

INCLLEN news

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Agra, India all set for INCLLEN GM XX

We are pleased to reiterate our invitation to the INCLLEN GM XX to be held at the Hotel Jaypee Palace, in Agra, India from the 11th to the 14th of February 2004. The Rockefeller Foundation, the US Agency for International Development, World Health Organization (WHO), the International Epidemiological Association, and the Fogarty International Center are collaborating with INCLLEN Trust for our global meet. The second conference announcement has been sent to all invitees of this meet, and is also accessible at the INCLLEN and IndiaCLEN websites. This gives details of the scientific program and other relevant information for delegates in this event. This program truly reflects various disciplines and interest groups in the INCLLEN family.

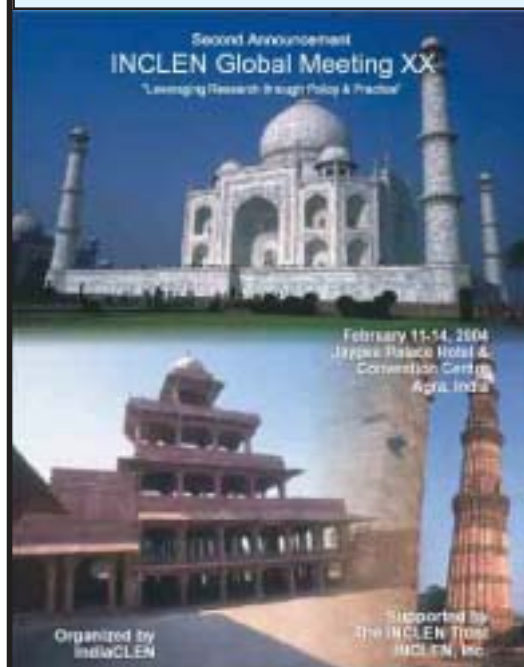


GM XX Chair, Dr. Ramesh Ahuja

This year, we received 240 abstracts, which were submitted by 200 primary authors including 27 non-INCLLEN members. The

evaluation of abstracts by 3 independent reviewers and the decision regarding selection of papers for presentation has been completed. We have e-mailed the information about acceptance, format of

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INCLLEN embarks on a Virtual Campus Initiative

INCLLEN's Virtual Campus traces its roots to the GM XIX in Kunming, China, at which the network decided to develop a web-based working environment, coupled with other information and communications technology (ICT), to extend the reach of its capacity building efforts to more countries and institutions. The proposed project aims to provide training and state-of-the-art consulting on clinical epidemiology and related disciplines and on leadership and management.

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The INCLLEN Trust Mission

We are a unique, global network of clinical epidemiologists, biostatisticians, social scientists and other health care professionals affiliated with leading academic medical institutions.

We are dedicated to improving the health of disadvantaged populations, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, by promoting equitable health care based on the best evidence of effectiveness and the efficient use of resources.

We achieve this by conducting collaborative, interdisciplinary research on high-priority health problems, and by training future generations of leaders in health care research.

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Editor's Note

The INCLLEN Executive Office assumes full responsibility for editing and publishing the INCLLEN Newsletter bi-annually.

The newsletter serves as a forum for exchanging information and current research among INCLLEN faculty and associates and also introduces first-time readers to INCLLEN activities.

This newsletter continues to enhance its focus on the research activities and training of the INCLLEN faculty.

INCLLEN News is published bi-annually by the INCLLEN Trust. All submissions, correspondence and address changes should be sent to:

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The INCLLEN Executive office reserves the right to edit all submissions.

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Agra, India all set for INCLLEN GM XX

(from page 1)

presentation and funding status of the abstracts to be presented at this meeting to the presenters of the accepted scientific papers.

All this became possible as a result of magnanimity of such a large array of intellectuals, academicians, and leaders in the fields of international health research, policy and program implementation. We thank each one of them for their willingness to share their expertise and give their valuable time to our cause by accepting the invitation to be the speakers for plenaries, symposia, workshops and CME sessions. In view of their assurance to be with us during the conference, we are confident that the deliberations and discussions will remain meaningful and focused around the theme of the meet “**Leveraging Research through Policy and Practice**”. This, in turn, would generate ideas and hopefully new initiatives, which would help the INCLLEN Trust family achieve its objectives and fulfill its mission.

We do hope that you will be able to come to Agra in February 2004. We have made arrangements through Thomas Cook India Ltd, New Delhi to receive each and every participant of the conference at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi.

The overnight stay of the participants has been arranged at Hotel Centaur near the airport on 10th February 2004. The participants will be transported to Agra by luxury coaches and cars after the breakfast on 11th February 2004 so as to reach the destination before lunchtime. I do believe that our IndiaCLEN team, with constant support and guidance from IEO—Manila and Philadelphia, will be able to make your efforts to participate in this meet a worthwhile experience for you.

Please visit the website of INCLLEN Trust (www.inclentrust.org) and IndiaCLEN (www.indiaclen.org) regularly for updates on INCLLEN GM XX.

We look forward to meeting you at the INCLLEN GM XX in Agra, India in February 2004.



Ramesh C. Ahuja
Chair, Overall Organizing Committee
INCLLEN Global Meeting XX

INCLLEN Global Meeting XX Schedule At-a-Glance

Venue: Jaypee Palace Hotel & Convention Centre, Agra, India
February 10 – 15, 2004

Date/Time	Tuesday Feb. 10	Wednesday Feb. 11	Thursday Feb. 12	Friday Feb. 13	Saturday Feb. 14	Sunday Feb. 15
800 - 830	Registration					
830 - 1100	INCLLEN Board of Trustees meetings	INCLLEN Board meetings, Pre-Meeting workshops*	Plenary I & II	Plenary III & IV	Plenary V & VI	Departures, Postmeeting workshops *
1100 - 1130			Posters & tea / coffee break			
1130 - 1230			Free paper presentations (5 parallel sessions each day)			
1230 - 1400	Lunch (Lunch Meetings on 12 th , 13 th & 14 th Feb'04)					
1400 - 1530	INCLLEN Board of Trustees meeting	INCLLEN Board meetings, Pre-meeting workshops*	Continuing education sessions, symposia, and workshops (4 parallel sessions each day)			Post-Meeting workshops *
1530 - 1600			Posters and tea/coffee break			
1600 - 1730			Continuing education sessions, symposia, and workshops (4 parallel sessions each day)			
1730 - 1900	Special Interest group meetings					
1900 - 2000	Dinner	Opening Ceremony and banquet	Regional CLEN meetings	INCLLEN Board of Governors meeting,	Closing Ceremony and Banquet	
2000 - 2200			Dinner / Donors meet	Dinner		

* Pre-registration required

Virtual Campus

(from page 1)

This Virtual Campus Initiative capitalizes on existing North-South collaboration in INCLLEN. The focus will initially be on training of postgraduate health care professionals. Target participants for the program are faculty members from academic health care centers in developing countries who want to expand their knowledge of health research, leadership and management for health research, and clinical epidemiology-related fields, to perform inter-disciplinary research in content areas that are of high priority for disadvantaged populations. We also plan to expand the target participation to healthcare professionals outside academic medical centers, medical and public health professionals, health administrators, and undergraduate health care professionals.

The virtual campus architecture is being conceived as a virtual space composed of three main buildings — the Training Building, the Consulting Laboratory Building, and the Campus Facilities Building; - with each building having several wings. The Training Building will have the Distance Learning Wing, On-site Training Wing, and the Blended Training Wing. The Consulting Laboratory Building will have the Biostatistics Consulting Laboratory, Clinical Epidemiology Consulting Laboratory, Clinical Economics Consulting Laboratory, The Leadership and Management Consulting Laboratory, and the Social Sciences Consulting Laboratory. Other laboratories may be added as needed. The Campus Facilities Building will have the Train the Trainers Wing, the Gym, the Cafeteria, and other wings that may be needed as this program develops.

The main pedagogic method for training is e-learning. The main tasks to be tackled are: description of the courses available and definition of the web platform and its components. Face-to-face and mentoring methods will be used to complement e-learning. An Information and Communication System (conceptual model, working environment

and its components) will be developed for the consulting laboratories and the other campus buildings.

Several ICT platforms will be evaluated. Advantages, disadvantages, and feasibility for implementation will be discussed. Availability of technical resources of the potential users in the different regions will be considered. A web-based survey is currently being conducted by the Virtual Campus Development Team on such resources. Visit www.incllen.org to join the survey.

For the implementation phase, the Virtual Campus Team will develop all the necessary organizational components for efficient operation, such as definition of the organizational structure, operationalization details, systems management, and project management. The team will also determine essential processes to be defined, the profile of people responsible for project implementation, working teams' definition, and strategic alliances' definition.

For comments and suggestions, send mails to Dr. Mary Ann Lansang (mlansang@incllen.org) or Dr. Sergio Munoz (munozs@ufro.com)

Sergio Munoz
Coordinator
Virtual Campus Development Team
Temuco, Chile



Sergio Munoz, Coordinator, Virtual Campus Development Team, at RSIS meeting

INCLLEN members participate in the Role of Science in Information Society (RSIS) Meeting

“The Role of Science in Information Society”, or RSIS, was discussed as a side event at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) on December 8-9, 2003 at CERN, Geneva. INCLLEN actively participated in the RSIS meeting, particularly at the e-Health session organized by CERN and the Interactive Health Network. Representing INCLLEN were: Dr. Mary Ann Lansang, executive director; Dr. Sergio Munoz, coordinator of INCLLEN’s proposed Virtual Campus project; and Ms. Tina Heiler, development and grants officer.

At the e-health session, Dr. Lansang talked on “*E-learning: retooling for equity in health human resource*



INCLLEN Trust Executive Director Dr. Mary Ann Lansang stresses the need to address barriers to e-learning

development.” She discussed the growing problem of inadequate human resources in healthcare especially among low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), and how e-learning could be used to address this issue. Dr. Lansang presented some examples of e-learning platforms including INCLLEN’s Virtual Campus project. She also said that these tools are not fully utilized: “There are many barriers that have constrained rapid uptake of e-learning in low- and middle-income countries. They range from technophobia and technofix mindsets to inadequate ICT skills and infrastructure. The biggest challenges are the vast inequities in access to e-learning opportunities as well as inappropriate e-transfer of knowledge from

CanUSACLEN embarks on more collaborative projects to address inequities in health and health care

CanUSACLEN continued to work on a collaborative research project among its member institutions. Russ Harris of the University of North Carolina has submitted a proposal, “A Pilot Project of Expanded Self-Management Education and Support for People with Type 2 Diabetes”, to the US Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). The intent is to develop improved self-management for diabetes in disadvantaged populations. The pilot project combines several unique features, including linking self-help to a primary care community practice, and

reducing the need for expensive resources while improving outcomes of care.

This effort stems from CanUSACLEN’s mission to address inequities in health and health care through collaborative research among INCLN Trust’s members and sister institutions. Following a regional meeting in February 2003, a research committee was formed. Led by Russ Harris and Art Evans of Cook County Hospital in Chicago, the committee included Carmel Martin of the University of Ottawa, Robert

Fletcher of Harvard Medical School, Mohammad Rahbar of Michigan State University and Michele Heisler of the University of Michigan. The group’s numerous meetings culminated in the proposal for the pilot study, submitted in September 2003. Canadian colleagues, specifically Carmel Martin, likewise developed proposals for similar efforts in Canada.

Diabetes is rapidly becoming a world-wide problem, and is especially devastating in disadvantaged populations. Dr. Tazeen Jafar of the Aga Khan University is now working with the CanUSACLEN research team to expand the activity to developing countries.

*Suzanne Fletcher
Secretary-General
CanUSACLEN*



CanUSACLEN Diabetes Research Group

developed settings to resource-constrained environments.” She concluded with the following recommendations:

- Promote and cultivate learner-centered e-learning
- Respect local needs, values of appropriateness and priorities
- Build capacity on ICT and knowledge management skills
- Create enabling environments for e-learning
- Advocate for open-source e-learning software and source materials
- Coordinate global and regional e-learning initiatives in health
- Provide long-term financing for initiatives focused on and driven by LMICs

Dr. Luis Gabriel Cuervo, another INCLN member and currently a clinical editor of *Clinical Evidence*, spoke on the e-learning activities of the BMJ Publishing House and on translating health information and clinical evidence into knowledge and practice. Other presentations at the e-health session were: the use of health databases, telemedicine, health education, formal and informal use of the Internet, the HINARI initiative and the Science and Development Network (info@scidev.Net)

The RSIS meeting provided a venue for presentations of current ICT developments to the international scientific community. Participants also had a glimpse of the future in terms of getting information across international, interdisciplinary and political boundaries. Challenges in improving and further developing the need and access to vital information in education, environment, health and economic development were presented in the parallel sessions.

RSIS Meeting participants also drafted a resolution to be presented to the WSIS. The resolution emphasized the goal of maximum possible benefit from ICT tools, specifically,:

- That fundamental scientific information be made freely available on the World-Wide Web;
- That the software tools for disseminating this information be made freely available in similar fashion;
- That affordable networking infrastructure for distributing this information be established worldwide;
- That information-processing equipment and training for accessing and using this information be provided to the extent possible in the host nations.

Government of China taps ChinaCLEN in its war against SARS

The China Clinical Epidemiology Network (ChinaCLEN) organized a team of experts for the Ministry of Health to function as advisers and reviewers for the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) during the epidemic that attacked the country and its neighbors in the early part of 2003. Members



Dr. Xu Dezhong (right) during his interview on Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) issues with reporters from China Central Television (CCTV)

were Drs. Wang Jialiang, Xu Dezhong, Dong Birong and Kang Deying. Aside from serving as advisers, the team also conducted research projects assessing the efficacy of SARS interventions. Members of the CEU of the Fourth Military Medical University were transferred temporarily to Xiao Tang Shan Hospital, one of the hospitals specifically designated by the Ministry of Health to

manage SARS. The team was also active in information dissemination on the disease. Dr. Xu Dezhong appeared on China Central Television to talk about SARS.

Meanwhile, ChinaCLEN is sponsoring the production of an undergraduate textbook on clinical epidemiology. The textbook is envisioned to be a national textbook for undergraduate medical students. A meeting of editors was held on August 15, 2003 in Chengdu, China. This project is part of the effort to upgrade medical textbooks in China.

*Wang Jialiang
President, ChinaCLEN*



Editors' meeting in Chengdu, China in August 2003

Fudan University CERTC establishes Evidence-based Medicine (EBM) Center

In September 2003 the Fudan University Clinical Epidemiology Research and Training Center (CERTC) established the Center for Evidence Based Medicine with Professor Wang Jiyao as its first director. Prof. Lin Guowei and Prof. Chen Jie are the advisors. Due to the rapid development in information technology and medicine, members of the CERTC believed that it was the right time to establish the EBM Center. Aside from the existing membership of the CERTC who are specialists in internal medicine, surgery, pediatrics, psychiatry, epidemiology, clinical epidemiology, biostatistics, health economics, sociology and health management, the EBM Center has attracted a new generation of clinical epidemiologists and clinicians from Zhong Shan Hospital, Hua Shan Hospital, Children Hospital and Jing Shan Hospital. Membership also includes experts in information and communications technology. CERTC leaders consider that this combination of specialties will make the organization more relevant and efficient.

The overall goal of the center is to promote EBM in China. Activities towards this goal include EBM continuing education for health professionals, research quality improvement, collaborative researches on collecting and evaluating evidence on the diagnosis and management of high-burden diseases in

China, establishment and evaluation of clinical practice guidelines, and establishing an EBM Question and Answer electronic bank.

*Wang Jiyao
Director, EBM Center Fudan University
Shanghai, China*



Members of the Evidence Based Medicine Center – Clinical Epidemiology Research and Training Center, Fudan University

RECIF-EuroMed CLEN builds up training programs; expands network

Following the seminars held in Gabon and Romania (see *INCLEN News* July 2003), EuroMed CLEN continues to promote clinical epidemiology in the region through its training programs. In the CERTC in Lyon, 25 students are attending the recently created Academic Diploma in Ethics for the school year 2003-2004. To give more relevance to the course, the lecturers are working together with the School of Philosophy and the National Confederation of Ethics Committees on Research. Twenty students from 11 countries are registered in the academic diploma course "Clinical research: From idea to publication" for the school year 2003-2004. As part of their training, these students attended the intensive seminar in Les Pensières in Annecy, France on December 15-19, 2003. RECIF-EuroMed CLEN was also able to obtain scholarships for three students to train in Lyon. Prof. Sabiha Bouzbid of Annaba, Algeria and Dr Ernest Belembaogo of Libreville, Gabon were granted the posts of Associated Assistants by the Foreign Affairs and Education Ministries of France. Dr. Constantin Caraion of Timisoara, Romania was given the "Médecin Stagiaire Etranger" (foreign trainee doctor's position) under the Hospices Civils de Lyon.

Meanwhile in Romania, the CEUs have also been active in providing clinical epidemiology training. In Iasi, the program has been integrated in its Medical School. CEU member Prof. Doina Azoicai teaches the 2nd year medical students in addition to being involved in post-university training for clinicians and specialists. She has already given a course on health services management in September 2003 and another one is scheduled in April 2004. In Bucharest, the CEU conducted a one-week post-university training on Evidence-based medicine: therapeutic studies.

In Amiens, France, Prof. Pierre Duhaut developed an academic diploma course on clinical research methodology to be offered by Amiens University. He also conducted a 5-day seminar in November 2003 for nine participants.

Aside from these courses and training programs, RECIF-EuroMed CLEN is also planning a joint French-Romanian academic program in clinical epidemiology. RECIF-EuroMed CLEN members in Lyon, Amiens, Iasi and Bucharest, under the leadership of Prof. Pierre Duhaut, will set up the course in 2004 to 2005.

The CEU at Bucharest is also active in research. The study of Dr. Cristian Baicus and his colleagues on predictors of outcome of fever of unknown origin was recently published in the *European Journal of Internal Medicine* (See Announcements on page 23 for the complete citation). This work is the first multi-center study conducted in Romania. Dr. Baicus also presented this study at the European Internal Medicine Meeting in Berlin, Germany in September 2003. He likewise presented a study on the assessment of weight loss, anemia and erythrocyte sedimentation rate as diagnostic tests in cancer at the same meeting.

RECIF-EuroMed CLEN continues to work towards expanding the network in the region. Its Board and Scientific Committee in the most recent meeting held in September 2003 discussed accreditations of new CEUs. The Bucharest and Iasi CEUs have been formally accredited; with four other accreditations still being processed. These are the CEUs in Amiens (France), Algiers (Algeria), Québec (Canada) and Lausanne (Switzerland). The Committee will meet in January 2004 to decide on these



Board and Scientific Committee meeting in Lyon on September 12. From left to right are: Prof. Helene Pellet, Dr. Isabelle Hodgkinson, Ms Anne-Sophie Lareal, and Prof. Fred Paccaud

accreditations. In Algeria, two clinical epidemiology departments of the Medical School of Oran will be evaluated by Profs. Yves Matillon and Hélène Pellet in February 2004.

As part of its commitment to strengthen the network, EuroMed CLEN will hold "Etats Généraux" (development of the Euro-Med CLEN), the network's first regional scientific meeting with the theme "Strategic Development of Clinical Epidemiology in Universities" in Lyon on April 29-30, 2004. The meeting will gather the directors of the CEUs and CERTC of RECIF-EuroMed CLEN, the European clinical epidemiology teams, members-in-charge of French-speaking thematic networks, members of the RECIF-EuroMed CLEN Board and the Scientific Committee. Participants at this gathering are expected to report on their recent activities and research projects. Plans for the meeting include workshops on cooperation, financial issues, and network organization.

*François Chapuis
President
EuroMed CLEN*

*Yves Matillon
President-Elect
EuroMed CLEN*

*Anne-Sophie Laréal
Coordinator
EuroMed CLEN*

LatinCLEN prepares faculty members for Distance Learning

Under the coordination of the Universidad de la Frontera CERTC, LatinCLEN members have completed two training courses for faculty members participating in the Distance Learning Master Program in Clinical Epidemiology. These courses, conducted in close cooperation with the Instituto de Informática Educativa (Institute of Educational Informatics) of the Universidad de la Frontera, gave LatinCLEN faculty members the knowledge and the skills required for supporting the academic activities of future students of the distance learning program. The courses are follow-up activities of the training conducted by the same faculty during the most recent LatinCLEN meeting, held in Temuco and Pucón, Chile, on May 28 – 31, 2003.

Applying the principles of distance learning, the faculty members completed training modules on using the virtual platform as support to teaching activities. This platform allows, among other tasks, distributing all educational materials to students, monitoring the academic work developed by students in different courses, participating in virtual discussions, rating evaluations and maintaining private communications among faculty and course coordinators. This tool will be, along with the educational materials, the backbone of the distance learning program.

Meanwhile, LatinCLEN continues to expand membership. The INCLLEN Board of Trustees approved the application of the

Instituto de Efectividad Clínica y Sanitaria (Institute of Clinical Effectiveness and Health Policy, IECS) of Buenos Aires, Argentina as LatinCLEN's newest CERTC. This training center, directed by Dr. Adolfo Rubinstein, offers a graduate program in Clinical Effectiveness. It is affiliated with the Hospital Italiano in Buenos Aires.

In January 2003, following initial contacts made by Dr. Claire Bombardier, Drs. Sergio Muñoz, Rodolfo Dennis and Juan Manuel Lozano met with representatives of three medical schools of Puerto Rico. During the meeting, participants reviewed the INCLLEN process for creating clinical epidemiology units in medical schools. The activities, achievements and plans for further development of current CEUs and CERTCs were also discussed. After this initial meeting, the School of Medicine of the University of Puerto Rico conducted a training workshop on Evidence-Based Medicine for about 40 faculty members in April and November 2003. Dr. Lozano from Javeriana University was the facilitator. Aside from the workshop for faculty members, Dr. Lozano also conducted a problem-based learning class on critical appraisal with medical students. LatinCLEN has conducted another EBM workshop in El Salvador (See accompanying story) and plans to conduct more of these activities in Latin America and its neighbors.

*Juan Manuel Lozano
President, LatinCLEN*

EBM Conference in El Salvador opens another door for INCLLEN in Central America

Dr. Wilfrido Clara, a graduate of the Universidad de la Frontera Clinical Epidemiology Research and Training Center (UFRO-CERTC) and currently the Director of Research for the Benjamin Bloom Children Hospital, organized an Evidence-Based Medicine Conference for 88 participants from the El Salvador Pediatric Association and the Ministry of Health of El Salvador, Central America. The conference was held on November 30 to December 2, 2003 in Tikal, Guatemala, one of the largest archeological places of the Maya civilization.

Drs. Pedro Lorca, Eduardo Hebel and Sergio Muñoz of the UFRO-CERTC in Chile and Dr. Wilfrido Clara were the speakers of the meeting. Participants and organizers of the meeting agreed that there is a need to develop Clinical Epidemiology Units not only in El Salvador but also in the whole region of Central America. Funding possibilities for clinical epidemiology were offered by representatives of the Ministry of Health,

namely: Dr. Carlos Melendez, Manager of the Child Division of the Ministry; Dr. Sergio Parada, Director of the Benjamin Bloom Child Hospital; and Dr. Ana E. Chevez, Director of the Immunization Program. Likewise, the Board of the El Salvador Pediatric Association, represented by its President, Dr. Ernesto Pleites, pledged funds. The combined funds aim to train 6 people in the next two years. The LatinCLEN Distance Learning Masters Program in Clinical Epidemiology, presented during the meeting to more than 20 interested parties, was seen as a potential avenue for this training. Dr. Clara will be the contact person in El Salvador for this program. Interested parties can contact him at hbbwill@hotmail.com

*Sergio Muñoz
UFRO-CERTC
Temuco, Chile*



EBM Conference participants take the time to visit fabulous Maya archaeological sites in Tikal, Guatemala

INCLIN-Southeast Asia holds 9th Regional Meeting

The INCLIN-SEA IX Regional Meeting was held last November 6 to 8, 2003 at the Traders Hotel, Manila, Philippines with a total of 113 participants. Delegates from INCLIN-SEA's seven member countries (Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam) attended the event. The focus on timeliness as an important factor in improving healthcare research in the region was this year's theme: "Research@thespeedofpolicymaking". The keynote speaker, Philippine Secretary of Health, Dr. Manuel Dayrit, talked about the tension between timeliness and methodologic rigor as researchers attempt to make an impact on policy making.

In a plenary session, Dr. Visanu Thamlikitkul of Mahidol University, Country Coordinator of the ThaiCLIN emphasized the essential elements of translating research to policy and practice. Dr. Mediadora Sanieel, Professor of Medicine and Infectious Diseases at the University of the Philippines, discussed the challenges of

researchers and policy makers as they worked together during the recent SARS epidemic in the Philippines. In the second plenary session, Dr. David Henry of the University of Newcastle in Australia discussed examples of drug regulation in selected countries and the influence not only of the pharmaceutical industry but also consumer groups on drug regulation. Dr. Lim Teck Onn of Hospital Kuala Lumpur talked about drug regulation experiences in Malaysia. Dr. Henry also conducted a post-meeting workshop on Pharmaco-Economics on November 10 and 11, 2003 at the Traders Hotel Manila. Forty participants attended the workshop.

INCLIN-SEA IX was also a venue for two Leadership and Management Program (LAMP) activities. Dr. Mary Ann Lansang, INCLIN Trust Executive Director, and Dr. Pyatat Tatsanavivat, former INCLIN-SEA Regional Coordinator, conducted a continuing education session on *Leadership challenges in health policy development in SEA*. Dr. Lansang presented various models of policy development while Dr. Tatsanavivat presented regional and global initiatives on policy development. Drs. Lansang and Tatsanavivat together with some

INCLIN-SEA leaders also conducted a one-day workshop on *Virtual Leadership*. Topics included forms of virtual leadership, general leadership principles and the virtual environment, and virtual tools. There was also a discussion on the experiences of the participants as leaders and members of virtual organizations like INCLIN-SEA.

As part of INCLIN-SEA's efforts to disseminate research findings and to develop linkages, EQUAL Team member Dr. Rugayah Bakri delivered a talk on the *Status of Clinical Practice Guidelines in Southeast Asia* including the results of Phase 1 of the EQUAL Project at the joint meeting of the Appraisal on Guidelines

Research and Evaluation (AGREE) / Guidelines International Network (GIN) and the SIGN (Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network) on November 14 and 15, 2003 at Edinburgh, Scotland. She also briefly presented INCLIN-SEA's thrusts that are in

line with AGREE/GIN's mission. Dr. Bakri and other members of INCLIN-SEA's EQUAL (Evidence for Quality) Project also presented the results of their appraisal of tuberculosis clinical practice guidelines and the methods of dissemination and implementation in their countries in a panel discussion at INCLIN-SEA IX.

Meanwhile, the INCLIN-SEA Board of Coordinators and general membership in its meeting on November 6, 2003 resolved to seek funding for EQUAL Phase 2 and submit the Distance Learning Program on Clinical Economics to participating universities and potential funding agencies. They also agreed that the Network

could possibly be developed into a resource center for the conduct of clinical trials in the SEA region. Dr. Lim Teck Onn of the Clinical Research Centre, Kuala Lumpur was appointed to circulate a questionnaire to determine feasibility of this project. Also in this meeting, Prof. Cynthia Cordero was re-elected as Regional Coordinator and Dr. Iwan Dwiprahasto of Gadjah Mada University in Indonesia was elected Coordinator-elect.

Pamela Tagle
Administrative Officer
INCLIN-SEA



Participants at INCLIN-SEA Regional Meeting IX in Manila, Philippines last November 2003.



Dr. Bach Huy Anh and Prof. Nina Carandang examine materials displayed at the INCLIN-SEA IX "Market Place" along with delegates from Malaysia: Ms. Loh Choon Shane and Dr. Rugayah Bakri

Clinical Research Centre in Malaysia conducts Good Clinical Practice Workshops

Last September 2003, the Clinical Research Centre (CRC) of Hospital Kuala Lumpur conducted a Good Clinical Practice Workshop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Forty two participants composed of clinical investigators, clinical trial monitors, trial statisticians and other clinical trial personnel attended the workshop. The workshop, conducted by CRC three or four times a year, is one of the training courses offered by CRC for clinicians, research associates and other health professionals interested in the conduct of clinical trials. CRC was designated by the Ministry of Health of Malaysia to accredit physicians and other healthcare professionals on Good Clinical Practice. This accreditation is a requirement for participation in any clinical trial in Malaysia.



CRC-GCP Workshop on September 2003 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Currently, CRC is conducting 3 major clinical trials. Aside from these trials, CRC also develops and maintains disease and treatment registers, performs health outcomes research studies focused on evidence-based medicine, and conducts clinical economics researches. CRC's Evidence-based Medicine Unit conducted a cross-cultural adaptation and validation of the English version of the Geriatric Oral Health Assessment Index (GOHAI) to be used for the elderly population in Malaysia. CRC is an active member of INCLEN-SEA's EQUAL Project. Dr. Rugayah Bakri is working with the EQUAL Team to write Phase 1 of the project for publication. She was also granted funding by the Ministry of Health of Malaysia and INCLEN Trust to do Phase 2 of the EQUAL Project. For further information on CRC's activities, visit www.crc.gov.my.

*Rugayah Bakri
Clinical Research Centre
Malaysia*

Research

Wellcome Trust U.K. awards \$ 0.5M research grant to Aga Khan University Clinical Epidemiology Unit

The Wellcome Trust UK has awarded Dr. Tazeen Jafar, Director of the Clinical Epidemiology Unit (CEU) of The Aga Khan University (AKU-CEU), and her colleagues a research grant of US\$500,000 to assess cost-effective strategies for control of hypertension in Pakistan.

The three-year investigator-initiated intervention project will employ cluster randomization and a factorial design to assess the effect of population-based health education by community health workers on blood pressure levels of the population aged 5 years or over (n=20,000). It will also develop and test the cost-effectiveness of hypertension management strategies administered by intensively trained local general practitioners.

Hypertension afflicts about 20% of the population in Pakistan aged 15 years and older. Poverty limits access of majority of this group to the required treatment. The new strategies, if proven better than the existing health care services in Pakistan, would serve as a model for the much-needed hypertension control programs in Pakistan and other countries in the region. The project directly relates to AKU-CEU's mission: improvement of health of individuals and populations by promoting equitable, evidence-based and good quality health care.

The study is especially designed to make use of the existing health care resources, thereby optimizing sustainability of the strategies to be tested. To



date, this is the largest intervention study on hypertension control in Pakistan.

This study is a follow-up of the Wellcome Trust-funded pilot project that was completed by Dr. Jafar and her colleagues at AKU and the Imperial College, United Kingdom. "The successful funding of this research project is a reflection of the relevance and quality of this study as well as the confidence of the funding agency in our researchers and institution," says Dr. Jafar.

The pilot study indicated that Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, has a high rate of coronary artery disease (CAD), with 26.9 % of 320 randomly selected adults aged 40 years or older suffering from the disease. Factors associated with CAD included gender, current tobacco use, systolic blood pressure and proteinuria.

*Tazeen Jafar
Aga Khan University
Karachi, Pakistan*



Drs. Tazeen Jafar (principal investigator) and Saleem Jessani (project coordinator) attending to patients in a community in Karachi

Research

Zinc clinical trial concludes formative research, identifies locally acceptable messages in a multi-center study

In January 2003, the INCLIN ChildNET reported the conduct of formative research as a preliminary phase of its multi-center randomized clinical trial “*Acceptability and cost-effectiveness of zinc supplementation in the treatment of acute watery diarrhea in children.*” Participating in this trial are seven centers from Brazil, Ethiopia, Egypt, India (Lucknow and Nagpur), South Africa, and the Philippines.

The formative research team reviewed the literature; conducted focus group discussions, card matching and message testing exercises; and used a social marketing approach to formulate messages based on the needs and expectations of the “consumers” (in this case the mothers) from a medicine for diarrhea. See INCLIN News January 2003 issue for the rationale of the study. A set of procedures to uniformly carry out the formative research among the sites was developed and tested by the Philippine team and disseminated to the different project teams. Analysis of data collected was iterative in nature, where findings of one step were used in succeeding steps.

preferred fluid and “*spyte*” (Afrikaans word for purge), a soapy enema, was an important treatment for diarrhea believed to “cleanse the child’s bowels.” In the Philippines and Nagpur, India, soft or semi-solid diet was given during diarrhea because the child’s stomach was perceived to be not well enough to take in solid food. This was in contrast to the practice in South Africa where solid foods were believed to result in more formed stools. In general, increase in fluid intake of the child was encouraged, except for Ethiopia where less fluid was offered during diarrhea. Breastfeeding was more likely to be continued.



Label for zinc tablets developed by the Philippine team based on the findings of the formative research.

Table 1. Some core messages for zinc and local adaptations



Label for zinc tablets developed by the Egyptian team based on the findings of the formative research.

Core Messages	Site	Adaptation
1. Zinc prevents diarrhea from becoming worse.	EGYPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zinc will decrease the duration of diarrhea. • Zinc will decrease the number of motions during a diarrheal episode.
2. Zinc increases a child’s appetite during diarrhea.	LUCKNOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 days of zinc supplementation will cure this episode of diarrhea as well as prevent future episodes.
3. Zinc ensures the child’s full recovery from diarrhea	NAGPUR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zinc when given with ORS prevents diarrhea from getting worse. • Zinc increases the appetite of a child suffering from diarrhea.

As a first step of the research, local terms for diarrhea were obtained — *dast* for India, *is-haal* for Egypt, *pagatae* for the Philippines, *letshollo* for South Africa and *kassa* for Ethiopia). Terms used by ethnic groups in some countries were also reported—*watshuhulula*, *washela*, *uyathulula* for South Africa and *tekmat* for Ethiopia. Teething seemed to be a universal cause of childhood diarrhea, followed by dirty and contaminated food and milk bottles, and changes in weather conditions. In Ethiopia, mothers attributed diarrhea to the “evil eye” when no other cause could be given.

Each of the sites reported that mothers already had their own locally accepted practices to manage diarrhea in the home. Self-prepared sugar-salt solution, herbal teas, rice water and other home remedies (example, *asafoetida* in India) were mentioned. In South Africa, “Flat Coke” (cola drink minus carbon gas) was a

Most of the sites reported good acceptance of ORT, except in Ethiopia and Nagpur where the concept of rehydration was poorly understood. Consequently, ORS use in Ethiopia was negligible while in Nagpur, mothers were not satisfied with the effect of ORS even though it was well known locally as “Electral” powder.

Mothers’ reactions towards the zinc tablet were also obtained during the focus group discussions. The tablet to be used in the clinical trial contained 20 mg elemental zinc to be given once a day for 14 days to children 2-59 months old. This raises the issues on compliance, giving of same dose to infants and older children, and offering a tablet formulation to babies. FGD results indicated that the 14-day treatment was not seen as a problem in most of the sites, especially if the perceived effects

(to page 16)

PROGRAM OUTLINE

INCLen Global Meeting XX

JayPee Palace Hotel & Convention Centre, Agra, India

February 10-15, 2004

February 10-11 - Pre-GM XX Activities

Tuesday, February 10
08:30 17:30

INCLen Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, February 11 INCLen Board Meetings, Pre-GM Workshops
(*by invitation only*)

08:00 17:30
08:30 17:30

Registration
INCLen Board Meetings

1. INCLen Trust: Board of Trustees – 08:30 – 12:30 hrs
2. INCLen Inc: Board of Directors – 14:00 – 17:30 hrs

08:30 17:30

Pre-GM Workshops

1. INCLen Leadership and Management Project -

Dr Victor Neufeld, Dr Nancy Johnson, Dr Shrikant Bangdiwala,
CanUSACLEN; Dr James Hakim, INCLen - Africa

2. INCLen ChildNET - Dr Shally Awasthi, IndiaCLEN

Dr Kurien Thomas, IndiaCLEN; Dr Mark Steinhoff, JHU, USA

**4. Measuring Quality of Life, Burden and Resources in Clinical
Epidemiological Studies**

Dr Shuba Kumar, IndiaCLEN; Dr Shekhar Saxena, WHO, Geneva;
Dr Raj Kumar, Australia
INCLen Global Meeting XX Opening Ceremony

19:00 20:00

Thursday, February 12

08:00 08:30
08:30 09:45

Registration
Plenary Session I

Disease Control Priorities : An Overview

Chair: Dr Nelson Sewankambo, INCLen Board of Trustees
Speaker: Dr Dean Jamison, Fogarty International Center

Plenary Session II

Utilization of Essential Drugs

Chair: Dr Palitha Abeykoon, INCLen, Inc. Board of Directors
Speaker: Dr Hans Hogerzeil, Essential Drugs & Policy Dept (EDM), WHO
Posters & Tea/Coffee Break

11:00 11:30
11:30 12:30
12:30 14:00

Free Paper Sessions (5 parallel sessions)

Lunch Meeting with Dr Mark Miller, Fogarty International Center, USA
Talk: **Multinational Influenza Seasonal Mortality Study, and other
FIC collaborative opportunities**

14:00 15:30
LAMP CME

**Symposia, Workshops & Continuing Education Sessions (4 parallel sessions)
Leadership Challenges for CERTICs & CEUs**

Resource Persons: Dr Vic Neufeld, CanUSACLEN; Dr James Hakim,
INCLen Africa; Dr Shrikant Bangdiwala, CanUSACLEN; Dr Nancy Johnson,
CanUSACLEN

Symposium

Review of Disease Control Priorities Project (Part I)

Speaker: Sir Richard Peto, Oxford University

Discussions: Dr KS Reddy, IndiaCLEN; Dr Intiaz Jehan, INCLen-SEA

Posters & Tea/Coffee Break

Free Paper Sessions (5 parallel sessions)

Lunch Meeting with Dr Abraham Joseph, Karigiri, India and TUFH

Talk: **Increasing the Relevance of Health Professions Education - exploring
how The Network: Towards Unity for Health (TUFH) meet your needs
Symposia, Workshops & Continuing Education Sessions (4 parallel sessions)
Improving Standards for Designing and Implementing Clinical Trials
according to Regulatory Standards and GCP (Part I)**

Resource Persons: Dr Marcel Tanner, INCLen; Dr Fred Binka, INDEPHT
Network; Dr Juntra Karbwang, Special Programme for Research & Training in
Tropical Diseases, WHO (WHO/TDR)

Global Priorities in HIV/ AIDS: Key Policy & Research Issues

Resource Person: Dr Dora Warren, Centers for Disease Control, USA

Health Economics (Part I)

Chairs: Dr CS Ghosh, IndiaCLEN; Dr CS Pandav, IndiaCLEN

1. Applied Economics & Infectious Diseases

Speaker: Dr Jonathan Simon, Boston University

2. Outcome Measures for Economics Evaluation

Speaker: Dr David Evans, Global Programme on Evidence for Health Policy, WHO
**Biostatistics (Part I) - How To Report Your Research Results: A Review Of
Effect Measures For Epidemiologic Data**

Resource Persons: Dr Stephen Walter, CanUSACLEN;
Dr RM Pandey, IndiaCLEN

Posters & Tea/Coffee Break

15:30 16:00
16:00 17:30

LAMP CME

**Symposia, Workshops & Continuing Education Sessions (4 parallel sessions)
Governance Aspects of Project Management in
Multi-center Collaborative Research**

Resource Person: Dr Shrikant I. Bangdiwala, CanUSACLEN

**Improving standards for designing and implementing Clinical Trials
according to regulatory standards and GCP (Part II)**

Resource Persons: Dr Marcel Tanner, INCLen; Dr Fred Binka, INDEPHT
Network; Dr Juntra Karbwang, WHO/TDR

Health Economics (Part II) – Health Insurance in Developing Countries

Resource Persons: Dr CS Pandav, IndiaCLEN; Dr Rodolfo Dennis, LatinCLEN;
Dr Lalit Dandona, Indian Institute of Management, Hyderabad; Dr Ravi Duggal,
CEHAT, Mumbai; Mr Sunil Nandraj, WHO/SEARO, New Delhi;
Dr Chakraborty, Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow

Knowledge Management Program (Part II): INCLen Knowledge Plus Project

Resource Persons: Dr Juan Gabriel Ruiz, LatinCLEN; Dr CS Ghosh, IndiaCLEN;
Dr Juan Manuel Lozano, LatinCLEN; Dr Antonio Dans, INCLen - SEA; Dr L
Jayaseelan, IndiaCLEN; Dr Visanu Thamilkittul, INCLen - SEA

Special Interest Group Meetings

INCLen Board of Governors meeting

Dinner

Saturday, February 14

08:00 08:30	Registration
08:30 09:45	Plenary Session V Health Research Systems: An Overview <i>Speaker:</i> Dr Tikki Pang, WHO <i>Discussants:</i> Dr Rodolfo Dennis, LatinCLEN; Dr Sujatha Rao, National Subcommission on Macroeconomics & Health, India Plenary Session VI
09:45 11:00	Global Priorities and Progress in Neonatal and Child Health Research <i>Speakers:</i> 1- Child Health - Dr Jonathan Simon, Boston University 2- Neonatal Health; Dr Masee Bateman, U.S. Agency for International Development, New Delhi, India Posters & Tea/Coffee Break Free Paper Sessions (4 parallel sessions) Lunch Meeting with Dr Jonathon Simon, Boston University Talk: Child and Family Health Applied Research - Collaboration Opportunities
11:00 11:30	Symposia, Workshops & Continuing Education Sessions (4 parallel sessions)
11:30 13:00	Quality Improvement in Ethics Research Review (Part I) <i>Resource Persons:</i> Dr Melody Lin, Office of Health Research Protection, DHHS, USA; Dr Vasantha Muthuswamy, India Council for Medical Research, India; Dr Juntra Karbwang, WHO/TDR; Dr Vichai Chokevivat, Forum for Improving Ethical Research Review in Asia-Pacific (FERCAP), Thailand ; Dr JP. Mulyil, India CLEN Institutional Review Board Chair
13:00 14:00	Nutrition, Physical Activity and Chronic Disease <i>Resource Person:</i> Dr KS Reddy, IndiaCLEN
14:00 15:30	Reproductive Health <i>Resource Persons:</i> Dr Lale Say, WHO, Geneva; Dr Sunita Mittal, IndiaCLEN; Dr Manorama Purwar, IndiaCLEN
15:30 16:00	Biostatistics (Part II): How To Report Your Research Results: A Review Of Effect Measures For Epidemiologic Data <i>Resource Persons:</i> Dr Stephen Walter, McMaster University, Canada; Dr RM Pandey, IndiaCLEN
16:00 17:30	Symposia, Workshops & Continuing Education Sessions (4 parallel sessions)
17:30 19:00	Child Health - From Research to Policy <i>Resource Persons:</i> Dr Shally Awasthi, IndiaCLEN; Dr MKC Nair, IndiaCLEN
19:00 20:00	Quality Improvement in Ethics Research Review (Part II) <i>Resource Persons:</i> Dr Melody Lin, USA; Dr Vasantha Muthuswamy, ICMR, India; Dr Juntra Karbwang, WHO/TDR; Dr Vichai Chokevivat, FERCAP, Bangkok, Thailand; Dr JP Mulyil, Chair, IndiaCLEN Institutional Review Board
20:00 22:00	Clinical Epidemiology in the Year 2004 <i>Resource Persons:</i> Dr Robert Fletcher, Dr Suzanne Fletcher, CanUSACLEN
07:00 08:30	Public Health Program Evaluation: Leveraging Health Research through Policy and Practice <i>Resource Person:</i> Dr. NK Arora, IndiaCLEN
08:30 09:45	Special Interest Group Meetings Closing Ceremony Cultural Program & Banquet

Sunday, February 15

07:00 08:30	Study Group Meeting: Knowledge Translation
08:30 15:30	Post-meeting Workshop: INCLen Knowledge Plus Program

• Cardiovascular Diseases

• Drug Resistance

Resource Persons and Discussants: Dr Dean Jamison, Fogarty International Center; Dr K.S. Reddy, IndiaCLEN; Dr Tom Gracynia, Boston University, USA; Dr Antonio Dans, INCLen-SEA, Dr Ramanan Laxminarayan, USA
Pricing of Essential Drugs

Workshop

Chair: Dr Hans Hogerzeil, WHO/EDM

Resource Persons: Dr Anita Kotwani, Delhi Society for the Promotion of Rational Use of Drugs, New Delhi, India

Knowledge Translation of Health Research Funding Agencies

Coordinators: Dr Peter Tugwell, CanUSACLEN;

Dr Vivian Robinson, University of Ottawa, Canada

Posters/ Tea & Coffee Breaks

Symposia, Workshops & Continuing Education Sessions (4 parallel sessions)

Review of Disease Control Priorities Project

Neuropsychiatric Diseases (Part II)

Resource Persons and Discussants: Dr Dean Jamison, Fogarty International Center; Dr Shekhar Saxena, WHO, Geneva; Dr Vijay Chandra, WHO/SEARO; Dr Don Silberberg, University of Pennsylvania, USA; Dr Vikram Patel, London, UK; Dr Ramanan Laxminarayan, USA

Knowledge Plus Program (Part I) Knowledge Management: Filling the 'Know-Do' Gap

Symposium

Chair: Dr Mary Ann Lansang, INCLen Trust

Resource Persons: Dr Visanu Thamlikitkul, INCLen - SE;A;

2nd speaker TBA

Using Research to Improve Rational Drug Use

Workshop

Resource Persons and Discussants: Dr Ranjit Roy Chaudhury, INCLen Board; Dr Brian Strom, CanUSACLEN; Dr Hans Hogerzeil, WHO/ EDM; Dr Rodolfo Dennis, LatinCLEN

Symposium

Capacity Enhancement Needs in Epidemiology & Biostatistics in South East Asian Countries

(co-sponsored by the International Epidemiology Association)

Chair: Dr Chitr Sithi-Amorn, IEA President, Bangkok, Thailand

Speaker: Dr DCS Reddy, WHO, India; Dr Babu Verma, SEA Regional Office of IEA, India

Special Interest Group Meetings

Regional CLEN Meetings

Dinner Meeting : INCLen Program of Action (by invitation only)

20:00 22:00

Friday, February 13

08:00 08:30

08:30 09:45

Registration

Plenary Session III

INCLen's Contributions towards Knowledge-based Policy & Action

Chairs: Dr Marcel Tanner, Chair, INCLen Board of Trustees; Dr Ranjit Roy Chaudhury, Chair, INCLen Board of Directors

Speakers: Dr Shally Awasthi, IndiaCLEN; Dr Iwan Dwiprahasto, INCLen-SEA; Dr Wang Jialiang, ChinaCLEN; Dr Ranga Masanganise, INCLen-Africa; Dr Sergio Munoz, LatinCLEN; Dr Juan Gabriel Ruiz, LatinCLEN; Dr Laura Sadowski, CanUSACLEN

Plenary Session IV

09:45 11:00

Inter-country Collaborative Studies : Successes & Challenges

Chair: Dr Cynthia Cordero, INCLen Board of Trustees

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

INCLIN Global Meeting XX
 JayPee Palace Hotel & Convention Centre, Agra
 February 11-14, 2004

Pre-GM Workshops

February 11
 08:30 17:30

INCLIN Leadership and Management Project
Coordinators: Dr Victor Neufeld, Dr Nancy Johnson,
 Dr Shrikant Bangdiwala, CanUSACLEN;
 Dr James Hakim, INCLIN - Africa

This one-day leadership and management (L&M) "school", organized by the INCLIN Leadership and Management Program (LAMP), is designed to support leaders of CERTCs/ CEUs and network-wide project teams in developing strategies and skills to work through their toughest L&M challenges. Participants will take part in one of two concurrent full-day workshops. CERTC/CEU leaders will focus on leadership development strategies and preparing the next generation of CEU/CERTC leadership, while leaders of network-wide projects will learn about "governance" tools and strategies for making difficult decisions and avoiding conflicts in the management of multi-center collaborative research.

INCLIN Child Net

Coordinator: Dr Shally Awasthi, IndiaCLEN

This is by registration and invitation. Global child health research activities will be reviewed, work plan for year 2004 will be finalized and consensus future plan of action drafted.

South Asia Pneumococcal Alliance (SAPNA) Group

Coordinators: Dr Kurien Thomas, IndiaCLEN;
 Dr Mark Steinhoff, JHU, USA

This will be the first meeting of members of the new South Asian Pneumococcal Network Activity (SAPNA) members. The SAPNA network includes the IBIS (Invasive Bacterial Infections Surveillance) project, as well as new members from the region, including Nepal and Sri Lanka. This will be an opportunity to allow all members to agree on the goals and methods of hospital-based surveillance for selected organisms in the south Asia region. The session will discuss specific issues regarding methods and data management, and will finalize protocol for data collection and data management systems.

Measuring Quality of Life, Burden and Resources in Clinical Epidemiological Studies

Coordinators: Dr Shuba Kumar, IndiaCLEN;
 Dr Shekhar Saxena, WHO Geneva; Dr Raj Kumar, Australia

This workshop will aim to orient participants to :

- The concepts and definitions of QOL and burden
- Issues in its measurement and cross-cultural applications
- The application of the techniques of situation analysis and resource mapping
- Planning of services that incorporate these elements

The workshop will include a combination of formal presentations, followed by interactive discussions and group work during which the participants will work up service/intervention programmes that build in concepts of QOL, burden and situational analysis.

Plenary Sessions

February 12
 09:45 11:00

Plenary Session II Promoting the rational use of medicines - Utilization of Essential Drugs

Speaker: Dr Hans Hogerzeil, Director,
 Essential Drugs & Policy Dept (EDM), WHO

Irrational use of medicines by prescribers and patients remains a global problem. Several interventions to improve the quality use of medicines are known to be effective; for others more operational research is needed. New challenges include the scaling up of the use of antiretroviral medicines in HIV/AIDS patients, with simplified treatment regimes being promoted for use in rural health facilities and communities. An update will be given of recent developments, and the potential role of INCLIN members in developing and evaluating these new approaches.

February 13
 08:30 09:45

Plenary Session III INCLIN's Contributions towards Knowledge-based Policy & Action

Speakers: Dr Marcel Tanner, Chair, INCLIN Board of Trustees; Dr Ranjit Roy Chaudhury, Chair, INCLIN, Inc. Board of Directors; Representatives of Regional Clinical Epidemiology Networks: Dr Shally Awasthi, IndiaCLEN; Dr Iwan Dwiprahasto, INCLIN-Southeast Asia; Dr Wang Jiali, ChinaCLEN; Dr Ranga Masanganise, INCLIN-Africa; Dr Sergio Munoz, LatinCLEN; Dr Juan Gabriel Ruiz, LatinCLEN; Dr Laura Sadowski, CanUSACLEN

February 13
 09:45 11:00

Over the past 23 years, INCLIN has assumed a leadership role in building the capacity of indigenous health scientists and practitioners in developing countries to conduct health research that would help shape knowledge-based policy and programs to improve the health of their own people. This special session showcases the researches of INCLIN members from different regional CLENs. These examples illustrate how clinical and field research programs on important health problems can influence health policy, programs and/or healthcare practice at national or global levels.

Plenary Session IV Inter-country Collaborative Studies : Successes & Challenges

Speaker: Sir Richard Peto, Oxford University

The last two decades witnessed a dramatic increase in the conduct of Inter-country Collaborative research. These studies not only help to recruit adequate number of participants within a reasonable time but assure a more representative sample in terms of ethnicity, race, life style, geography and socioeconomic status, which helps to generalize the results in diverse populations. However, such studies are more difficult to conduct because of their size, complexity and large number of investigators with diverse backgrounds and interests. They are expensive to conduct. Consistent and sustained leadership and support is needed to promote such studies.

Program schedules are tentative, and are subject to change

February 14
08:30 09:45

**Plenary Session V
Health Research Systems: An Overview**

Speaker: Dr Tikki Pang, WHO

WHO will be releasing during 2004 a World Report on Knowledge for Better Health. The objective of the Report is to highlight contemporary issues in health research with a particular emphasis on the need to turn knowledge into actions to improve people's health, and to promote the equitable access and sharing of knowledge as a foundation for health improvement. A crucial means of achieving these objectives is the existence of strong national health research systems in countries which acts to support health systems development by bridging the "know-do" divide, the gulf between what we know and what we do in practice.

The Report will discuss the following key topics : health gains from knowledge: why is health research important?; ethics and equity issues; vision and resources for health research: human, institutional and social; producing, sharing and synthesizing knowledge for better health; and harnessing and using knowledge for health equity. The recommendations of the report will

09:45 11:00

be linked to the World Summit on Health Research in Mexico in November, 2004 which will hopefully galvanize global action and stronger support for health research for development.

**Plenary Session VI
Global Priorities and Progress in Neonatal and Child Health Research**

Speakers:

1- Child Health - Dr Jonathan Simon, Boston University;
2- Neonatal Health - Dr Masee Bateman, U.S. Agency for International Development, New Delhi, India.

Progress in child health and nutrition has been evaluated extensively in the Bellagio set up papers published by the Lancet in 2003. To achieve the millennium development goals there is a need to assess progress at global, regional and national levels and to identify areas for improved delivery of interventions with established efficacy while identifying new interventions and delivery strategies. During this session progress and research priorities will be discussed for children and neonates.

Symposia

February 12
16:00 17:30

**Global Priorities in HIV/ AIDS:
Key Policy & Research Issues**

Resource Person: Dr Dora Warren, Centers for Disease Control, USA

This symposium will provide an overview of key policy and research issues in HIV/AIDS globally. Recent developments and global announcements about the need for and availability of funds for antiretroviral therapy have increased the need for rapid up scaling of all HIV/AIDS programs and services, and have pointed to a critical need for applied and operations research to inform the process. Speakers will provide examples from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Global AIDS Program rapid scale up to 25 countries since 2000. Participants will develop a better understanding of key policies and research challenges for HIV prevention and care, HIV/TB, and behavior change as well as learning about new approaches in information systems and monitoring and evaluation that are being used to track program needs and successes.

Quality Improvement in Ethics Research Review

Resource Persons:

Dr Melody Lin, U.S. Office of Health Research Protection (OHRP), USA; Dr Juntra Karbwang, WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (WHO/TDR), Switzerland; Dr Vichai Chokevivat, Forum for Ethical Review Committees in Asia & the Western Pacific (FERCAP), Thailand; Dr Vasantha Muthuswamy, Indian Council for Medical

February 14
14:00 15:30

and

February 14
16:00 17:30

February 14
16:00 17:30

Research, Delhi, India; Dr J.P. Muliylil, IndiaCLEN Institutional Review Board Chair

There has been an exponential growth in the number of clinical and field trials to test interventions for various diseases and health problems in developing countries. The need for good ethical reviews of such trials, especially in developing countries, has been increasingly recognized, resulting in the establishment of many institutional review boards (IRBs) or their equivalent. However the quality of ethical reviews has not kept pace with the quantity of existing IRBs, potentially exposing study participants to more harm than benefit. The two 1.5-hour sessions in this symposium will describe the ethical issues facing IRBs and health researchers, guidance documents on research ethics and recommendations for continuous quality improvement for IRBs. International, Asian and Indian perspectives will be discussed in the presentations.

Child Health From Research to Policy

Resource Persons: Dr Shally Awasthi, IndiaCLEN; Dr MKC Nair, IndiaCLEN

The current symposium will follow the path from research to policy. Global success stories of Zinc, low osmolar ORS and oral antibiotic for treatment of severe pneumonia will be discussed. Regional example from India on early disability recognition and management will also be highlighted.

Workshops

February 12
14:00 15:30

Pricing of Essential Drugs

Resource Persons: Dr Hans Hogerzeil, WHO/EDM; Dr Anita Kotwani, Delhi Society for the Promotion of Rational Use of Drugs, New Delhi, India

Medicine prices are a problem for millions of people. Massive price disparities exist between countries and even within the same country. Information on prices

-an essential first step to affordable medicines - is both a research and a policy issue. This seminar will outline a new approach by WHO and Health Action International to the measurement and comparison of medicine prices. It will show results from several studies, and outline the technical support available from the project to medicine price investigators.



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

INCLen Global Meeting XX

(continued from page 15)

Continuing Education Sessions

February 12
14:00 15:30

Leadership Challenges for CERTCs & CEUs

Resource Persons:

Dr Vic Neufeld, CanUSACLEN; Dr James Hakim, INCLen-Africa; Dr Shrikant Bangdiwala, CanUSACLEN; Dr Nancy Johnson, CanUSACLEN

This session builds on INCLen's 2-year experience with the Leadership and Management Program (LAMP). The objectives are the following:

1. To summarize some key leadership challenges for CERTC's and CEU's, drawing upon recent LAMP surveys in several regions, as well as on some LAMP regional activities.
2. To present a progress report of a leadership development initiative at the University of Zimbabwe, as a case study.
3. To describe some selected leadership development strategies, and indicate how they can be strengthened. These include mentoring, and specific strategies for preparing the "next generation" of CEU leadership.
4. To introduce current plans for the LAMP distance learning "certificate" program, and invite comments and participation.

February 13
14:00 15:30
and

Biostatistics: How To Report Your Research Results: A Review Of Effect Measures For Epidemiologic Data

Resource Persons: Dr Stephen Walter, CanUSACLEN; Dr RM Pandey, IndiaCLEN

This workshop will present a review of the measures that can be used to summarize epidemiologic data, emphasizing discrete or categorical data applications. We will discuss relative risk, odds ratios, risk differences, and NNT (Number Needed to Treat), and their relative advantages. Time will be spent on recent literature concerning NNT in particular, addressing questions such as the effect of measurement error in the data, and the evaluation of a threshold NNT at which the benefits of therapeutic intervention balance possible harms. Depending on time availability, we may also discuss issues such as assessing heterogeneity in the effect measure (between studies or between subgroups of a single study), and risk communication (e.g. how clinicians and patients react to study data presented using the various summary measures).

February 14
14:00 15:30

February 13
16:00 17:30

Governance Aspects of Project Management in Multi-center Collaborative Research (LAMP)

Resource Person: Dr Shrikant I. Bangdiwala, CanUSACLEN

This session builds on previous workshops on project management conducted for INCLen. The objectives are the following:

1. To present various organizational structures for collaboration and decision-making of multi-center studies.
2. To introduce the need of a 'governance document' and illustrate examples of its table of contents: decision-making, publication guidelines, data access guidelines, conflict resolution.
3. To introduce guidelines for co-authorship in multicenter studies, as well as a methodology for avoiding inequities in efforts and in rewards, thus ensuring equal opportunity for co-authorship in collaborative research activities.
4. To discuss various 'difficult decisions' that commonly arise in multi-center collaborative studies, using case studies from actual research projects.

February 13
16:00 17:30

Health Economics: Outcome Measures for Economic Evaluation

1. Applied Economics & Infectious Diseases

Speaker: Dr Jonathan Simon, Boston University

2. Outcome Measures for Economics Evaluation

Speaker: Dr David Evans, Global Programme on

Evidence for Health Policy-WHO

Economic evaluation can answer questions relating to the most efficient choice of interventions aimed at a particular disease or condition, or the most efficient combination of interventions to reach the goal of improving population health. For most types of analysis, an outcome indicator that allows the impact of interventions on mortality and morbidity to be incorporated at the same time is required. The two most commonly used indicators are QALYs and DALYs, although willingness to pay methods that value outcomes in money metric are increasingly being used. This talk reviews some of the issues surrounding the choice of outcome indicators in the context of interventions to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease in low-income countries. It also focuses on a problem with most economic evaluation, that they consider only single interventions undertaken by themselves. It shows how interactions between interventions undertaken at the same time can be taken into account.

Zinc clinical trial

(from page 11)

would be on the improvement of the overall health of the child and faster recovery from the illness — fewer loose stools, shorter duration of diarrhea. These findings were taken into account during message development. When mothers were shown how easily the tablet dissolved in a teaspoon of water and were allowed to taste the solution and found it sweet, their concerns with regards to dosage and formulation were addressed. The table on page 11 shows some of the core zinc messages developed by the team in the Philippines with the adaptations in the different local settings in the study.

The zinc trial's formative research demonstrated its necessity in the design of interventions when cultural beliefs and practices play a role in the acceptance of or resistance to a new behavior.

The procedures developed for this research could serve as a prototype for other micronutrient supplementation trials and social marketing activities for health. Efforts are being undertaken to disseminate the results and methodology to as many users as possible. In October 2003, the team in the Philippines presented the study at the 2nd National Conference of the Philippine Health Social Science Association. There is also a plan to present it at the conference of the Society of Medical Anthropologists in Texas, U.S.A. in March 2004. Arrangements are also currently underway to have the formative research manual posted on the INCLen website.

Alberta Vargas

Investigator, Zinc Formative Research (Philippines)

Shally Awasthi

Coordinator, INCLen ChildNET

Research

An interrupted time series analysis of parenteral antibiotic use in Colombia

Adriana Perez, Rodolfo Dennis, Benigno Rodriguez, Amparo Castro, Victor Delgado, Juan Manuel Lozano, Maria Clara Castro. Javeriana University, Colombia

Objective: To determine the effectiveness of a composite intervention for improving antibiotic prescribing practices.

Design: Before-and-after study with interrupted time series analysis.

Setting: Tertiary care university hospital in Bogota, Colombia

Participants: 15,008 courses of target antibiotics in 2,716 subjects admitted to all hospital wards from June 1997 to April 2000.

Intervention: Prior to data collection, an expert panel identified target antibiotics with perceived prescribing problems, developed expected norms for appropriate use, developed and tested a data collection form and designed the intervention — a combination of education (lecture) and administrative (reminders and new prescription form) procedures. During the 18 months before and the 16 months after the intervention, a trained head nurse extracted relevant information from medical charts on a daily basis for all new prescriptions of the targeted antibiotics.



Main Outcome Measures: Hospital-wide weekly percentages of incorrect prescriptions of the target antibiotics.

Results: Before the intervention, the mean weekly percentages of incorrect prescriptions of aminoglycosides, cephadrine/cephalothin and ceftazidime/cefotaxime were 56.5%, 9.6% and 15.5%, respectively. These percentages decreased to 2.2%, 5.0% and 4.2% following the intervention. Statistically significant abrupt constant change after the intervention was documented with ARIMA modeling for aminoglycoside use and ceftazidime/cefotaxime use.”

Conclusion: Restrictions on physicians’ clinical choices combined with visual and other educational interventions improved antibiotic prescribing practices in a university hospital.

This study was presented at the INCLLEN Global Meeting VIII in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt in February 2003. It was also published in the *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology* 2003; 56; 1013-1020.

INCLLEN’s Collaborative Research Groups

The *Injury Control and Safety Promotion Journal* will be coming out with a special WorldSAFE (World Studies of Abuse in Family Environments) issue in May 2004. This issue will feature seven articles of the WorldSAFE collaborative studies. Lead authors include: **Dr. Fatma Hassan** of Ismailia, Egypt, **Dr. L. Jeyaseelan** of Vellore, India, **Prof. Laurio Ramiro** of Manila, Philippines and **Dr. Beatriz Vizcarra** of Temuco, Chile. **Dr. Shrikant Bangdiwala** and **Dr. Laura Sadowski** are the guest editors for this WorldSAFE issue.

Awards and Grants

Congratulations to **Diana Pinto** who was awarded the **Jose Luis Bobadilla International Award in health policy research 2003** for her dissertation entitled *Managed Competition and Quality of Care From the Consumer’s Perspective Evidence From Health Care Reform in Colombia*.

The Philippine National Academy of Science and Technology awarded the **2003 Outstanding Monograph** to the clinical practice guidelines entitled *Diagnosis, Treatment and Control of Tuberculosis*. Written by the Task Force on Tuberculosis composed of medical experts and social scientists, this guideline is intended for use by a broad range of healthcare professionals including medical specialists, clinical practitioners, administrators, policy workers and nurses. INCLLEN members **Dr. Renato Dantes**, **Dr. Charles Yu**, **Prof. Nina Castillo-Carandang** and **Dr. Tessa Tan Torres-Edejer** were among the contributing authors.

Journal of Clinical Epidemiology

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Global Network for Perinatal and Reproductive Health (GNPRH) facilitates new collaborations

The Global Network for Perinatal and Reproductive Health (GNPRH) facilitated new collaborations for investigators across regions. In the year 2003, the network initiated the project entitled *Case Management of Reproductive Tract Infections in India: An Analysis of Clinical Protocols and Costs at Primary Care Clinics*. Dr. Suneeta Mittal heads the project team composed of Drs. Jorge E. Tolosa, R.M. Pandey, S.K. Kapoor, Arti Kapil, Vatsla Dadhwal, Motiur Rahman, Babu Cheku, Sarah Hawkes, Shally Awasthi, Susan Foster and Pisake Lumbiganon. This project aims to review existing guidelines for Reproductive Tract Infection (RTI) management using the syndromic management proposed by WHO in one site in India – the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Ballabgarh. It also aims to validate the effectiveness of these guidelines in terms of clinical management and costs. This will include evaluating the guidelines with respect to their levels of under-treatment and over-treatment of common infections. The results will be used to develop protocols for management that can be used in a variety of epidemiological and socio-cultural settings in India. GNPRH plans to conduct a definitive study in four centers in India in 2004. A proposal was submitted for funding to the Indo-US Collaboration Initiative.

Another project has been developed at the GNPRH center in Harare, Zimbabwe entitled *Preventing Perinatal Morbidity and Mortality by Cleansing the Birth Canal with Chlorhexidine during Labour*. The team—composed of Drs. Tsungai Chipato (Primary Investigator) Jorge Tolosa, Alexio Mashu, Leonardo Pereira, Lovemore Gwanzura, Gary Darmstadt, Ron Gray, Dwight Rouse, Babu Cheku, Pisake Lumbiganon, and Professor Chidede—plans to conduct a randomized clinical trial to determine whether neonatal and maternal mortality and severe morbidity in Zimbabwe can be reduced through the use of chlorhexidine washing of the vagina during labor. This study addresses one of the most important clinical practice issues on perinatal care. Study participants will be drawn from 14 primary antenatal clinics within the Greater Harare Maternity Units (GHU). The clinics will be randomly assigned to the intervention group (vaginal cleansing with 1 % chlorhexidine solution every 3 to 4 hours until delivery followed by neonatal washing with 1% chlorhexidine solution) or a control group (the usual care). The microorganisms responsible for neonatal sepsis, pneumonia and meningitis, and conditions that result in high rates on neonatal morbidity and mortality will be identified and described. A pilot study in 500 mother-neonate pairs will be started in 2004. A proposal to conduct this study in 4 centers in India has been submitted to the Indo-US Collaboration Initiative. A similar initiative is being developed with Dr. Motiur Rahman at the

International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research (ICDDR), Bangladesh.

In July 2003, members of the GNPRH met at the Coombe Women's Hospital in Dublin, Ireland. At this meeting the initiative entitled *The Fetus at Extreme Risk for Adverse Perinatal Outcome of Pregnancy-Research on New Interventions* was launched. Projects being developed include *Timing of Delivery in Severe Placental Insufficiency: A Randomized Clinical Trial Comparing Doppler Ultrasonography Versus Biophysical Profile Score* and *Randomized Trial of Emergent Cerclage Compared to Expectant Management*. A critical discussion on the use of active management of the third stage of labor to prevent post partum hemorrhage was carried out under the leadership of Dr. Walter Prendiville. The GNPRH is exploring study design and methods for this topic in collaboration with other organizations such as The Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH) and the USAID.



GNPRH members at the world congress of the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics in Santiago, Chile in November 2003. In photo are Drs. Pisake Lumbiganon, Jorge Tolosa, Chris Elias, Suneeta Mittal, Hernando Gaitan, Tsungai Chipato and Mario Festin.

GNPRH actively disseminates its findings. At the XVII World Congress of the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) in Santiago, Chile in November 2003, six studies were presented, namely: *Use of clinical assessment compared to gram stain for diagnosis of bacterial vaginosis in pregnancy: the international infections in pregnancy study*; *Diagnostic characteristics of the Femexam Testcard® compared to gram stain for diagnosis of bacterial vaginosis in non pregnant women*; *Use of the Femexam Testcard® compared to gram stain for diagnosis of bacterial vaginosis in female sex workers in Bangladesh*; *Birthweight-specific*

neonatal mortality in developing countries and obstetric practices; *International infections in pregnancy study (IIP study): use of a self-teaching atlas for instruction of gram stain interpretation for diagnosis of bacterial vaginosis*; and one poster presentation on *Use of the active management of the third stage of labor to prevent postpartum hemorrhage worldwide*. Four manuscripts were published (See New Publications on page 23). Two other studies were submitted for publication. GNPRH is also busy preparing 6 additional manuscripts for publication.

Meanwhile, new GNPRH centers were established at The University of Nairobi headed by Dr. Nelly Rwamba Mugo, The University of Miami in Florida headed by Dr. Amanda Cotter, and the University of Wisconsin (Madison)/Meriter Perinatal Center headed by Dr. Thomas M. Jenkins.

Jorge Tolosa and Pisake Lumbiganon
Coordinators, Global Network for Perinatal and Reproductive Health

Research

INCLIN to strengthen activities on Rational Drug Use (RDU)

A substantial number of INCLIN members are physicians with access to ambulatory and hospital clinical practice in developing countries. Across these settings, decisions on antibiotic use are frequent. INCLIN members, in their multiple roles as university medical educators, researchers and practitioners, have a unique opportunity and responsibility to influence antimicrobial use. Moreover, INCLIN, with its network of regional and national networks, has infrastructure to be a major international player in developing countries to promote articulated efforts to develop rational drug policies. To be able to pursue this end, however, it would be important to document the degree to which INCLIN members have already been involved in research, and continuing education activities in this field, including, but not limited to, rational drug use and antimicrobial resistance.

We reviewed a convenience sample of INCLIN studies related to drug prescribing and use (details available on request; to be published in full in 2004). Sixty-one examples of research projects that involved INCLIN faculty in the general field of drug utilization were identified for the period 1987 – 2003, with more than half coming from the past 5 years. Over 40% of these research efforts have been published in peer-reviewed journals indexed in *Medline*, and an additional 7% have been accepted or submitted for publication. Noteworthy in this sample was the wide breadth of research by INCLIN faculty, spanning virtually all regions of INCLIN. Additionally, we observed that INCLIN faculty were invited to write editorials and position papers in this field for peer-reviewed journals; that their research in this field involved community-based studies, studies in primary health care settings and hospital-based research; and that a reasonable number of



their research dealt with intervention studies to minimize inappropriate antibiotic use.

INCLIN's contributions and advantages to the RDU field include its capacity to undertake sound research initiatives by networking within or across regions, and its capacity to contribute to the formulation of policies, clinical courses of action, and educational interventions likely to result in improved health. This is important in an area such as AMR (antimicrobial resistance) and RDU, where significant amounts of interventional research are already present. Interventions in AMR and RDU need also to consider the variety of factors that influence local appropriateness: economic and political feasibility; current standards of practice; cultural, moral, and ethical imperatives; and acceptability on the part of those carrying out recommendations—those affected by the interventions, and the community in general. In addition, impact on equity of access to provided services and their benefits needs to be taken into account.

For the future, INCLIN hopes to promote the development of an inter-regional CLEN program on rational use of drugs together with other international organizations. This new initiative, dubbed "INCLIN PREMEd" (Network to Promote Responsible and Efficient Use of Medicines), will identify several key areas of research and human resource capacity building in relation to rational drug use, including pricing, access and efficiency issues. INCLIN now needs to identify a team that will work together for the collaborative endeavors. The group could have up to two actual meetings in the near future—one at Agra, India during the INCLIN Global Meeting (February 2004) and a follow-up meeting at Chiang Mai, Thailand during the second International Conference on Improving the Use of Medicines (ICIUM, April 2004) to flesh out its strategic plan and activities.

*Rodolfo Dennis
Javeriana University
Bogota, Colombia*



Global Forum on Health Research holds Forum 7 in Geneva

The annual meeting of the Global Forum for Health Research – Forum 7 – was held in Geneva at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on December 1-5, 2003. Almost 700 attendees participated in the meeting including policy makers, researchers, health practitioners, international donors, and representatives from civil society and the media. Participants came together to discuss support for public and private sector research networks, to foster research partnerships on diseases representing the heaviest burden on the poor, and to disseminate recent important findings. Plenary sessions focused on economic implications of investments on health and health research; poverty and health; the Millennium Development Goals; and gender inequities. Notable were sessions on research priorities in non-communicable diseases, including mental health, cardiovascular diseases, diet-related conditions, and cancer. The topics of violence and injuries as well as a new thematic focus on social sciences research were also featured at plenary sessions. Many of the break-out sessions in the afternoon focused on papers related to the plenary themes.

The Forum 7 program also showcased various regional and information networks that have been launched to specifically address some of these important issues. In particular, members of the regional forums (African Health Research Forum, Asia-Pacific Health Research Forum including the South Asia Research Forum, and the Latin American and Caribbean Health Research Forum) had separate and joint meetings to discuss developments in their respective regions and develop plans for their contributions to Forum 8 and the World Summit on Health Research in 2004.

Dr. Louis Currat, Executive Secretary of the Global Forum for Health Research, was given a kind farewell as he is stepping down from his office on December 31, 2003. Dr. Steven Matlin is taking over as Executive Secretary on January 1, 2004. It will be an exciting year for Dr. Matlin as all look forward to Forum 8, to be held simultaneously with the World Summit on Health Research from November 15 – 19, 2004 in Mexico City.

INCLLEN was well represented at the recent Global Forum 7. Dr. Mary Ann Lansang, INCLLEN Executive Director, was busy with various meetings with partners, INCLLEN members, and potential collaborators and funders. Also representing the INCLLEN Executive Office was Tina Heiler, who was available to discuss and distribute materials to Forum 7 attendees at INCLLEN's booth at the Forum Marketplace.

Other INCLLEN faculty participated in various capacities:

- Dr. Srinath Reddy, former president of IndiaCLEN and currently the Coordinator of the Initiative for Cardiovascular Health Research in Developing Countries (IC Health), convened the annual meeting of the IC Health Partnership Council. Dr. Mary Ann Lansang attended the IC Partnership Council meeting as representative of INCLLEN. Dr. Reddy also conducted a

pre-Forum 7 workshop on Tobacco Control and was a discussant at the Forum 7 plenary session on non-communicable diseases.

- Dr. Shally Awasthi from CSM University in Lucknow was invited to speak at the meeting of the Child Health Network for Research Initiatives (CHNRI). Dr. Awasthi, as a member of the CHNRI Board, was part of panel that spoke on the unfinished agenda and resources needed for child health research initiatives. Dr. Awasthi attended various sessions on Child Health at the GFHR and attended the South Asia Health Research Forum.
- Dr. Antonio Ledo Alves da Cunha from Universidad de Rio de Janeiro was invited and supported by the GFHR because of his interest in developing priority research for child health in Rio de Janeiro and Brazil. He was very active in the meeting and attended sessions on child health and the Latin American and Caribbean Health Research Forum. Dr. da Cunha is very interested in linking the INCLLEN networks of LatinCLEN and ChildNET to broaden the scope and reach of each network.
- Dr. Amr Hassan from the Suez Canal University in Ismailia, Egypt attended Forum 7 representing INCLLEN-Africa in his current capacity as Secretary-General. Dr. Hassan represented INCLLEN at the meeting of the African Health Research Forum and networked with colleagues from IN-DEPTH and the Alliance for Health Systems Research and Policy. He also had various meetings with Vic Neufeld, INCLLEN's Leadership and Management Program (LAMP) Coordinator, to discuss next steps for the LAMP program to continue throughout INCLLEN-Africa.
- Dr. William Macharia from the University of Nairobi in Kenya attended the meeting and was supported by African Health Research Forum. He was very active in the general and plenary sessions along with his duties in conjunction with the various happenings of the African Health Research Forum.
- Drs. Peter Tugwell and Vic Neufeld joined the large Canadian delegation who showcased their research efforts in international health at various sessions. Dr. Neufeld also took the opportunity to discuss leadership and management issues with INCLLEN participants and other interested parties.

INCLLEN wishes to recognize these faculty members and all INCLLEN friends who continue to advocate for a stronger network even though other responsibilities may have brought them to the Forum.

*Tina Heiler
IEO
Philadelphia*

Thoughts from the TUFH Chairman on strengthening alliance

For over a decade now, INCLLEN has enjoyed a good working relationship with The Network: Towards Unity For Health (TUFH). The Network of Community-Oriented Educational Institutions for Health Sciences, referred to as “The Network” is actively engaged in innovative community-oriented education for health professionals. The relationship between the two networks existed mostly as a partial overlap of individuals and institutions involved in network activities. The networks, however, differ a little in emphasis. INCLLEN was strongly oriented on research and clinical epidemiology education, while The Network was oriented on community oriented education.

Allow me to brief you on the recent evolution of The Network and the new addition to its new name: “Towards Unity For Health”. In the late 70’s, when The Network was conceived, it was the belief of its godfathers from the World Health Organization (WHO), Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and the United Nations International Childrens’ Emergency Fund (UNICEF) that an innovative education of the new generation of health professionals would give a strong impetus to innovation of health services and health research. The effect of this effort, however, was limited.

Therefore, a new strategy was conceived - to unify innovative initiatives in the domains of education, health services, and research. Given this aim, WHO-Geneva launched the project “Towards Unity For Health (TUFH)” in the early 90’s. The project aims to promote quality, equity, relevance, and cost-effectiveness in health services by joint efforts of key

stakeholders like communities, policy makers, managers, professional organisations, and academic institutions. In 2002, The Network and TUFH joined into The Network: TUFH. Under this new name, our areas of interest went beyond education, to include research. Given INCLLEN’s more than 20 years of experience in health research, we at The Network: TUFH are very interested to learn from our INCLLEN colleagues.



Dr. Rogayah Jaa'far, Honorary Member of The Network at workshop



TUFH meeting at the Aboriginal Health Center in Townsville, Queensland, Australia

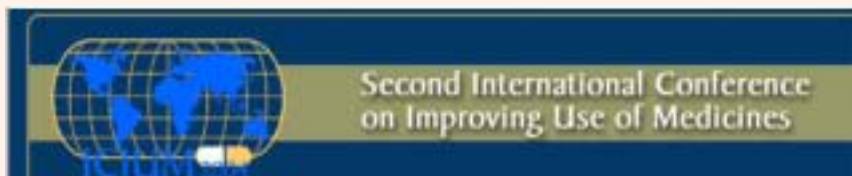
For its part, The Network: TUFH can offer INCLLEN access to a global network of 110 individuals and 169 groups, organisations and institutions. We also invite INCLLEN to participate in our annual conferences, biannual newsletter, triannual peer-reviewed and Medline indexed journal entitled “Education for Health: Change in Learning and Practice”, list-servers, e-mail alerts (to over 5000 subscribers) and interactive websites: www.the-networktufh.org and www.the-network.org. These websites are based on a content management system which allows people with passwords to enter announcements, projects, programmes, and other relevant activities.

We believe that the strengthening of the partnership of our networks can be beneficial not only to both networks but could also work towards our common aim of equity, efficiency, and quality in healthcare.

We hope that the members and leadership of INCLLEN will be as excited as we are to strengthen our cooperation.

*Gerard Majoer
Chairman, The Network: TUFH
The Netherlands*

Meetings/Conferences



The Second International Conference on Improving Use of Medicines (ICIUM) 2004 will convene an audience of 500 leading researchers and policymakers from the international health community to discuss and plan interventions to improve use of medicines in developing countries and other resource-poor settings. The conference will be held at the Westin Riverside Plaza Hotel in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from March 30 to April 2, 2004. For details you can visit the ICIUM website at www.icium.com

The **Global Forum for Health Research** announces **Forum 8** scheduled on November 16 to 20, 2004 in Mexico City. This event will take place in parallel with the **World Summit on Health Research**, an international summit on health research jointly organized by the World Health Organization and the Mexican Ministry of Health. The Forum 8 and the World Summit will have joint sessions on major health research issues.

Announcements

CEUs, CERTCs and CLENs

Warm felicitations to the **Instituto de Efectividad Clinica y Sanitaria (IECS)** of the University of Buenos Aires as the most recent addition to INCLLEN membership. The CERTC is headed by its Director, Dr. Adolfo Rubinstein, and Sponsor, Dr. Andrés Pichón-Riviere. They can be reached through: arubinstein@iecs.org.ar and apichon@iecs.org.ar, respectively.

Warmest congratulations to the **University of Zimbabwe (UOZ)** for being recognized as a new CERTC member of INCLLEN. UOZ has been an active member of INCLLEN as a CEU since the late 1980's. In 1994, UOZ opened the distance learning graduate program in clinical epidemiology, which attracted enrollees not only in Zimbabwe but also the African region.

Warmest welcome to **Professor Wayne Smith**, new director of the Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CCEB) at the University of Newcastle in Australia. Prof. Smith replaced **Dr. Julie Byles** who took on a new assignment as Director of the Centre for Research and Education in Ageing. Prof. Smith can be reached at Wayne.Smith@newcastle.edu.au

Congratulations to **Dr. Peter Tugwell** who will succeed **Dr. Suzanne Fletcher** as Secretary-General of CanUSACLEN in February of 2004. Dr. Tugwell can be reached at ptugwell@uottawa.ca

The School of Medicine Academic Board of the Universidad de la Frontera in Temuco, Chile recently approved the creation of the **Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics**. This act elevates the Academic unit of the School into a full-fledged Department within the University organization, thereby entitling it to budgetary allocation. Virtual Campus Development Team Coordinator, **Dr. Sergio Munoz** also announced that the same Academic

Board approved the **Distance Learning Master Program in Clinical Epidemiology**. LatinCLEN is now ready to officially launch the program. These two developments are among the very important goals that LatinCLEN hoped to realize before the end of the 2003 academic year (Jan 31, 2004.)

Dr. Noel Juban took over from **Prof. Cynthia Cordero** as Director of the CERTC of the University of the Philippines. Dr. Juban can be contacted at updce@pacific.net.ph

Warm felicitations to **Prof. Ramesh Ahuja** who was inaugurated as the new IndiaCLEN president in September 2003 during the IndiaCLEN annual conference. He succeeded Prof. Srinath Reddy. Prof. Ahuja can be reached at kgmvice@sanchamet.in



Prof. Srinath Reddy turns over the reins of IndiaCLEN to Prof. Ramesh Ahuja at the recent IndiaCLEN annual conference

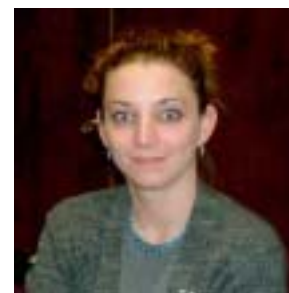
New appointments

The entire INCLLEN family congratulates **Dr. Carel IJsselmuiden**, the new Coordinator of COHRED. Dr. IJsselmuiden brings to COHRED a wealth of experience in public health issues and in health research for development. Prior to his assignment to COHRED, Dr. IJsselmuiden was the Head of the Department of Community Health and Director of the School of Health Systems and Public Health of the University of Pretoria in South Africa, Member of the South African Essential National Health Research Committee and Deputy Medical Officer of Health for Johannesburg City Health Department. He also spearheaded the AfriHealth initiative on public health capacity for Africa and collaborated with the CEU at the University of Pretoria.



Prof. Pierre Duhaut of Amiens University has been appointed Secretary of the Scientific Committee of the French Internal Medicine Society. He is in charge of promoting the use of multi-center studies in clinical research.

Ms. Stephanie Lezotte joined the INCLLEN Philadelphia Office as Administrative Assistant last November 17, 2003. Ms. Lezotte is a graduate of a bachelor's degree in English in Lebanon Valley College, Annville, Pennsylvania.



Dr. Mario Festin, former Director of the University of the Philippines CERTC, was appointed Deputy Director for Health Operations at the Philippine General Hospital, the teaching hospital of the University of the Philippines College of Medicine. **Dr. Rodney Dofitas**, a member of the Philippine Clinical Epidemiology Network was appointed Deputy Director for Training and Research

New Publications

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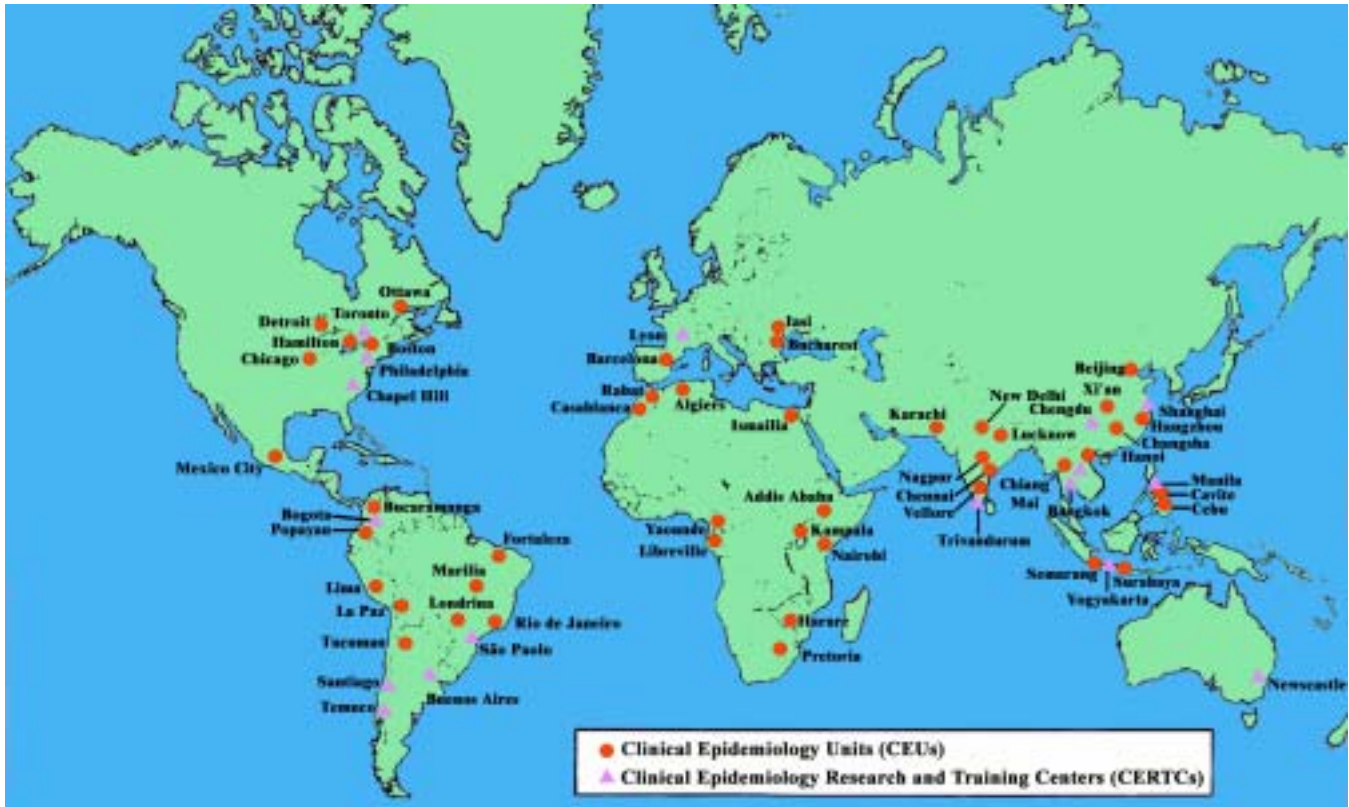
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