Seminar on Reciprocal Capacity Building

Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health
March 27, 2019
Seminar on Reciprocal Capacity Building

Agenda

Part I. Faculty Perspectives on Reciprocal Capacity Building (Harvard Chan)

- Professor Wafaie Fawzi, Global Health & Population, Nutrition, Epidemiology
- Associate Professor Bethany Hedt-Gauthier, Biostatistics

Part II. Student Perspectives on Reciprocal Capacity Building (Global Cohort of Doctoral Students)

- Overview of the Global Cohort program
- Panel Discussion

Part III. Breakout sessions with facilitated small group discussion

- Observing and incorporating reciprocal learning into global health research partnerships
EQUITY IN THE CONDUCT OF GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH:
The importance of reciprocal partnerships in academia

Global Cohort Symposium
Harvard Chan School of Public Health

Bethany Hedt-Gauthier
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Research Advisor, Partners In Health/Rwanda

March 2019
Trends in collaborative global health research

• Collaborations between institutions are critical for global health research and training.

• Power dynamics shape the conduct of global health research and lead to inequities, with more benefits to HIC scientists.
1. Denying someone an opportunity (or failing to nurture their opportunity) now can have long term consequences for their research career.

2. Who moves along these paths and how are determined by people in power.
Are there any issues beyond the impact on a single person?

- Undermines talent development at institutions.
- Limits research independence – infrastructure and funding – at LMIC institutions.
- Undermines the quality and the potential impact of the science.
Goal of the work in Rwanda

1. **Increase the research documenting PIH/Rwanda’s experience.**
   - Share best practices + Identify and improve program gaps

2. **Address equity in our research collaborations.**
   - Inclusiveness of all stakeholders + Fair acknowledgment of contributions
   - Sharing “profits” –
     - Opportunities to coauthor; lead papers; education/training; present at conferences
Intermediate Operational Research Course

• Deliverable-driven training
  • Ultimate goal: Submitted paper.
  • Intermediate milestones: Must be achieved to stay in course.
  • Focus on research questions of importance to IMB or MOH.

• In-session and out-of-session mentorship

• Training model:
  • Three 5.5-day sessions, every 3-4 months
  • 112 hours of in-person training and mentorship
  • 110 hours of out-of-session mentorship per project

• Course completed as teams
  • 20 published papers, with 8 under development.
Growing research in global surgery with an eye towards equity

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Background: Global surgery research is often generated through collaborative partnerships between researchers from both low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and high-income countries (HICs). Inevitably, uneven access to LMIC collaborators can limit the impact of the research.

BJS, 2019

- Have global surgery as a topical focus for research trainings.

- Link surgical fellows to site-based research and facilitate joint learning.
  - Require that they are in-country long enough to add benefit to the project.

- Thoughtfully map out research space.
Does this work have results?

- Increased publications, overall and those first authored by Rwandans.
  - Research is driven by clinical programs.
  - Results are linked back to clinical care.

- Several of trainees have continued to have research as part or focus of their work.

- This work has seeded several research portfolios, and grown careers on “both sides of the pond”.
Do (HIC) academic structures perpetuate bad behavior?

“This will ruin your chances for promotion.”

“We cannot ask our junior faculty to do this type of work.”

“We need you to be available for Harvard students.”

“You cannot spend so much time out of country.”
Radcliffe exploratory seminar, February 2018

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Ayaga A. Bawah
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Mass General Hospital Center for Global Health
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
Partners in Health/Rwanda
Stanford Center for Innovation in Global Health
Stellenbosch University
University of Ghana
University of Toronto
Zanmi Lasante
Summary of recommendations

- **Embedding:**
  - Remove admin barriers.
  - Extend tenure clocks.
  - Fund extended residencies.

- **Equitable engagement:**
  - Request details (from candidate and collaborators) in promotion materials.

- **Authorship:**
  - Value authorship that includes LMIC collaborators in prominent positions.
  - Question publications without local collaborators.

- **Training/mentorship:**
  - Encourage/expect candidate to support trainees at research sites.

- **Adequate funding:**
  - Value funding that is obtained, including that given directly to the local site.

Available in more detail in Lancet comment.
Where do students fit in all of this?
What should we be trained to do as students?
The role of reciprocal.

• Recognition that I have as much (or more) to learn as to teach.

• Everyone’s success – mine and theirs – is intertwined.

• We all need help – be willing to give as well as receive.

• Deeply care about each other and the work.
Thank you!

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The Global Cohort of Doctoral Students:
A partnership to build global health research capacity
The Global Cohort of Doctoral Students is a community that promotes reciprocal learning between doctoral students around the world.

We promote our shared capacity to address public health problems by engaging in research, constructive forums for feedback, and professional development activities.
The foundation

Introduction

The Global Cohort of Doctoral Students | Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
The Learning Contract

- Students identify personal training goals, deliverables, and how they will support their partner.
- Co-written with partner and faculty supervisor.
- Students spend ~4 weeks each year working at the same research site. Work on learning contract continues throughout the year.
Core Activity 2

Approach

Cohort Web Forum

- Regular web group seminars on Canvas
- One member pre-records a presentation on their learning contract work, along with questions.
- Group members post constructive feedback.
Annual conference

Members meet once per year for a conference that features skill-building workshops, research presentations, community-building activities, and a Harvard-wide symposium.
Building Partnerships

Current Cohort

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Breakout Session

Questions

• Describe a reciprocal partnership from your experience that worked well. Why did it work well?
  • What did you learn from your partnership?
  • How did you communicate within your partnership to learn?
  • What is one thing you can do going forward to sustain reciprocal learning in your partnership?
  • What is one way to promote reciprocal learning in your current role?
Thank you

Please contact us at:

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