

## APPLICATIONS

Applicants should complete the application forms and send them with essential documentation listed below by fax, post, e-mail or completed on line.

Applications will not be considered without the following documents in support of the application.

- A brief curriculum vitae
- A one page letter of motivation outlining your previous research experience, why you want to do the course and its relevance to your work
- Two letters of professional and personal reference
- Copies of qualifications
- Employer's signed letter of Permission for Study Leave

The closing date for applications is Friday 17th February 2006

As demand for the course is high, preference will be given to those who apply early. Application forms and further details can be downloaded from the RHRU website [www.rhru.co.za](http://www.rhru.co.za) where you can apply online. Alternatively the forms are available as follows:

The Course Coordinator:  
Sandra McIntosh,  
Senior Project Coordinator Communications & Development,  
Reproductive Health & HIV Research Unit,  
Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology,  
Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital,  
P O Bertsham,  
2013,  
SOUTH AFRICA  
Tel: + (27) (0) 11 989 9368  
Fax: + (27) (0) 11 989 9298  
e-mail address: [s.mcintosh@rhrujh.co.za](mailto:s.mcintosh@rhrujh.co.za)



# 10<sup>th</sup> RESEARCH METHODS COURSE IN SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND HIV

17<sup>th</sup> July - 11<sup>th</sup> August 2006



**"This is one of the best courses offered internationally"**  
2005 INDEPENDENT EVALUATION TEAM FOR THE WELLCOME TRUST, LONDON

**A world class African Training Course for African Professionals  
from an African/South African Consortium**

## INTRODUCTION

Governments throughout the world have committed themselves to promoting sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and rights. Nowhere is this agenda more critical than in Africa, where countries are faced with the multiple legacies of colonialism, gender inequity and under-development. The HIV epidemic now threatens to undermine many of the achievements of previous decades. Effective health sector responses must be scientifically grounded and appropriate to the continent; this requires the development of new generations of African health researchers. This course is an African response to the need to build research capacity in our region. It has been held annually since 1997 and over this time hundreds of researchers have been trained from 17 countries. The course seeks to introduce researchers, health service managers and clinicians to the fundamentals of research methodology and key SRH/HIV issues relevant to the African region.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To strengthen the research capabilities of participants and through this to increase research capacity in the African Region
- To provide skills in research methodology allowing participants to initiate research, participate in research and to critically appraise research findings
- To familiarize participants with the major SRH/HIV issues affecting the African Region
- To create a network of alumni to facilitate information exchange and research collaboration in the African region

## CURRICULUM

The course covers all stages of research including; translation of problems into study design and proposals, the translation of results into reports, development of policy, programmes and practice. The curriculum includes

## QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH

The course provides an introduction to basic epidemiology. It explores different types of study design, their strengths and limitations, and how to choose the most appropriate design for the research question. It covers statistical issues in study design including sampling and sample size, as well as offering a practical approach to data handling, and basic data analysis and interpretation, with the use of Epi-info. The principles of questionnaire design, with reliability and validity are addressed. The course will also provide an introduction to demography including population characteristics, sources of data, and SRH indicators including maternal mortality and morbidity.

## QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

Methods of qualitative research are introduced, including interviewing techniques and participatory methods, study design and ethics in qualitative research. The appropriate use of qualitative or quantitative methodologies is examined. An experiential introduction to data handling, data analysis and writing is provided.

## OPERATIONS RESEARCH/APPLIED RESEARCH

Methods used in health service evaluation are introduced including clinical audit, access to care, quality of care, efficiency, equity, costing studies, information systems and using research to improve services. The course will also cover linkages between research and the policy process.

## RESEARCH ETHICS

The principles of ethics are addressed, including study design in vulnerable communities, consent, and information to study participants, HIV/AIDS research, special situations and submitting a proposal to a research ethics committee.

## OTHER COURSE COMPONENTS INCLUDE

- Critically reviewing literature and other sources of information
- Proposal development and managing a research project
- Report writing and dissemination of research findings
- Use of computers in research, including the internet and power point
- Visits to research sites and other innovative SRH/HIV intervention programmes

## PARTICIPANTS

The course is intended for people who:

- Are currently involved in research, are planning to undertake research and/or are required to utilise research or monitoring data within programmes, particularly in the field of SRH/TB/HIV
- Have at least an honours degree or a degree in medicine
- Are experienced and involved in SRH or HIV research or programmes

## CERTIFICATION

Certification is dependent on complete course attendance. The course includes pre and post tests for all major modules but has no formal examination. It attracts points for continuing professional development for South African doctors. It has recognition from the University of the Witwatersrand

## COURSE ORGANISATION

The course is organised by the Reproductive Health and HIV Research Unit, in collaboration with the South African Medical Research Council, the Population Council, and has the endorsement of the World Health Organisation. The course is taught by a team of internationally respected specialists in the field of SRH and HIV from institutions which include: The Reproductive Health and HIV Research Unit, The South African Medical Research Council, The Population Council, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, The World Health Organisation and the University of the Witwatersrand, and the Perinatal HIV Unit.

## ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation and conferencing are provided in a secure and comfortable hotel, with its own business centre, in a safe area in Johannesburg with pedestrian access to banks and shopping malls, internet cafes, cinemas, churches, cafes, restaurants, the zoo and parks.

## FUNDING

Past and present funders: CIPRA-SA, DFID, Ford Foundation, GTZ, Health Systems Trust, The Population Council, The Wellcome Trust, The World Health Organisation, United Nations Population Fund Africa Division, UNFPA Ghana, Embassy of Belgium, French Embassy in South Africa, The Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa, New Zealand Aid and Fresenius Kabi. Applicants are strongly encouraged to seek funding from these and other donor organisations and their government institutions. In addition to the tuition and accommodation fees below, participants will need funds to travel and per diems. A limited number of bursaries are available, which cover fees, accommodation and some travel. A per diem may be provided as part of the bursary.

If self funded, fees are payable in advance upon notification of acceptance onto the course, and attendance on the course may not begin until fees are fully paid.

## 2006 FEES

	SA RAND	USD\$
Accommodation	18,000	2,800
Tuition	17,500	2,735