

Minutes  
APA Global Health Task Force Teleconference  
December 5, 2013

Present: Drs Yvonne Vaucher, Robert Bortolussi, Suzinne Pak-Gorstein, Donna Staton, Danielle Laraque, Chuck Schubert, Jon Klein, Mirzada Kurbasic, Steve Berman, David Keller, Jim Harisiades and Ruth Etzel (Chair)

1. Review of draft minutes from October 3rd teleconference

- Minutes are approved and accepted as written with the exception of a minor edit. Christen Brown will post to the GHTF webpage.

2. Report from the Canadian Society for International Health meeting in Ottawa on October 25th (Dr. Robert Bortolussi)

- Dr. Bortolussi: We were invited to host a symposium at The Canadian Society for International Health, which is an umbrella association for a number of societies associated with global health. The session was well attended, with around 50-100 people present. We received a good amount of questions and answers related to the presentation. It was presented in a global fashion and it was well accepted. We did not receive edits or revisions.
- Dr. Ruth Etzel: Can we submit for formal approval?
- Dr. Bortolussi: There is a section of global health, which is interested in education and competencies. Can bring it to the Committee in order to get advice on how to formalize it for an endorsement.
- Dr. Mirzada Kurbasic: The AAP Section on International Child Health is also interested in looking at the document and possibly endorsing it.

3. Proposal for a new book (Dr. Danielle Laraque)

- Dr. Danielle Laraque: There are many global child health books; but there is a need for a book with a main focus on education and research in global child health. The draft concept has been developed and a book proposal was submitted to the APA Board of Directors before the Board meeting last month. It might also be submitted to Elsevier, as they are the publisher for Academic Pediatrics. The draft concept, the definition, rationale, operating principles and the grounding of this as well as the domain competencies come directly from the work that the GHTF has done. The target groups are public health, medical students, and pediatricians. The reason to submit the proposal to the APA Board was because the GHTF was originally developed by the APA Board. The APA has not, however, really served as a publisher of books. The APA with some rare exceptions has not published many materials but has endorsed materials. The response received from the APA Board was “The book proposal was discussed; the APA will consider an endorsement.”
- Jim Harisiades: The AAP is also proposing a global health book to be published.
- Dr. Laraque: Yes, that book is already published but it is not directed to education or research. There are lots of books available but none focus on this distinct area that is consistent with the mission of the APA. The APA is reluctant to publish because they do not have the experience as a publisher. APA is a much smaller organization than AAP

and may not have the resources or funds to publish a book. Some materials are published by the APA, but these materials are mainly published online. An endorsement from the APA would be equally important

- Dr. Etzel: Recently attended the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association in Boston, Massachusetts and was approached by Springer, a publishing company that indicated that if the APA was not interested in publishing the book that they would be happy to publish it. Springer has a large distribution network.
- Dr. David Keller: The APA Board had a discussion and thought the book idea is a good idea, and would like to endorse it. We talked about the process the APA should go through to endorse something, but we haven't published a book since the early 1990s. We have expertise in 2 committees that can take a look at it: Education and Research. Working with Springer would be very appealing because they have the expertise and experience.
- Dr. Etzel: The copyright issue is an important one. What is APA's approach to copyright?
- Dr. Keller: The authors of the book would retain copyright. We are not looking to make money off of things, only to put the APA name in things that were reviewed by the APA.
- Dr. Laraque: The GHTF has worked diligently to develop faculty competencies in global health. Would the Task Force members be interested in contributing to the chapters? This is very much a draft and is a work in progress. We welcome expressions of interest from GHTF members who would like to consider writing or contributing to a chapter. We are pleased to have the support of the GHTF members, and any suggestions for chapters would be helpful.
- Dr. Etzel: We will circulate the draft book proposal to the Task Force members and invite them to assist with this project and especially contribute to the chapters.

4. Status of GHTF qualitative study (circulating short questions to colleagues in developing countries) – Dr. Andrew Sherman and Sanela Moraca

- Dr. Etzel: Dr. Andrew Sherman and Sanela Moraca have taken the lead on this project and have been soliciting names of colleagues to respond to a short survey. One of the main questions is "What are the strengths or good characteristics that you have seen in that of a good collaborator?" If you have connections in developing countries or names of potential participants in the qualitative survey, please contact Dr. Sherman directly.

5. Sunsetting the APA Global Health Task Force (Dr. David Keller)

- Dr. Etzel: The APA Board has asked that the GHTF be sunsetted. There is an option to possibly transition this work to another part of the APA, such as the Global Health special interest group (SIG). We need to develop a transition plan to submit to the APA Board.
- Dr. Laraque: The reason the GHTF was viewed to be important was because it formalized direct relationships with the Board. The presence of a Board member was critical and part of the Strategic Planning when we first put this Task Force together.
- Dr. Keller: We are trying to define what APA activities are and how in our government structure they have a link back to the Board. We have had 2 Strategic Planning sessions within the past 10 years. In forming a Task Force you have to include a Task Force time limit. One of the products is a sustainability plan which outlines how the activity will fit into the structures of the APA. We have Committees, Regions and SIGs. It is easiest to fit the GHTF into one of these activities. For example, we recognized the NCS as floating freely and have combined it with SIGs in order to maintain a level of coordination. We

are trying to figure out how to maintain an ongoing structure and the notion of hooking into the Global Health SIG makes sense and would be an easy thing to do. We need to make sure it has a direct line to the Board.

- Dr. Etzel: This is extremely helpful. Thoughts from the Global Health SIG co-Chairs?
- Dr. Pak-Gorstein: I am curious about how much of the GHTF's work is aligned with the mission and plan for the APA, the timing especially. Would the Task Force last longer to fulfill some strategy? Is this a time transition?
- Dr. Keller: The new policy on Task Forces is that they can last no longer than 3 years. A challenge is lasting longer than this. There is a difference between the Task Force and the work. I think in general the promotion of research and education in global health is consistent with APA's long-term mission. We are cleaning up in a sense. An example of a previous project that was in a similar position was the Ambulatory Pediatrics Curriculum Project. This was a project done by a Task Force and when they wanted to upgrade, they lacked the governmental structure.
- Dr. Laraque: Reviewed the GHTF minutes from October 2010, where we clearly identified that global health is included in the APA Strategic Plan. We did this up front to make sure we were aligned with the Board.
- Dr. Keller: I can circulate a copy of the most recent APA Strategic Plan and additional APA policies to the GHTF members.
- Dr. Pak-Gorstein: Is this the right time to sunset on the GHTF given as it has just developed fantastic competencies? One mission of the APA is to develop tools for developing skills and the book would help to complement this mission. The Global Health SIG would like to support the Task Force as much as possible but just wondering about the timing as the Task Force is quite active at carrying out plans.
- Dr. Keller: You would have to propose it as a new Task Force within the APA Guidelines for Task Forces. A plan and proposal for sun setting must also be included to present to the Board. We need to bring our structures in alignment and now that we have this structure, we need to sunset older Task Forces.
- Dr. Donna Staton: When talking about the APA activities and structures: Committees, Regions and SIGs, could there be a Global Region? This is so important that it almost deserves something above and beyond a SIG; possibly a new Region.
- Dr. Keller: This is an interesting proposal to think about. We have a number of international members who do not fit into the regions of the United States or Canada. This does provide an example of how complicated it could get but think it through and prepare a proposal in order to move forward. We have a new Chair of Membership and Regions, Dr Cindy Osman, and it would be good to work with her on this proposal.
- Dr. Laraque: We don't want to lose the effort regarding global health activities that are relative to the APA mission but we could roll this out. A lot of people have dedicated their time and work to the Task Force and we don't want to lose the essence of work that has been completed. We would like to maintain an identity, even if as a SIG or as a Region.
- Dr. Keller: We greatly appreciate and value the work of the GHTF and its members.
- Dr. Vaucher: This is very important and it is critical to not lose the momentum of the GHTF.
- Dr. Etzel: Acknowledges there is widespread agreement that this important work should continue and we will need to think creatively in order to develop a plan regarding the future of the GHTF.
- Dr. Staton: Extending the Task Force would be the simplest thing to do, but we will eventually be faced with this decision again in a couple of years.

6. Plans for meeting at the PAS in Vancouver (May 2014) – Dr. Ruth Etzel

- Dr. Etzel: We do not have a firm answer yet from the PAS office, but the GHTF is tentatively planning to meet on Sunday morning, May 4<sup>th</sup>.

7. Pediatrics in Disasters Course

- Dr. Steve Berman: We went live with the online “Pediatrics in Disasters” course. I would be happy to provide a complimentary password to the course to any GHTF member who is interested in reviewing it. We have made this available to physicians in Asia and Africa. If people think it would be helpful for the global health track, we can make arrangements to have the program available to others.
- Dr. Kurbasic: This could be something that global health educators can look at.

**Action Items:**

- Christen Brown will revise and post approved minutes of October 3, 2013 call to the Global Health Task Force website.
- Dr. Laraque/Dr. Etzel will distribute the draft concept for the book on global health education and research to the GHTF members. Please respond to Dr. Etzel with additional comments or interest in helping to write or review chapters.
- All to continue to directly provide names and email addresses to Dr. Sherman of international colleagues to participate in the qualitative survey.
- Dr. Keller will distribute the APA Strategic Plan, Policy and Procedure for APA Support of Core Activities, APA Task Force Proposal Guidelines and Intellectual Property Policy documents to the GHTF members.
- All will consider the future of the GHTF and the possible proposal and plan to present to the Board.
- Dr. Etzel will update GHTF members when time slot for GHTF meeting at PAS 2014 is finalized.
- Members to contact Dr. Berman directly if interested in receiving a complimentary password to the online “Pediatrics in Disasters” course.