

1. Glob Heart. 2016 Mar;11(1):17-25. doi: 10.1016/j.gheart.2016.01.004.

Training and Capacity Building in LMIC for Research in Heart and Lung Diseases:
The NHLBI-UnitedHealth Global Health Centers of Excellence Program.

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Comment in

Glob Heart. 2016 Mar;11(1):139-40.

Stemming the tide of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) worldwide requires a multipronged approach. Although much attention has been paid to disease control measures, there is relatively little consideration of the importance of training the next generation of health-related researchers to play their important role in this global epidemic. The lack of support for early stage investigators in low- and middle-income countries interested in the global NCD field has resulted in inadequate funding opportunities for research, insufficient training in advanced research methodology and data analysis, lack of mentorship in manuscript and grant writing, and meager institutional support for developing, submitting, and administering research applications and awards. To address this unmet need, The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute-UnitedHealth Collaborating Centers of Excellence initiative created a Training Subcommittee that coordinated and developed an intensive, mentored health-related research experience for a number of early stage investigators from the 11 Centers of Excellence around the world. We describe the challenges faced by early stage investigators in low- and middle-income countries, the organization and scope of the Training Subcommittee, training activities, early outcomes of the early stage investigators (foreign and domestic) and training materials that have been developed by this program that are available to the public. By investing in the careers of individuals in a supportive global NCD network, we demonstrate the impact that an investment in training individuals from low- and middle-income countries can have on the preferred future of or current efforts to combat NCDs.

Published by Elsevier B.V.

DOI: 10.1016/j.gheart.2016.01.004

PMCID: PMC4876661 [Available on 2017-03-01]

PMID: 27102019 [Indexed for MEDLINE]