed by a second workshop (for data analysis and report/publication writing)



Followed by a peer reviewed journal publication 12 months down the line...

Venue in Hyderabad

- IIPH Hyderabad - classroom (third floor)
- IIHFW, Hyderabad - Lecture hall 1 or 2 (ground floor)

The profile of a 'candidate' for this workshop

- Currently working mid career, medical and social sciences' professionals with a minimum of two years experience in the fields of TB, HIV and NCD.

- Must be an involved stakeholder with an interest or ability to undertake rigorous operational research work in a field or community setting in India
- Must be an ethical researcher in an institution with sound credibility and proven performance track record in HIV, TB and NCDs.
- Independent researchers, consultants or research personnel from NGO, Private Public Partnerships (PPP) who work in advocacy, health policy, health promotion, health communication, sociology, medical anthropology, chronic diseases epidemiology and infectious diseases streams
- Infectious diseases or Pulmonology Clinical Fellows and clinicians with specialization in NCD who wish to undertake operational research in translational and community settings
- Behavioural and social scientists who are currently working in HIV or TB or NCDs
- Must have a committed, time bound and goal driven personality
- Pre-requisites – Exposure to qualitative and quantitative health research methods

Methods

- Classroom
- Group discussions
- Reflective perspectives
- Adult learning techniques
- Proposal writing – each day ends with an hour devoted to individual one to one discussion with faculty (half hr for participants thought process followed by refinement, edits, suggestions on the developed part of the proposal by the faculty)

The names of the faculty for the workshop

- Dr. Raghupathy Anchala| MBBS (AFMC), MD (Chest and TB), MPH (University of Pittsburgh, USA), PDCR | Indian Institute of Public Health, (Public Health Foundation of India), Opposite Nalanda College, Vengal Rao Nagar| Hyderabad 500038| India | tel: +91 (0) 9618010188| email: raghupathy.a@iiph-hydedu.in
- Mr. Nandakishore Kannuri, MPhil in Anthropology (University of Hyderabad) | Indian Institute of Public Health, (Public Health Foundation of India), Opposite Nalanda College, Vengal Rao Nagar| Hyderabad 500038| India | tel: +91 (0) 9849274761 | email: nandu.k@iiph-hydedu.in
- Prof, Anthony Harries | Senior Advisor, International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, Old Inn Cottage | Vears Lane | Colden Common, Winchester | SO 21 1TQ | United Kingdom, tel: +44 (0) 1962 714297, email: adharries@theunion.org | web: www.theunion.org
- Dr. S Srinath, MBBS, MD (Community Medicine)| Operations Research Fellow| International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union)- South-East Asia| C-6, Qutub Institutional Area | New Delhi 110016 | India Mob: +91 93 13 44 09 73; Email: ssrinath@theunion.org | www.theunion.org

The mechanisms for follow-up during the next 1 year after completion of the workshop by the Contractor:

- Conference calls with the Union at periodic intervals and regular e-mail updates sent by the Contractor to the Union
- Work closely with the institutional mentor for all the trainees

Deliverables

- Deliverables for course 1

1. The proposal and ethics submission:

- a. by the end of the module, a draft operational research protocol and a draft ethics application form – one for local ethics, one for the consideration of the ethical committees of PHFI and The Union (This is to ensure that the research activities undertaken/supported by the collaboration are cleared by our respective institutional ethical committees)

- b. Within two/three weeks of the end of the module, a completed operational research protocol and a completed submission to the ethics committees as mentioned above

2. To attend course 2, participants must have completed data collection and data analysis and this will be verified by the respective mentors.

- Deliverables for course 2

Within 3 weeks of the end of the course/module-2, we want all participants to have written a draft paper which should be completed and submitted to a peer reviewed journal

Outcome

The OR capacity building is product related –Every candidate is expected to submit at-least one original research paper for publication in an international peer reviewed scientific journal before the end 12 months of this collaboration. The candidate must be the first author for the submitted article.

Final time lines

- First workshop – 07- 11 June 2010
- Project work by 10 trainees - 9 months – June, 2010 to Feb 2011 (depends on project)
- Second workshop – First week of March 2011 (assumed that data collections lasts for 9 months)
- Peer review submission to a journal – by May 2011 (maximum of four weeks from the end of the second workshop).

The mechanisms for follow-up during the next 1 year

- Conference calls at periodic intervals and regular e-mail updates
- Work closely with the institutional mentor for all the trainees

Logistics: To and fro railway (II or 3AC) will be given for the candidates on production of the original tickets for both the workshops.

Accommodation and lodging will be subsidized subject to availability of the rooms in the hostel block of the temporary campus in Indian Institute of Health and Family Welfare, Hyderabad (State government of AP) from where IIPHH is currently running the courses.

PI contact Ms. Gayathri, IIPH, Hyderabad by email – Krishna.iiph@gmail.com for further clarifications and queries.

NOTE FOR CANDIDATES

The candidates who wish to take part are encouraged to read carefully the requirements as mentioned below:

The candidates should send us the following documents by **10th May 2010** as the selection is due by **14 May 2010** for all the candidates.

- f. A **concept note** upto a maximum of 500 words on the operational research proposal that he / she will do in the field for 9 months in the fields of TB (and or) HIV and NCDs which includes – Study Title; Aims; Objectives; Methodology and Design and Data Analysis Plan.
- g. A **one page statement** on the feasibility and operationalization of the project (why he / she wants to do the OR and the impact on TB, (and or) HIV or NCDs
- h. An excel sheet depicting the **budget** and **timeline** for taking up the above research activity with an upper limit of Rs.40,000/- (which would be for the duration of 9 months)
- i. A signed agreement by the at site supervisor to support the candidate in the study, together with a brief CV.
- j. Agreement to bring a laptop to the course.

All the above documents should reach us via email addressed to krishnaiiph@gmail.com / krishna.gayathri@iiph-hydedu.in with a copy marked to docraghu8@gmail.com and nandu.k@iiph-hydedu.in on or before **10th May 2010** (extendable until 15 May 2010).