

THE 8th FINNISH CERTIFICATE COURSE IN GLOBAL HEALTH

Introduction

The 8th Finnish Certificate Course in Global Health is organised by the Finnish Medical Society Duodecim and the University of Tampere Medical School, in association with Finnish Medical Association, Finska Läkaresällskapet, National Institute for welfare and health, Medicinarklubben Thorax, Väestöliitto – the Family Federation of Finland, Finnish Medical Students' International Committee (FiMSIC), the Finnish Dental Association, Dental Society Apollonia, the Finnish Veterinary Association, and medical schools at the universities of Helsinki, Kuopio, Oulu, and Turku.

The international collaborating centres include University of the Philippines (UP), College of Medicine, Universidad de Santiago, Facultad de Medicina, Escuela de Medicina, Chile, Muhimbili University (MU), College of Health Sciences and Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania and Institute of Medicine, Tribhuvan University, Nepal.

Aims of the Course

- ❑ To increase the participants' awareness of global health problems, their geographic distribution, and factors associated with ill health
- ❑ To increase the students' knowledge on ways to assess health on the population level
- ❑ To orient the students about selected international health-related organisations and about alternative national strategies for health care provision.
- ❑ To teach basic facts about selected public health priorities
- ❑ To increase the students' capacity to study and work in multicultural, multidisciplinary, and foreign environment
- ❑ To establish and broaden an international network of students, teachers, and scientists interested in global health issues

The Course

All teaching is conducted in English. The course consists of a theoretical part (2.5 weeks) including lectures, seminars, group work and case studies.

During the practical period (1.5 - 2 weeks) the participants will attend guided tutorials and make site visits to health-related organisations and activities. Students from Chile, Nepal, the Philippines and Tanzania will do this part in Finland and the Finns in the reciprocal countries. The aim of the practical part is to strengthen the students' knowledge about the practical arrangements of selected national health-related activities.

The participants take an exam at the end of the theoretical part. They are also required to submit a written report on their findings during the practical field assignment. A passed exam and a submitted report are required for passing the course.

Contents of teaching

The course will include subjects such as:

- ◆ Child health and malnutrition
- ◆ Global distribution of health and wealth
- ◆ Health and human rights
- ◆ Health indicators
- ◆ Health care systems
- ◆ Essential drugs, vaccines and immunisations
- ◆ Epidemiology of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis
- ◆ Dental health
- ◆ Global aspects of environmental health
- ◆ International emergencies
- ◆ International medical education and career
- ◆ Mental health
- ◆ Obesity
- ◆ Sexual and reproductive health
- ◆ Tobacco-related ill health
- ◆ United Nations Organisations, international NGOs and health
- ◆ Vaccine programmes

Application procedure

In total 34 participants will be selected (16 from Finland and 18 from collaborating countries).

To fulfil the eligibility criteria of the Selection Committee, the applicant must have completed four years of medical/dental/veterinary studies. The applicant must have an excellent knowledge of written and spoken English and submitted an official Application Form completed with all required attachments via Internet (www.globalhealth.fi).

The application period starts in November 15th, 2010 and the deadline for the applications is December 12th, 2010. The list of selected students will be announced by January 15, 2011.

Funding

The course is funded by a grant from the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs/Department for International Development Co-operation, and by financial and logistical support from the organising universities, institutions and NGOs.

The course is free for students from the collaborating countries (travel, accommodation, meals, per diem). The Finnish students are requested to fund their own travel expenses to the field period destinations and a part of their living costs during the course (350 €).

Time schedule

The course will take place in Tampere, Finland from June 2nd to June 17th 2011 (theoretical part). The field work part for foreign students will be organised in various locations in Finland from June 20th to June 30th and for the Finnish students in collaborating countries from June 27th to July 8th 2011.

