

Minutes

APA Global Health Task Force Teleconference

April 4, 2013

Present: Drs Christiana Russ, Chuck Schubert, Cindy Howard, Donna Staton, Melanie Ansbacher, Mirzada Kurbasic, Nicole St. Clair, Suzinne Pak-Gorstein, Ruth Etzel (Chair)

Reviewed draft minutes from the March 7th teleconference of the Global Health Task Force (GHTF).

- No changes, minutes approved as is.

Discussion of draft Global Health Task Force competencies:

- Is each of these something that faculty does, rather than what they know? First draft of the competencies should be about doing rather than knowing.
- Dr Cindy Howard – Does not think these look like competencies, they look like a list of activities. Feels competencies are a behavior that brings skills, knowledge and attitude together.
- Dr Ruth Etzel – We are looking to define “competencies” for this exercise as the core abilities of a specialist in global health (an example from another specialty would be that a pediatric nephrologist needs to be able to do a renal biopsy, etc.) Then medical schools and others may choose to develop curricula that enable people to become prepared to be specialists in global health. We need to define what a specialist in global health does that is unique.
- Dr Howard – Doesn’t think we can redefine competency domains.
- Dr Etzel – Competency domains are different from competencies. The terms we use may be resulting in confusion. Perhaps instead of using the word “competencies” we should ask “What does a specialist who practices global health do? Getting rid of the terms that may confuse.
- Dr Donna Staton – are we going to try to incorporate experience? If you are trying to define what this specialist does, it implies they have some type of experience.
- Dr Melanie Ansbacher – how does this translate to what we will do at the PAS meeting? Trying to understand what we want the participants to take away from this meeting. Do we want participants to tell us what they do or what the standards should be?
- Dr Ruth Etzel – the field, like any new field, is in the process of defining itself. Part of the process that can be helpful, as we try to define the field, is to get a group of global health practitioners’ thoughts on what the “core abilities” are, those things that global health specialists are supposed to know how to do.
- Dr Ansbacher – agrees with starting from the basics, but is really concerned about the audience coming and being able to present some basic skills.

- Dr Ansbacher – not only what faculty know how to do while working out of the country, it's also what global health faculty do while stateside
- Dr Suzinne Pak-Gorstein – have you thought of broader categories (education, research, etc.)? Then you can think of what they should be able to do under those. It may be easier to start off with the categories then add to it.
- Dr Etzel – Please send suggestions within the next 3 weeks
- Melanie – should be prepared to meet the needs of the audience at the workshop. Maybe 2 subgroups, 1 looking at international settings and 1 for stateside.
- Dr St. Clair – All groups should be prepared to address both.

PAS Meeting of GHTF on Sunday, May 5 in Washington, DC

- Dr Etzel – Online program does not have updated description, asked Jennifer if it made it on time for the final program.
- Jennifer – Yes, it was submitted on time. The online program should reflect this, so she will contact the PAS office to update.
- Dr Etzel – Which international colleagues are available to attend GHTF at PAS?
- Dr Mirzada Kurbasic – Dr Jane Aceng will not make it.
- Dr Howard – Dr Margaret Nakakeeto will not make it either.
- Dr Howard – We as a task force, should try to talk to the PAS staff regarding registration fees for international colleagues.
- Dr Etzel – thinks that's a great idea. Should talk to Dr Alvin Zipursky regarding this.
- Dr Donna Staton – Dr Alvin Zipursky has actually brought this issue up to the PAS office before, a few years ago, but was not successful. Would like to get representatives from all partner organizations to get together and present to the PAS officials to make some exceptions or consideration for attendees traveling from low income countries.

How many people would be able to make a call on May 2nd, prior to PAS?

- Majority of the group, so will plan for a possible early call (8 am Eastern, 9 am Central)

Action Items:

- Jennifer to post finalized minutes from the March 7th call to the GHTF page.
- Jennifer to contact the PAS office to update the session description on the website to reflect the final one that was submitted for the final program.
- Dr Etzel to send pre-meeting conference call date and time.

- Dr Zipursky to possibly further discuss with the group, his efforts with the PAS office, in regards to making exceptions or consideration for attendees traveling from low income countries.
- Dr Vaucher to send any meetings that are going on at PAS, which are pertinent to the GHTF, to Dr Etzel, so that we may post to the GHTF page.
- Group to review GHTF page and send any suggestions to Dr Etzel or Jennifer at the APA office.
- Jennifer to get minutes out within a week, so the group can finalize the list of competencies.