



AFMC

The Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada
L'Association des facultés de médecine du Canada

The AFMC Resource Group on Global Health

Report to the AFMC Board of Directors

May 2011

AFMC Global Health Resource Group Report 2010

1. Governance and meetings

Drs. Lynda Redwood-Campbell (McMaster University) and Katherine D. Rouleau (University of Toronto) began their three-year term as co-chair of the AFMC Global Health Resource Group (GHRG) in January 2010. They replaced Dr. Tim Brewer who stepped down after leading the AFMC-GHRG through important foundational work on the topics of pre-departure training and Global Health curriculum in undergraduate medical education.

The AFMC GHRG held three teleconferences and two face-to-face meetings in 2010. Minutes of these meetings are available upon request.

The activities and discussions of the AFMC-GHRG in 2010 focused mainly on the following:

- AFMC-GHRG Strategic Plan “Refresh” in May 2010
- Response of the AFMC-GHRG to the FMEC MD Document
- Advancing pre-departure training in Canadian medical schools.

2. CCME Conference St-John’s NFLD

a. Strategic Planning Refresh for the AFMC GHRG (May 2010)

A significant portion of the yearly business meeting held in St-John’s in May 2011 was dedicated to refreshing the Terms of Reference and strategic directions of the GHRG. A one-page summary of the 5 key strategies adopted by the resource group as well as some of the related performance indicators can be found in Appendix A.

b. CCME Submission

The GHRG had submitted an abstract for a workshop during the CCME. In previous years, the Global Health Resource Group had used workshops to move some of its academic work forward, making full use of the presence of many of its members. The submission for 2010 was not accepted and as a consequence, the resource group had less time during which to further its work on Global Health curriculum.

3. Implementing the FMEC Report: How to leverage Global Health Education to meet the FMEC recommendations?

The second area of focus for the GHRG in 2010 was for members to familiarize themselves with the FMEC MD document and identify where and how Global Health Education might be leveraged to achieve some of the goals outlined in the document.

A full reflection on the possible role of global health education in achieving the FMEC MD recommendation and on the implication of FMEC MD on global health education will be delivered later in the spring of 2011.

4. Pre-departure Training

In follow up to the survey carried out in 2008, a second survey of medical schools was carried out in 2010 by Dr. Brewer and CFMS members. The goal of the survey was to assess the prevalence of pre-departure training programs in Canadian medical schools. Results of this study will be published in detail at a later date. For the purpose of this report, we note the following:

- The majority of Canadian medical schools now offer a pre-departure preparation program to their students and the program is mandatory in an increasing number of schools.
- Resources allocated to pre-departure training however remain low.
- Efforts will be made over the next few months to clarify the length, content and the extent of support and faculty involvement for the various pre-departure training programs across the country.
- More detailed information will also be gathered regarding the prevalence and content of post-return debrief efforts. Post-return debrief is now clearly recognized as an essential pedagogical component of service learning electives. A structured debrief session with returning students allows for the identification of problematic issues, both emotional and academic, while also fostering consolidation of the learning experience and deeper self-reflection.
- A subcommittee of the AFMC-GHRG was recently convened to outline a process for the various medical schools to share curriculum and ideas related to pre-departure training and post-return debrief.

5. Future Directions:

In 2011, the AFMC-GHRG intends to focus its attention on the following:

- Continued building of mechanisms and platforms to enable the sharing of GH educational resources
- Develop a blueprint for the delivery of sound pre-departure and post-return debrief sessions in all Canadian medical schools.
- Review of the GH Curriculum content document produced in 2007 with a view to align it more explicitly with the CanMeds framework
- Clarify the role and reporting process of resource groups within the AFMC (as raised during the AFMC strategic retreat of November 2010)
- Communicate clearly opportunities to leverage global health education in Canadian medical schools to enable the achievement of the FMEC MD recommendations.

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Appendix A
AFMC-GHRG Strategic Plan Refresh (2010-2013)

1. Enhance the ability of Canadian GH educators to collaborate and share scholarly resources
 - a) Clarify and enhance membership of the GHRG:
 - o Confirm members nominated by faculties of medicine (In progress)
 - o Update list of other members. (In progress)
 - o Formally invite student representation (In progress)
 - b) Create a platform and processes for communication and collaboration among Canadian GH educators (WIKI, website) (2011)
 - c) Map existing GH educational activities at each University (each AFMC GHRG representative to provide information about their own university) (2011)

2. Clarify and advance the GHRG mandate
 - Review and revise the current GHRG Terms of Reference (Completed)
 - Consensus of GHRG on 3 year strategic plan (In progress)

3. Solidify the progress made around Pre-Departure training and Post-Return Debrief
 - Sign letter regarding the inclusion of PDT for the accreditation of Canadian medical schools (Completed)
 - Complete second survey of medical schools (Completed)
 - Recommend enhanced faculty involvement in PDT (2011)
 - Identify a National resource person to support efforts around PDT and outline roles and responsibilities (Completed)
 - Identify a PDT resource person at each medical school and outline roles and responsibilities (In progress)

4. Increase the visibility and rigor of global health education in all Canadian medical schools
 - Draft report on GHE and FMEC-MD recommendations (In progress)
 - Present workshop on the above at CCME 2011 (2011)
 - * Submission to CCME declined for second consecutive year
 - Map out GH Core curriculum for undergraduate medical according to CANMEDS roles and FMEC framework (2011)
 - Include GH Curriculum as a requirement for accreditation of Canadian medical schools (2013)

5. Enhance scholarly activities related to GH Education
 - Outline a research strategy for members of the GHRG (2012)
 - Explore engagement in advocacy and policy in the context of the scholarship of application (2011)