

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA CENTRE FOR EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS (UGCES)



EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS FOR ADVANCING INNOVATIVE RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY

TRAIN-THE-TRAINER WORKSHOP FOR FACULTY (6-9TH AUGUST 2018)

Rationale

Evidence Synthesis- Systematic Review and Meta-analysis- generates the (overall) best evidence needed to inform policy decisions. In developed countries the highest level of evidence used to inform 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 distils high from low quality evidence. 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. Increasingly, decision makers in low and middle-income countries are seeking quality evidence to inform their choices and decisions, but the capacity to undertake systematic review and meta-analysis is less developed. This train-the-trainer workshop titled *Evidence Synthesis For Advancing Innovative Research And Evidence-based Policy*, will stimulate interest and passion among University of Ghana faculty members and equip them with essential skills that can be utilized to generate demand-driven, award-winning and evidence-based research.

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
- To increase the capacity of University of Ghana faculty to undertake rigorous and reliable research, applying evidence synthesis skills
- To train faculty at the highest level of innovative research that will help make them competitive globally
- To train faculty how to prepare a systematic review protocol and full systematic review and meta-analysis for publication in a peer-reviewed journal

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 within two years
- Recognize the similarities and differences in the approaches to synthesizing different types of evidence (e.g. clinical effectiveness, diagnostic test accuracy, qualitative and non-medical evidence)
- Use the Cochrane Software to prepare a systematic review and meta-analysis protocol for grant application or full systematic review for publication

- 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 both theory-grounded and problem-based learning approaches using the following 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 a research question of global relevance and formulate a systematic review title using PICOS to define the following: P=Population, I=Intervention, C=Comparison, O=Outcomes and S=Study design to ensure the study is asking an appropriate question. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in very interesting hands-on exercises such as how to develop search terms, build search 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 using the Cochrane format.

Facilitators

The workshop will be delivered by experts with long standing experience in Evidence Synthesis from the University of Ghana Centre for Evidence Synthesis (UGCES). The UGCES is a member of the Global Evidence Synthesis Initiative (GESI) Network.

Resources Needed

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

Location

The course will be held at the School of Public Health, University of Ghana, Legon campus

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

Faculty members who wish to participate in the workshop should register by completing the simple application form and submitting it via email to angeladjeiley@yahoo.com with copies to aengmann@staff.ug.edu.gh and sylvamexo@yahoo.co.uk. Faculty members who applied and did not get a place on the previous workshop do not have to re-apply; they should only confirm via an email if they are still interested in participating in this workshop.

Important dates

Workshop dates: 6th to 9th August 2018, 9am – 5pm each day

Deadline for submission of application forms: Friday 13th July 2018, 5pm

Notification to successful applicants: 20th July 2018

Acceptance by applicants: 27th July 2018

For further information, please contact the following people:

Abena Engmann (SPH) E-mail: aengmann@staff.ug.edu.gh, Phone: 0244 276201

Angela Abroso (SPH) E-mail: angeladjeiley@yahoo.com, Phone: 0242928021 or Sylvia

Amexo (SPH) E-mail: sylvamexo@yahoo.co.uk, Phone: 0244471319

For technical issues please contact Dr Tony Danso-Appiah (Lead, UGCES) on 0269083789 email: adanso-appiah@ug.edu.gh or tdappiah@yahoo.co.uk