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November
2nd to 13th

2009

Development and Evaluation of Complex Health Care Interventions

Goa, India

Course - 1 (Week One): Development of Complex Health Care
Interventions

Course - 2 (Week Two): Evaluation of Complex Health Care
Interventions through Clinical Trials

Organised by Sangath (www.sangath.com)

In Collaboration With

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

(www.lshtm.ac.uk) and SEARCH (www.searchgadchiroli.org)

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Development of Complex Health Care Interventions

Objectives: Most public health interventions are complex, i.e. they involve packages of care comprising more than one treatment component. The aim of this course is to provide participants with a framework for understanding the issues involved in designing complex health care interventions. The evaluation of the effectiveness of such interventions will be addressed in the Short Course on Clinical Trials offered in the week immediately after this course.

Course outline: Participants will be expected to learn the following:

- An overview of complex health care interventions: defining complex interventions and the need for them in public health care
- The MRC (UK) framework for designing and evaluating complex interventions
 - Defining interventions- what makes interventions complex?
 - Steps involved in the development of complex interventions, in particular assessment of their feasibility, acceptability and affordability.
- Current debates on complex interventions in international public health:
 - The role of user-defined perspectives and user-directed research
 - The importance of formative work in designing interventions
 - The role of qualitative research in the development and evaluation of complex interventions
 - Implications of findings for health policies
 - The importance of context and culture in designing and carrying out interventions
 - The need for cost-effective complex interventions in Low and Middle Income Countries (LAMIC)
- Case studies of public health interventions in India:
 - The COPSI (Community Care for People with Schizophrenia) Project, led by Sangath
 - The HBNC (home based newborn care) program, a complex intervention to reduce neonatal mortality, led by SEARCH

Who should apply for this course: The course is relevant to those with an interest in developing packages of care for priority health conditions for delivery through the public health care system.

Course Methods: The course will be taught using resource materials from the participating organizations and the MRC framework for designing complex interventions in health care.

Course Tutors: The course is led by Professor Vikram Patel (London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and Sangath) and Dr Abhay Bang (SEARCH).

Evaluation of Complex Interventions through Clinical Trials

Objective: To refresh and upgrade participants' skills and knowledge on latest developments in designing, implementing, analyzing and interpreting and reviewing of the clinical trials with a focus on complex interventions in low and middle income countries.

Course outline: Clinicians, policy makers and patients are increasingly demanding high quality evidence to help with making decisions about health care. There is a hierarchy of such evidence ranging from anecdote and observational studies up to randomised controlled trials (RCTs). In these trials, the effects of different treatments or other interventions are compared to each other by giving the treatments to patients 'at random', thus providing a 'fair' and unbiased comparison. RCTs provide much of the evidence needed to register new drugs for use, but trials are also used for comparing a wide range of non-drug treatments, such as behavioural and psychological interventions, and complex interventions which involve multiple treatments or evaluate their delivery systems. This course will provide an introduction to the area of clinical trials, with more detailed coverage of some of the key issues to be considered in their design, analysis and interpretation.

Course Content: The topics to be covered will include:

- ① Essentials of RCTs and ethical issues
- ① Introductory statistics for design, analysis and reporting
- ① Design - randomisation, trial size, data monitoring, and 'alternative' designs
- ① Analysis and reporting
- ① Systematic reviews and meta-analyses of trials
- ① Development of a protocol. Participants will work in small groups to develop and present trial protocols.

Course Methods: The course is based on the LSHTM's Short Course on Clinical Trials (<http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/prospectus/short/sct.html>)

Who should apply for this course? The course is relevant to those with an interest in the rigorous evaluation of interventions in health care, particularly health care professionals and others working or intending to work in the health services or related areas such as the pharmaceutical industry.

Course Tutors: The course will be led by Professor Diana Elbourne and Professor Vikram Patel who have extensive experience in the design, conduct and analysis of trials in a variety of clinical specialties.

Fees and Registration

The fee (including all materials, but not including lodging and boarding) for each course separately are:

- ☉ Indian residents: Indian Rs 7,000.
- ☉ Residents of other low-income countries (as defined by World Bank); US\$300
- ☉ Residents of middle-income countries: US\$500
- ☉ Residents of high-income countries: US\$800

Registration fee for both the courses is offered at a discounted price:

- ☉ Indian residents: Indian Rs 10,000.
- ☉ Residents of other low-income countries (as defined by World Bank); US\$500
- ☉ Residents of middle-income countries: US\$800
- ☉ Residents of high-income countries: US\$1000

Deduction of fees following cancellation of registration:

- ☉ before 6 months of commencement of course – 10% fees will be deducted
- ☉ before 3 months of commencement of course – 25% fees will be deducted
- ☉ before 1 month of commencement of course – 50% fees will be deducted

For further inquiries, please contact: Madhumitha Balaji on madhs@hotmail.com or Teddy Andrews on teddy.andrews@gmail.com.

For registration, please contact Balesh on balesh@sangath.com.