

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA CENTRE FOR EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS (UGCES)



TRAIN-THE-TRAINER WORKSHOP IN EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS (SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS) **WORKSHOP 12th -16th MARCH 2018**

Rationale

Evidence synthesis (systematic review and meta-analysis) provides the (overall) best evidence needed to inform policy decisions. In developed countries the highest level of evidence used to inform all decisions and policies about what works and what does not work, even new research, comes from systematically synthesized evidence. Systematic review pools all relevant studies and crystalizes high from low quality evidence needed to inform policy decisions. Started in the field of medicine and healthcare, evidence synthesis now has application in all fields and sectors including social welfare, education, crime and justice, environmental policy, agriculture, mass media and communications, international development, income maximisation, immigration, transport, employment, to name a few. Decision makers in low and middle-income countries are increasingly seeking quality evidence to inform their choices and policies, but the capacity to undertake systematic reviews is less developed in these countries. This workshop will stimulate interest and passion among UG faculty members and equip them with essential skills that can be utilized to generate demand driven and award-winning research to position the university as a global competitor and world class research intensive institution.

Objectives

- To create a critical mass of University of Ghana's faculty in evidence synthesis who will in turn support their students in innovative research driven by evidence and demand, and to increase output of systematic review publications a year
- To increase the capacity of faculty to undertake rigorous and reliable research, by training at least 20 faculty members a year in evidence synthesis and systematic review
- To train faculty at the highest level of innovative research that will help make them competitive globally

Learning outcomes

By the end of the workshop participating faculty will be able to:

- Follow the systematic review process and demonstrate key abilities in conducting at least one systematic review in two years
- Recognize the similarities and differences in the approaches to synthesizing different types of evidence (e.g. clinical effectiveness, diagnostic test accuracy, qualitative evidence)
- Use appropriate software for the synthesis of evidence, do meta-analysis and interpret the results
- Apply systematic review knowledge and skills to conduct rigorous and reliable research
- Transfer knowledge and skills acquired through the workshop to the mentoring of their students

Course Outline

The workshop will be delivered using problem-based learning approach and would follow this outline:

- Introduction to the value of systematic review and other forms of evidence synthesis
- A detailed description of what systematic review is and not, the systematic review process and the strengths and limitations of the systematic review design
- Formulating the review question and developing the review protocol
- Step-by-step guidance on how to perform a systematic review and meta-analysis, emphasizing on the practicalities often encountered

Participants will be guided to select an important research question and formulate a systematic review title using PICOS and will have the opportunity to engage in very interesting hands-on exercises such as how to develop search terms and concepts and how to apply the concepts built to search electronic databases such as PubMed (MEDLINE) and EMBASE for literature, as well as how to use Review Manager (RevMan) to prepare and report a systematic review.

Requirements

Each participant would be encouraged to develop a systematic review protocol which should be finalized as a full systematic review (and meta-analysis) later after completion of the workshop.

Facilitators

The workshop will be delivered by Dr Tony Danso-Appiah from the University of Ghana Centre for Evidence Synthesis (UGCES), which is a member of the Global Evidence Synthesis Initiative (GESI) Network, together with experts with long standing experience in evidence synthesis.

Resources Needed

It is advisable for participants to bring a laptop. Resources for further study and research will be provided.

Location

The course would be held at the School of Public Health, Legon

Eligibility

University of Ghana faculty members and Professionals of all disciplines within the four colleges of the university: Health Sciences, Basic and Applied Sciences, Humanities and Education.

Application Procedures and Deadline

Persons who wish to participate in the workshop should register by completing the application form and sending it via email to aengmann@staff.ug.edu.gh with copies to angeladjeiley@yahoo.com

Important dates

- *Workshop dates: 12th to 16th March 2018, 9am – 5pm each day*
- *Deadline for submission of application forms: 19th February 2018, 5pm*
- *Notification to successful applicants: 26th February 2018*
- *Acceptance by applicants: 2nd March 2018*

For more information, please contact:

- Abena Engmann (SPH) E-mail: aengmann@staff.ug.edu.gh Phone: 0244 276201 or
- Angela Abroso (SPH) E-mail: angeladjeiley@yahoo.com Phone: 0242928021 or
- Dr. Tony Danso-Appiah (Lead, UG Centre for Evidence Synthesis, SPH) Email: adanso-appiah@ug.edu.gh; tdappiah@yahoo.co.uk Phone: 0269083789

Cost

The workshop is supported from ORID conference grant and free of charge to all selected to participate.