

JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH INTENSIVE TOBACCO CONTROL SUMMER PROGRAM

The Institute for Global Tobacco Control (IGTC) at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health will host an in-depth research and leadership training program in conjunction with the 13th World Conference on Tobacco or Health (WCTOH).

A fundamental theme for the conference will be capacity building for the implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). The FCTC has now been ratified by over 50 countries, over half of which are low- and middle-income countries, and by the time of the conference this number is likely to be much larger. While ratification is a remarkable achievement, significant barriers to the treaty's long-term success remain in low- and middle-income countries. These barriers include: a lack of locally relevant evidence and data gathering/surveillance infrastructure; inadequate expertise in relation to some areas of research, health systems development, and policy formation and implementation; and insufficient networking and leadership. For many countries, a lack of capacity may be a choke point that could hold back implementation.

The WCTOH provides a key venue for addressing these critical capacity building needs. However, experience has shown that simple one-time travel scholarships to low- and middle-income country researchers to attend large international conferences rarely result in true capacity development at the country level. Instead, researchers require sustained attention in the form of technical training, mentorship, exposure, and financial investment. Therefore, in conjunction with the 2006 WCTOH the IGTC will host an intensive training program for researchers from low- and middle-income countries party to the FCTC. The program will focus on building a cohort of well-trained and well-networked researchers capable of carrying out research relevant to the future implementation of the FCTC in low- and middle-income countries.

The IGTC is in a prime position to develop and lead this novel program. The location and timing of the 2006 WCTOH provide significant opportunities for researchers to take advantage of Johns Hopkins' top quality educational programs, including its online tobacco control course and the school's world renowned Summer Institute in Epidemiology and Biostatistics which concludes only days before the opening of the conference. The IGTC's new distinction as an official World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Center for Tobacco Control and its active partnerships throughout the world allow it to rapidly integrate new quality researchers into the established international tobacco control network.

PARTICIPANTS:

Approximately 15 researchers selected from low- and middle income countries that have ratified the FCTC will be invited to join the program.

Invitation to participant in the program includes the following financial support:

- Travel scholarship (air tickets, housing and per diem for entire four week period)
- JHSPH Summer Institute registration
- WCTOH registration
- Small research grant

Selection of these researchers will be based on greatest need and individual potential.

Minimum Requirements:

- Work in tobacco control
- Residence in a low- or middle- income country
- Educational and/or professional background qualifies her/him to benefit from intensive summer program
- Has exhibited ability to mobilize others and potential to impact in his/her country
- Has no connections to the tobacco industry
- Command of English is adequate to follow and actively participant in courses and other activities
- Willingness and ability to come to US for JHSPH summer institute and WCTOH (4 week commitment)
- Willingness and ability to participant in the JHSPH online tobacco control course

TRAINING DESCRIPTION:

Stage 1: Participate in the JHSPH's online tobacco control course

Stage 2: Participate in the JHSPH Summer Institute for Epidemiology and Biostatistics and receive tailored tobacco control instruction and mentoring

Stage 3: Participate in a two and a half day workshop on FCTC surveillance prior to the WCOTH

Stage 4: Attend the WCOTH and participate in specialized daily briefing and networking sessions

Stage 5: Work with mentor to complete small research proposal relevant to the FCTC

Stage 6: Maintain mentorship relationships and network via GTRN

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

- Recognized cohort of tobacco control research leaders in selected countries
- A significant number of well prepared research projects
- Increased capacity to carry out research and surveillance relevant to the FCTC in low- and middle- income countries
- Improved utility of the WCOTH venue for training and capacity building

TOBACCO CONTROL SUMMER PROGRAM TIMELINE

September 2005: Post applications and begin identifying and recruiting participants from low- and middle-income countries

November 11, 2005: Deadline for applications

December 16, 2005: Deadline for selecting participants

January: Formally invite participants and begin administration

March 27 – May 19: Online Course

June 19 – July 7: JHSPH Summer Institute in Epidemiology and Biostatistics

July 10-12: WCTOH Pre- Conference Workshop

July 12-15: World Conference on Tobacco Or Health

