Effective Care Research Unit

EVIDENCE BASED HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

World Health Organization

University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

13th ANNUAL RESEARCH METHODS COURSE 2014 REPORT

26 – 28 FEBRUARY 2014 East London, South Africa

1. INTRODUCTION

The Research Methods Course was held from 26 – 28 February, 2014 at Lord Selborne Conferencing and Guesthouse, East London, Eastern Cape, South Africa.

2. OBJECTIVES

To equip participants with knowledge skills and mentorship to:

- Plan, conduct, analyze and publish a randomized clinical trial, follow 'Good Clinical Practice' guidelines
- Conduct a systematic review of randomised trials for publication in the Cochrane Library
- Use Review Manager, Epi-info, Excel and WHO Reproductive Health Library software

3. REPORT

3.1 Report overview

(a) Applicants

64 participants applied for the course of which:

- 18 were from South Africa
- 13 were from Nigeria
- 13 were from Cameroon
- 20 were from South Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Senegal, and Burkina Faso.

(b) Accepted Participants

36 were accepted of which:

- 2 withdrew on commencement day
- 3 did not arrive
- 31 attended the course of which:
- 15 were women and 16 were men
- 11 were from South Africa
- 6 were from Nigeria
- 4 were from Cameroon
- 3 were from Tanzania
- 2 were from Uganda
- 1 each from Kenya, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Senegal and Burkina Faso.

The course commenced at 08h00 on Wednesday 25 February, 2014 with registration, introductions of participants and Facilitators.

(c) Activities

Planning: The planning of the 13th Research Methods Course started in September 2013. Advertisements were sent to all previous course attendees of the RMC and the WHO assisted in dissemination of the announcements. Efforts were made to raise awareness among relevant candidates in the Eastern Cape Province. The advertisement was sent to the Medical Institutions and all Health Institutions in the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. Announcements were sent to all Departments in the East London Hospital Complex.

Applications: Applications were received in January 2014. Applications were handled on a “first come- first served” basis but motivations sent by

participants were a deciding factor as to who was eligible for the course. Participants intending to conduct research or those who had topics for randomised controlled trials or systematic reviews received the first priority.

The final selection took place in early February 2014.

Conference Venue and Accommodation: The course was held at Lord Selborne Conferencing and Guesthouse, 4 Salisbury Road, East London, Eastern Cape, South Africa. Accommodation was spread between four different establishments namely Lord Selborne, Selborne B&B, Absolute Cornwall and Princess Lodge. Participants began arriving at their accommodation on Monday 24 Feb and all had left East London by Saturday 1 March.

Course Material: Planning of the programme and preparation of course materials including the Handbook and Exercise Workbook, CD's with all software programs, etc. was done in January and February 2014. The course material was e-mailed to both the accepted and rejected participants on 6 February, 2014.

(d) Nature of The Course & Course Content

Pre-course material comprising of 16 hours study time was distributed to participants three weeks before the course. The course programme was in the form of interactive PowerPoint presentations, problem solving exercises and computer hands-on sessions.

The main aim of the course was to empower health professionals to conduct randomised controlled trials and systematic reviews. The course topics were on Randomised Controlled Trials, Cochrane Systematic Reviews and Good Clinical Practice guidelines. Data collection and analysis on computer software, Epi-Info, Excel and Rev Man 5 were covered in practical sessions.

Interaction between the participants was encouraged during and after the course.

(e) Evaluation

1) Evaluation by participants: evaluations were in the form of an anonymous written questionnaire.

2) Pre and post-course test: relevant knowledge was evaluated before and after the course. Distribution of pre-course material to participants attending the course made it difficult to evaluate the actual knowledge of the participants before their encounter with the course. The pre-course evaluation examines the basic knowledge of participants after they have read the material sent to them. All participants submitted their pre and post evaluation papers. The questionnaires asked basic questions relevant to randomized controlled trials and systematic reviews. The average 'pre-course' mark was 66.4% and the average 'post-course' mark was 81.6%.

3) Examinations: 30 participants wrote the exam. The results ranged from 96.66% (2 participants) to 55%; the average mark being 77.33%.

4) Course evaluation: A five point scale was used to evaluate the topic/session: excellent, good, satisfactory, poor and other.

28 Participants completed the Evaluation Forms.

Presentations –

Randomized Clinical Trials

Excellent: 17 participants (60.71%)

Good: 10 participants (35.71%)

Average: 1 participant (3.57%)

Trial Management 'good clinical practice'

Excellent: 13 participants (46.42%)

Good: 14 participants (50%)

Average: 1 participant (3.5%)

Systematic Reviews of Randomized Trials

Excellent: 11 participants (39.28%)

Good: 15 participants (53.57%)

Average: 2 participants (7.14%

Venue –

Conducive: 25 participants (89.28%)

Not conducive: 3 participants (10,71%)

The course was highly appreciated and commended by the participants. Notable feedback included:

- Increase number of days
- Use a larger venue with a PA system
- Request a summary sheet of definitions/terms beforehand
- Bring in statistician
- Hands-on practical experience was very good
- Discussion groups were critical in broadening our thoughts on some ethical issues.

CONCLUSION

The quality and content of the course was commented upon and highly appreciated by Participants. The course was a success.

Annexure 1 : PARTICIPANTS

	FIRST NAME	SURNAME	COUNTRY	EMAIL
1	Leila Hussein	Abdullahi	CT, RSA	leylaz@live.co.za
2	Esther	Adebayo	Nigeria	estheradebayo@gmail.com
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35	Ebenezer	Uduojie	PE, RSA	ebens007@yahoo.com
37	Marius	Vouking Zambou	Cameroon	mvouking@gmail.com
38	Georgina	Westcott	EL, RSA	georwestcott@gmail.com
39	Alison Beriliy	Wiyeh	CT, RSA	wberiliy@yahoo.com

Annexure 2: PROGRAMME

ECRU/WHO Research Methods Course Program 2014: DAY 1		
Wednesday 26 February: RANDOMISED CONTROLLED TRIALS		
08h00-08h30	**Registration and set up computers**	ECRU team
08h30-09h00	Introductions and course objectives	Facilitators: Justus Hofmeyr Mandisa Singata Tess Lawrie Joshua Vogel
09h00-10h00	Exercise1: Types of evidence Exercise 2: Planning a RCT	
10h00-10h30	**Tea**	
10h30-12h30	Exercise 3: Calculating sample size Exercise 4: Types of data	
12h30-13h30	**Lunch**	
13h30-15h30	Exercise 5: understanding chance and statistics Exercise 6: Calculating risk ratios and 95% CI's Exercise 7: Baseline data	
15h30-16h00	**Tea**	
16h00-18h00	Exercise 8: Analyzing data Exercise 9: Dealing with missing data Exercise 10: Dealing with non-compliance Exercise 11: Evaluating the evidence	
DAY 2		
Thursday 27 February: COCHRANE SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS		
08h00- 08h20	Introduction to the Cochrane Collaboration and SACC	Solange Durao
08h20- 10h00;	Exercise 12: Preparing a protocol for a systematic review	Facilitators: Justus Hofmeyr Solange Durao Mandisa Singata Tess Lawrie Joshua Vogel
10h00 – 10h30	**Tea**	
10h30-12h30	Exercise 13: Assessment of bias in 'randomized' trials	
12h30 – 13h30	**Lunch**	
13h30 – 15h30	Exercise 14: Extracting data for a systematic review	
15h30 – 16h00	**Tea**	
16h00-18h00	Exercise 15: Creating a new review in Revman Exercise 16: The 'Achilles' heel' of systematic reviews	
DAY 3		
Friday 28 February: *Good Clinical Practice*		
08h00-09h00	Introduction to good clinical practice, Ethics in research: The informed consent	Mandisa Singata
09h00- 10h00	Principles of research and research on vulnerable groups	Mandisa Singata
10h00-10h30	**Tea**	
10h30 -11h15	Roles and responsibilities of clinical trial team	Mandisa Singata
11h15 -11h45	Adverse Events Reporting	Mandisa Singata
11h45 - 12h30	Data management and quality Control	Mandisa Singata
12h30- 13h00	Examination: Good Clinical Practice	ECRU team
13h00-13h30	Examination: Randomized clinical trials and systematic reviews	ECRU team
13h30	**Closing Lunch and Certificates**	ECRU team

Annexure 3: EVALUATION FORM

EVALUATION FORM

Effective Care Research Unit 13th Annual Research Methods Course 26 – 28 February, 2014

Please help us improve the course by completing the following evaluation tool.

Presentations:

I found presentations on Randomized Clinical Trials:

Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Of no use	Other

Comments:

I found the sections on Trial Management 'good clinical practice':

Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Of no use	Other

Comments:

I found Systematic Reviews of Randomized Trials:

Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Of no use	Other

Comments:

Please comment on aspects of the Course you liked:

Please comment on aspects of the Course you did not like:

Venue:

Was the venue conducive for the workshop? Yes/No

If No what needed to be improved?

General comments:

Thank you for your contribution

ANONYMOUS FEEDBACK