



Geneva Health Forum 2008

Strengthening Health Systems and the Global Health Workforce

DEVELOPING IN-HOUSE CAPACITY IN APPLIED RESEARCH: LESSONS LEARNED

Tuesday, 27 May 2008

16:00-17:30

International Conference Centre Geneva
Room 17

Session Outline

Over the past 30 years, approaches to building capacity in health research have focused largely on training and development of individual researchers, and was measured in numbers of Masters and PhD graduates.

The new thinking emerging in development, research and management circles is that far more substantial and long term gains can be made by developing the capacity of the institutions and systems that produce health research. The experience of having trained several thousand individual researchers is revealing that real development progress will be limited without strong institutions, enabling systems and environments in which these professionals can work.

Strong systems for producing and managing health research are the key to increased performance and capacity of a national health system and services. These systems help countries define their health research priorities, set policies and develop and implement strategies for building the human capital needed for excellence in research (human resources for health research). With these elements in place, governments and institutions become stronger partners, with the ability to better negotiate with funding and research partners, and better align the research strategy with national priorities.

This session presents experiences, examples and a comprehensive framework for capacity building strategies that link individual professional development with organizational and system strengthening. A series of special case studies will illustrate how different components of the framework are put into action:

COHRED: Sylvia de Haan, A Comprehensive Framework for Capacity Strengthening in Research for Health and Development

Ulysses Panisset: EVIPNet (Evidence-Informed Policy Network): Building Capacity for Evidence-Based Policy Development

Jérôme Ateudjieu, TRREE for Africa (Training and Resources in Research Ethics Evaluation of Ethics in Research): Developing e-Learning Tools to Bring Universal Ethical Review across Cultures and Disciplines

Rene Loewenson, Participatory Research Approaches and Community Empowerment in Health

Chair: Christian Lengeler, Swiss Tropical Institute

After the presentations, the following two themes will be debated by the panel:

- Applicability of the framework for countries in the South – suggested changes and modifications
- Understanding the link between human resources for health and human resources for health research

Resource materials (include links):

- Carel IJsselmuiden . **Human Resources for Health Research**, Bulletin von Medicus Mundi Schweiz Nr. 104, Mai 2007
http://www.medicusmundi.ch/mms/services/bulletin/bulletin104_2007/chapter0705168999/bulletinarticle0705164414.html
- Mapping Africa's advanced public health education capacity: the AfriHealth project, CB IJsselmuiden, TC Nchinda, S Duale, NM Tumwesigye, D Serwadda,
<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/85/12/07-045526/en/index.html>
- http://www.trree.org/site/en_home.phtml
- <http://www.who.int/rpc/evipnet/en/>