

Minutes

APA Global Health Task Force Teleconference

June 6, 2013

Present: Drs Robert Bortolussi, Cliff O'Callahan, Christiana Russ, Donna Staton, Ruth Etzel (Chair)

Dr. Ruth Etzel, brief overview of PAS meeting:

- Very successful session on May 5 at the PAS meeting. Subgroups and leaders included the following:
 - Dr. Etzel & Dr. Robert Bortolussi – Health research subgroup
 - Dr. Cindy Howard, Dr. Melanie Ansbacher & Dr. Nicki St. Clair – Education subgroup
 - Dr. Yvonne Vaucher and Dr. Mirzada Kurbasic – Clinical care subgroup
 - Dr. Chandy John and Dr. Chuck Schubert– Health systems/administration subgroup
 - Each subgroup discussed competencies and created a short list of faculty competencies, which Dr. Etzel circulated to the GHTF prior to the conference call. Next step is to talk about combining the subgroup documents into a single document. It will be placed on the GHTF webpage and also revised to be suitable for submission as an article to a peer-reviewed journal.
- 4 international colleagues attended the GHTF session and participated actively in the discussion.

Next steps on the faculty competency document:

- How do we want to present these competencies?
 - Dr. Bortolussi – the discussion in the health research subgroup was wide ranging. Once they put their ideas on paper, it seemed logical to group them. They used the 4 domains suggested by the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) and the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH). The domains include 1) values/ethics; 2) roles/responsibilities for collaboration; 3) communication; and 4) teamwork and team-based research. The competencies raised during the discussion fell nicely into these 4 domains. Feedback received was that the subgroup thought it was useful. Received favorable feedback overall.
 - Dr. Christiana Russ – Education subgroup: they were torn between trying to figure out what was specific for teaching and education. Thinks their results could both be used for colleagues overseas and stateside.
 - Dr. Etzel – the idea of using domains that have already been established by AAMC and ASPH is appealing.
 - Dr. Russ -It is very helpful to use language and frameworks that have been established by others. It could be quite useful.
 - Dr. Staton – would we end up picking one framework over the other?

- Dr. Etzel – We are at the point at which we should choose one or the other framework. We wouldn't gain anything by trying to do both and it could be confusing. We're preparing one document and we want to be very clear so that people can refer to it and utilize the document in various schools of medicine and public health.
- Dr. Staton – Clarify in each subgroup how it aligns with domains identified by the AAMC/ASPH.
- Dr. Cliff O'Callahan – vouches for using a single unified document, in a format that can be compared to other published formats, or one that is widely acknowledged or recognized. The clearer, the better.
- Dr. Staton – content is most important. The format will be a nice organizing structure, but the content is what matters most.
- Dr. Etzel – There is agreement among the GHTF members on the call that we will move forward to group the competencies into the 4 domains identified by the AAMC/ASPH. Once we start combining, it will be clear how many competencies are listed more than once and we can figure out if they should be moved around in the document.
- Dr. Etzel – Will begin working on the single document and circulate for input & edits. We want reviews and comments from more than only the people at the GHTF session in Washington, D.C. We want to share draft product with others.

Next steps on soliciting opinions from those not attending the PAS meeting:

- Dr. Bortolussi – Has developed short questions that could be sent to colleagues for their responses:
 1. "Name three key abilities of a person from the developed world that help in developing a successful research collaboration?
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
 Any further comments:"
 2. "What personal characteristics of a person from the developed world may impede successful research collaboration?
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
 Any further comments:"
- Guiding principle is to try to keep the questions as simple as possible. Keep the comments brief; have them focused on specific areas. Possibly use qualitative software to receive feedback, but keep it brief. Dr. Kurbasic provided good, simple questions: What do you have to know? What do you have to be able to do? What attributes lead to personal success? Possibly look at groups in other parts of the world and see if their attitudes vary.

- It will be useful to share this with other organizations (in Europe & Canada), let them know our intentions and get some feedback and opinions.
- Dr. Staton – Child2015 listserv from the UK put out a query to their listserv and summarized their answers. Feels the email will be helpful in what we are trying to do, so will circulate to GHTF have as background thinking.
- Dr. Etzel – If we wanted to do a survey with brief questions, GHTF would need to find someone who is interested and has the time to do the qualitative data analysis.
- Dr. Bortolussi - He has someone in mind who did a previous qualitative analysis and has the appropriate expertise. She may be interested in taking on this project.
- Dr. Cliff O’Callahan – since not everyone is on the call, subgroup leaders might be approached initially to see if one of them would be able to take this on as a small research project. Suggest first reaching out to ask them.
- Dr. Etzel – We will include a request in the teleconference minutes & circulate to the GHTF, if a subgroup leader is interested and has the time, they should contact Dr. Ruth Etzel. First dibs will go to people engaged in leading the subgroup discussions on May 5. If no one volunteers, we will make a request to Bob’s aforementioned colleague in Canada.
- Dr. Bortolussi – He will check with his colleague in the meantime, to see if she would be available.
- Dr. Etzel – Will work on draft, via email, over the next 2-3 weeks to present on the next GHTF conference call.
- Dr. Bortolussi– It will become more difficult if it is circulated to a wider group of people. Suggests setting up a small writing subcommittee that will work with Dr Etzel and will help to create a draft document. Would suggest contacting the leaders of the 4 subgroups and getting 1 person from each to group to come forward and assist.
- Dr. Etzel – If subgroup leaders are busy, they can ask someone within their subgroup to participate in their place.

GHTF Website

- Keep the website an active place, very useful and informative.

Action Items:

- When the 4 subgroup documents have been combined, Dr. Etzel will circulate the document for GHTF review.
- After PAS participants have provided input, Dr. Etzel will share it with other organizations, possibly in Europe and Canada, to get their opinions and feedback.
- If you are interested and have the time to assist with the qualitative analysis of the short questions suggested by Dr Bortolussi, please notify Dr. Etzel by June 14.

- Dr. Etzel to contact leaders from each subgroup, to see if they are willing to be part of a writing subcommittee, or to recommend someone in their subgroup to participate.
- Dr. Bortolussi will contact his colleague, to see if she would be available to do a qualitative analysis, in the event that there are no GHTF volunteers.
- Dr Staton will circulate the results of the Child2015 listserv survey to the GHTF.