



The Bill and Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health

*Scholarship & Science
for Social Change*



GATES INSTITUTE NEWS Fall 2007

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Established in 1999 with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and based in the Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health, the Institute's mission is to build individual and institutional capacity in developing countries that will in turn strengthen the effectiveness of population, family planning, and reproductive health policies and programs. The Institute works with leaders in the academic, private, and public sectors to build skills and enable these individuals to strengthen one another and the institutions they serve via degree and non-degree training, collaborative research, and leadership forums.

RESEARCH

Call for Abstracts: Investing in young people's health and development: research that improves policies and programs, an international conference

April 27-29, 2008, Abuja, Nigeria

The Bill and Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH) will host an international conference— "Investing in Young People's Health and Development: Research that Improves Policies and Programs"— with partner institutions, Obafemi Awolowo University and the University of Ibadan, and a consortium of more than 20 international and national organizations. The Call for Abstracts with specific thematic areas can be found along with submission forms and guidelines on the conference website at www.jhsph.edu/gatesinstitute/policy_practice/adolhealth.

The conference aims to provide an international forum for exchanging research and programmatically generated evidence on how to meet the health and developmental needs of young people in low-resource settings. The organizers invite abstracts on cutting-edge health and social development research, program evaluations and policy studies related to young people around the world. The focus of the conference is on young people between the ages of 10 to 24. The thematic areas relate to population, development, sexual and reproductive health, poverty reduction and gender equity as they affect young people. The organizers aim for one meeting outcome to be increased resources and commitment to youth-directed investments in health and development at the international, national and local levels.

A set of youth friendly activities and professional skill-building workshops is being organized for April 30th. For more information contact Ms. Natalie Culbertson at gates@jhsph.edu.

Scaling Up Health Technologies

One of the most frustrating challenges facing the public health community is the persistent failure to make existing life saving interventions universally available. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation asked the Institute to examine why effective health interventions have not been brought to scale. This report "Scaling Up Health Technologies" presents the results of the analysis by Duff Gillespie, Senior Scholar, and his colleagues, Sabrina Karklins, Andreea Creanga, Sadaf Khan, and NaHyun Cho. The report is available at: http://www.jhsph.edu/gatesinstitute/pdf/policy_practice/Papers/ScalingUp_report.pdf

Mobile Obstetrics Medic Program (M.O.M.)

In 1988, the Burmese military's crackdown led many to flee to the Thai-Burma border, seeking refuge with local ethnic people. Today continued fighting has displaced whole villages. Widespread population instability, including 35-50% of families displaced annually from 2000-2002, has contributed to significant adverse reproductive health outcomes. The maternal mortality ratio is between 1000 and 1200 per 100,000 live births, with a significant proportion of deaths from post-partum hemorrhage and sepsis. The Mae Tao Clinic was established by Dr. **Cynthia Maung** to provide medical care for all fleeing fighting on the border. The MTC has grown into a comprehensive community health center and a key regional training center.

In 2005, the Gates Institute provided Dr. Maung and Dr. **Chris Beyrer**, Director of the Center for Health and Human Rights at JHSPH, support to establish a network of six standardized, locally staffed, mobile centers for capacity building and referral care within communities of internally displaced persons. Backpack health care workers provide basic obstetric services and contraception and monitor and evaluate maternity outcomes. There is now a network of 12 mobile health centers inside Burma that serve as capacity-building sites for health workers (HW), trained birth attendants (TBAs), and other community participants, referral centers for specialized emergency obstetrical care, sites for the introduction of proven and appropriate antenatal, peripartum, and postpartum newborn and maternal health interventions, and hubs for the collection of standardized program indicators

The Mobile Obstetrics Medics (MOM) network is comprised of 5 local project coordinators, 33 maternal HWs trained as basic and essential obstetric care providers, 147 trained local HWs, and 350 TBAs. Together they provide care for an estimated 2800 deliveries per year, or more than 25% of all deliveries in the combined Backpack and Mobile Clinic covered populations.

For more information: <http://www.jhsph.edu/humanrights/Research>

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

Milestones Reached at Addis Ababa University and University of Ghana

Addis Ababa University

On October 8, 2007, Addis Ababa University (AAU) officially inaugurated a new School of Public Health, which will grow out of the current Department of Community Health in the Faculty of Medicine. The new SPH will have four new departments, one of which will be the Department of Reproductive and Family Health. The Gates Institute has sponsored more than 15 faculty visits to JHSPH from the DCH department, including faculty in its current Reproductive Health Unit. The DCH is chaired by Dr. **Fikre Enquselassie** and the RH Unit headed by Dr. **Mesganaw Afework**.

University of Ghana

With six recognized departments, including the Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health, and a center, the University of Ghana's School of Public Health (UG/SPH) was approved as a Faculty within the College of Health Sciences in February 2007. Dr. **Isabella Quakyi**, the School's Director, was accorded Dean status retroactive to July 2006. She completed her term as head of the School this summer and will be returning to being an active scholar of Immunology and Parasitology. She will continue to lead the Gates Institute partnership with PFRH Department chair, Dr. **Kofi Asante**.

Bill Gates Sr. Visits the Gates Institute

In 1997, **Bill Gates Sr.** made his first visit to the School of Public Health and subsequently authorized a small financial gift to support leadership training. Eventually a five-year grant helped establish the Bill and Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health.

On 18 April 2007, Bill Gates Sr. returned to celebrate the 10th anniversary of his first visit and to learn of the Institute's progress directly from its country-based collaborators. The day began with a symposium, hosted by Dean **Michael Klag**, featuring presentations by Gates Scholars, Fellows and Partners, Dr. **Fred Makumbi** of Makerere University, and Dr. **YeMon Myint** of Myanmar on behalf of Dr. **Thein Thein Htay** of the Ministry of Health Myanmar, Dr. **Ruquiya Saeed**, Member of the Balochistan Parliament, Pakistan, and Dr. **Isabella Quakyi**, Dean of the University of Ghana School of Public Health.

To get a feel for the true impact of the Gates Institute programs, Mr. Gates met with Gates Scholars and Partners in Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, and Jamaica. At the celebratory dinner, Mr. Gates spoke about the importance of addressing family planning needs and population growth in low-income countries. He concluded with the following:

"You all have walked many miles in a very short time and I am wildly optimistic about where you will be after the next ten years. At the Gates Foundation, we, like you, look forward to the day when the risks in childbirth everywhere in the world are down to those same tiny numbers as in the industrial world. We, like you, dream of the day when fertility represents simply filling the places left by those who have died; when the disastrous multiplication of people is no longer a threat to the continued live-ability of your countries.



Bill Gates Sr. with the Gates Partner Representatives, Gates Scholars, and visiting faculty.

“We are so very pleased at the investment we made to inaugurate this great work. We are grateful to the people of Johns Hopkins for the wonderful organization they have brought to this field and the inspiration they have passed along to you. But most of all we are pleased and grateful for all of you—and those who have preceded and the many who will succeed you—giving a life of inspiration and devoted effort to this work.”

Collaboration Yields “Child Health in Africa” Curriculum

For the most part, the teaching of child health in African universities is focused on the presentation of childhood diseases and their management. The curriculum is often taught in medical schools by pediatricians on faculty primarily with clinical experience. As a result public health issues in improving child health, including appreciating its multiple determinants, community interventions, life course implications, and policy formation, are missed.

In 2005, Gates Institute faculty member Dr. **Bernie Guyer** became increasingly aware of the need for a public health-based child health curriculum specific to Africa. He began creating a modular curriculum that could be adapted by instructors and students. Graduate students assisted in developing the modules. In July 2007, a group of five faculty from Gates partner institutions convened for a week in Baltimore to work with Dr. Guyer to develop the curriculum further.



Mulugeta Betra (AAU), Segun Akinyinka (Ibadan), Juliette Tuakli (Ghana), Deji Onayade (OAU), Yemi Omotade (Ibadan)

The curriculum’s objectives are:

1. To complement the clinical training of Masters (MPH) students with a public health approach to children’s health which is multi-disciplinary, and emphasizes multiple-determinants and life course development;
2. To develop skills in critical review of the literature on the definitions, measurement, and determinants of children’s health and program interventions to improve children’s health;
3. To understand the application and translation of the research literature to health policy formation, program implementation and elimination of health disparities;
4. To focus on children and adolescents in Africa, principally West Africa.

There are nine themes: 1) Overview 2) Growth and development, 3) Nutrition, 4) Population perspective 5) Reproductive and women’s health 6) Health systems, 7) Disease controls, 8) Special populations 9) Global issues. Within each theme are 3-6 modules on subtopics such as rights of the child, maternal nutrition, street children, vaccinations, malaria, HIV and orphans, child labor, and investing in the future.

Each module includes learning (teaching) objectives, reading citations (and pdf files where these are available), brief synopsis of the important themes; presentation slides, study questions and case studies.

In August 2007, child health faculty from Gates partner institutions met again in Ibadan, Nigeria, to complete the curriculum modules, share plans for its use and dissemination. The group also discussed creating an Africa-based secretariat to coordinate and monitor the Child Health curriculum's use across African countries. For more information, contact gates@jhsph.edu.

TRAINING

5th Annual Summer Institute Held



Summer Institute participants enjoy dinner with instructors Gloria Asare and Michelle Hindin at Amy Tsui's house.

The Gates Institute held its 5th Annual Summer Institute in Reproductive Health and Development (RHD) June 3-15 with 28 participants from 13 countries around the globe. A combination of previous years RHD and Research Methods courses, it attracted key reproductive health researchers, programmers and policy makers who hailed from NGOs, academia, research centers, and governments.

The focus of this year's institute was to enhance analytic skills through critical analyses of peer reviewed articles, policies, and utilization of analytic tools including [STATA](#), [Spectrum](#), and [Stat Compiler](#). The course combined lectures in the mornings with practical exercises and group assignments in the afternoons.

The primary instructors for the course were Drs. **Michelle Hindin** and **Amy Tsui** with other instructors from JHSPH faculty, Dr. **Gloria Asare** from the Ghana Health Service, and teaching assistants, **Yemon Myint** and **Li Liu**. The participants brought considerable expertise to the course and each other and evaluated the course favorably (9.3 out of 10). For information on the 2008 Summer Institute, please contact Ms. Monnie Heminthavong, Training Program Officer at aheminth@jhsph.edu

Workshops in Reproductive Health and Development offered in Partner Countries

January 2007 ushered in a flurry of planned training activities in reproductive health and development including short courses at Assiut University in Egypt, Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, University of Ghana, and the International Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS) in India.

Faculty in AAU's Department of Community Health and Addis Continental Institute in Public Health, under the leadership of Drs. Mesganaw Afework and **Yemane Berhane**, organized a two-week course on Reproductive Health and Development held January 9-17, 2007. The course replicated the Gates Summer Institute offering. There were 33 participants representing non-governmental organizations, academia and government, at both federal and regional levels. Course instruction was provided by the faculty of the Department of Community Health, with resource persons from the Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health at JHSPH, **Heather Bradley** and Amy Tsui.



Participants in the Ghana RHD workshop.

As AAU was completing its training, UG/SPH in collaboration with Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) organized a one-week course on adolescent health for train 27 trainers and policy makers in Ghana and Nigeria. The workshop was held in Akosombo, Ghana, from February 5 – 9. Drs. **Bob Blum**, Professor and Chairman of Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health at JHSPH, **Adesegun Fatusi** (Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria), **Sally Ohene**, **Phyllis Antwi** and **Rejoice Nutakor** served as resource persons.

From March 10-15, 2007 at Assiut University Department of Public Health (AUDPH), Gates Institute-affiliated faculty member **David Bishai**, co-instructed a training-of-trainers course *Skills in Operations Research for Reproductive Health Services Improvement*, for 10 trainers. The course was taught with support from Dr. **Omaira El-Gibaly** and Prof. **Ali Zarzour** of AUDPH and Dr. **Adam Taghreed** from WHO Geneva.

In India, Dr. **Usha Ram**, alumni of the Gates Summer Institute (RHD 2006) and Reader at IIPS, and her team organized a successful two-week workshop on reproductive health and development in May. The course objectives were to increase knowledge and understanding of concepts, measures and programs related to reproductive health and development, and enhance the knowledge and understanding of linkages between demographic changes, sexual and reproductive health outcomes, and economic and social development. Course instructors included local experts in the field of RH, faculty of IIPS, and Dr. **W. Henry Mosley** for the Gates Institute.

ADVOCACY / PRACTICE

US Representative Betty McCollum Addresses School about Global Health and Congress

It is no secret that US politics can be a barrier to improving health globally, but there is at least one US Congressional Representative who is making every effort to improve the lives of women and their families in developing countries. Congresswoman **Betty McCollum** (D-MN) is working to increase funding for programs that improve lives. She is a member of the *Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee* which funds the Department of Health and Human Services, including the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health and the *State Department Foreign Operations Subcommittee*.

On September 21, she visited JHSPH and spoke with students and faculty about “Global Health and Congress”, sharing her beliefs that child survival, maternal and reproductive health need to be the foundation of the US global health platform. Faculty members Drs. **Duff Gillespie** and **Jane Bertrand** shared comments on Congresswoman McCollum’s perspectives.



SCHOLAR / ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni of Gates Institute workshops are invited to send news of their reproductive health or population activities. Here we feature 2 alumni of the 2004 and 2006 Summer Institutes.

Rajani Ved is a public health practitioner in India, who participated in the 2004 Strategic Leadership and Management course.

I work with a group called Management Systems International through a MacArthur funded grant (we work on models that have proven evidence to scale them up into the public health sector system). I am based in Population Foundation of India, as they are our India partners.

We are looking at some models: 1) a Home Based newborn care intervention developed by SEARCH, 2) interventions with married adolescent girls, 3) community insurance, 4) training government providers in emergency obstetric care and 5) increasing immunization access in tribal areas and the impact on service uptake and quality of posting a second ANM at the sub centre.

What is so exciting about these models is that they are all relevant under the new National Rural health mission. So I feel that I am contributing and learning a lot as well.

Deepak Paudel is a Community Health Specialist with Care International in Nepal, who participated in the 2006 Research Methods in Reproductive Health course.

Currently, I am involved in different research and program monitoring activities of different projects of CARE Nepal. We have recently completed the final evaluation of our Family Health project and carrying out an Endline survey of Child Survival Project. We are also planning to conduct a research study on impact of community based IMCI program on reduction of maternal and child mortality using MIS and household data from Child Survival Project districts. These days, I am finding I am more comfortable with research activities and analyzing data from monitoring, for which I should give credit to the course on research methods on RH that I attended at JHSPH.

GENERAL

Obstetric Fistula Journal Supplement Available Online

For each maternal death, 20 women experience serious complications related to pregnancy. Fistula is considered the most debilitating and devastating of maternal morbidities and it is directly caused by prolonged and obstructed labor, a condition leading almost invariably to fetal death. When the woman survives the ordeal and is left with an obstetric fistula, she experiences continuous leakage of urine and/or feces. Fistula changes her life forever and she may be deserted by her husband and stigmatized by society. Fistula is preventable and treatable; yet millions of women in developing countries suffer from this dreadful condition.

In November 2007, the International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics will publish the supplement **Prevention and Treatment of Obstetric Fistula: Identifying Research Needs and Public Health Priorities**. The Volume 99 supplement is co-edited by Drs. **Saifuddin Ahmed** and **Cindy Stanton** of Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and **Rene Genadry** of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, and contains 28 articles on critical public health and clinical issues, including country studies from Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, and Tanzania and contributions from UNFPA, USAID and WHO experts. The articles cover clinical definitions, classification and staging, and measurement, as well as the advantages of long-term post-surgery follow-up. The supplement was supported by the Gates Institute and UNFPA.

For more information about the supplement, contact Natalie Culbertson at nculbert@jhsph.edu

New Publication – Family Planning: A Global Handbook for Providers



The new handbook, **Family Planning: A Global Handbook for Providers**, offers clinic-based health care professionals in developing countries the latest guidance on providing contraceptive methods. The handbook is the first of its kind and was developed through a unique, organized process, in which experts from around the world have come to consensus on practical guidance that reflects the best available scientific evidence. It expands and improves on its predecessor, *The Essentials of Contraceptive Technology*, by covering more methods and more related topics and strengthening the evidence base for its guidance. It has more content, but still focuses on the essentials that family planning providers need to provide family planning clients with good-quality care

All handbooks will be distributed with a free wall chart “Do You Know Your Family Planning Choices?” summarizing key points for each contraceptive method that providers can display for clients. The book

and wall chart are available at <http://www.infoforhealth.org/globalhandbook/index.shtml>. Individuals from developing countries can order copies of the handbook at no charge through the website at: <http://www.infoforhealth.org/ccpOrderForm/index.php?section=7>. Or, if you need help ordering, you can e-mail: onesourcehelp@jhuccp.org

New Gates Institute Website

In April 2007, the Gates Institute launched a new website at the same address www.jhsph.edu/gatesinstitute. In addition to information about the Gates Institute and its projects, the website features individuals who are making an impact in the areas of population, family planning, reproductive health, and maternal health as a result of partnerships with or training programs offered by the Gates Institute. Take a few minutes and read a few of these inspiring stories.

USEFUL WEBSITES

OpenCourseWare

www.ocw.jhsph.edu

The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health's OPENCOURSEWARE (OCW) project provides access to content of the School's most popular courses. The philosophy behind JHSPH OCW is to make JHSPH course materials now used in the teaching of almost all undergraduate and graduate subjects available on the Web, free of charge, to any user anywhere in the world. Courses are offered in: adolescent health, behavior and health, biostatistics, environment, general public health, global health, health policy, injury prevention, maternal and child health, mental health, nutrition, population science, public health preparedness, and refugee health. Each includes a syllabus, schedule, lecture materials (including PowerPoints and narrated lectures), reading list, and assignments.

Global Health Learning

www.globalhealthlearning.org

The Global Health eLearning Center developed by the USAID Bureau of Global Health is a response to repeated requests from field staff for access to technical public health information but it is free for anyone interested in learning more about global health issues. The Global Health eLearning Center offers 12 courses that learners can use to expand their knowledge in and to access important up-to-date technical information: Antenatal Care, Diarrheal Disease, Essential Newborn Care, Family Planning 101, Family Planning Legislative & Policy Requirements, Fostering Change in Health Services, HIV Basics (Part 1), IUD, Logistics for Health Commodities, M&E Fundamentals, Malaria, Postpartum Care, Preventing Postpartum Hemorrhage, Standard Days Method, Tuberculosis Basics, and Youth Reproductive Health.

Each course is authored by a subject matter expert or a team of experts, is highly focused, and can be completed in about one to two hours though you are free to start and stop as you wish. Although courses are designed to be taken online, a printer-friendly format allows you to download course materials for further study.

The courses combine technical content with program principles, best practices, and case studies. They are intended to provide concrete examples and to stimulate your thinking about ways you can use the principles you have learned in the course to solve problems in the field.

We would really like to hear about the PRH work you are doing in your organization and country and hope you will send us a few paragraphs that we can share with others. We are also interested in knowing about and sharing information on country-wide or regional meetings focused on population and reproductive health. Please send updates that we can include in the next issue. We look forward to highlighting your progress and achievements. You can email any sharable information to Natalie Culbertson (nculbert@jhsph.edu).

Please feel free to share this newsletter with your colleagues and let us know how we can improve it so that it is relevant and useful to you. Thanks for all the work you are doing to address the reproductive health and population issues faced by the populations you serve.

To subscribe or unsubscribe to the Gates Institute e-newsletter, or if you have questions, comments or contributions, please send an e-mail to Natalie Culbertson at nculbert@jhsph.edu.

If your contact information has changed since you participated in a Gates Institute program, please send us your correct information so we can update our records.

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