



TRAUMA & GLOBAL HEALTH BULLETIN

<http://www.mcgill.ca/trauma-globalhealth>

february 2009

features

Nepal Hosts Trauma & Global Health Training



Course participants and facilitators in Nepal

The *Third International Course on Trauma and Global Health* was held from March 3 to 9, 2009, as part of the capacity building objective of the Trauma & Global Health Program in Nepal. The course sought to develop a broader understanding of psychological trauma, social and cultural psychiatry, and met an important need in Nepal, where decades of armed conflict and natural disasters have caused considerable social and psychic suffering, but where mental health remains the least prioritized sector of health care. The course was attended by thirty-two participants, primarily psychiatrists and senior faculty members in psychology.

The program was the result of a collaborative effort between the Centre for Victims of Torture (CVICT), the Institute of Medicine at Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital (IOM-TUTH), and the Douglas Hospital Research Centre (DHRC)/McGill University. Professors Duncan Pedersen, Laurence Kirmayer and Jaswant Guzder from McGill University and Professor VD Sharma, Dr. Bhogendra Sharma and Mark Jordans from Nepal facilitated the course.

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in brief

Sri Lanka Organizes Workshop on Wellbeing

As part of the capacity building and knowledge transfer objectives of the Trauma & Global Health Program, the People's Rural Development Association (PRDA) held a workshop on Wellbeing, Mental Health & Community Care at the National Institute of Mental Health in Angoda, March 24 – 25, 2009. The workshop aimed at disseminating the results of research carried out in Sri Lankan communities profoundly affected by conflict and disaster. It also provided a forum for discussion about community-based mental health services that are considered culturally appropriate and socially acceptable to rural Sri Lankan communities. Mental health professionals and community workers involved in mental health and psychosocial care activities were in attendance.

New Web Collaboration Tool

McGill University is in the process of choosing a new web collaboration tool. Marratech was purchased by Google and will be phased out by the end of the year. A new web tool is expected to be launched in September. This and other communications issues will be discussed at the

Trauma & Global Health Program meeting in Montreal at the end of April.

Upcoming Book on Mental Health and Wellbeing in Sri Lanka

An upcoming book by Trauma & Global Health Program team members Chamindra Weerackody and Suman Fernando presents a unique study of mental health and wellbeing as defined by two Sri Lankan communities with distinct experiences of either conflict (Puttalam District, home to a significant population of internally displaced Muslims) or natural disaster (Hambantota District, devastated by the 2004 tsunami). In addition to sharing insights that will be of special interest to policymakers, the authors propose a training program for relief workers in areas affected by conflict and natural disasters and further suggest a model for developing community-based mental health services in rural areas of countries such as Sri Lanka. The book's editors are Gameela Samarasinghe, Senior Lecturer in Psychology at Colombo University in Sri Lanka and Hanna Kienzler, PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology at McGill University in Canada.

Feature Interview on IDRC Website

An interview with Trauma & Global Health Program team members Duncan Pedersen, Victor Lopez, and Marina Piazza is now available on the International Development Research Centre website. To read the article entitled "New Prescription for Traumatic Times," please visit http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-134667-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html.

Oxfam America Reports on Sri Lanka Team's Study

For recent reports on the Trauma and Global Health Program's work in Sri Lanka, please visit <http://www.oxfamamerica.org/whatwedo/emergencies/fieldstudies/news-publications/one-researcher-method-asks-the-people-who-know-best> and <http://www.oxfamamerica.org/whatwedo/emergencies/fieldstudies/news-publications/with-goods-replaced-tsunami-survivors-search-for-well-being>.



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in brief

Montreal Lecture on Family Planning in Peru

On February 17, Raul Necochea, PhD candidate at McGill University, did a presentation on "Social Networks in the History of Abortion in Peru, 1880s-1970s" as part of the Trauma & Global Health Program Lecture Series. His dissertation research deals with social aspects of abortion in Peru between the end of the War of the Pacific in the 1880s and the establishment of the first family planning government policy in the 1970s. In his presentation, Necochea discussed select preliminary findings based on archival research in Peru's two largest coastal cities, Lima and Trujillo.

TGH Program Represented at Central American Psychiatry Conference

Two Trauma & Global Health Program members participated in the Congress of the Central American Association of Psychiatry in Guatemala City, March 16-21, 2009. Duncan Pederesen presented a paper entitled "Explorando las fronteras entre la violencia, el trauma psicológico y la salud global" and Victor Lopez served as moderator.

Congratulations to Recently Selected International Fellows

The entire Trauma & Global Health Program team would like to congratulate this year's Summer Student Fellowship recipients. Anup Chandra Poudel holds two Masters degrees in Rural Development and Business Studies from Tribhuvan University in Nepal. Anup is currently the Project Coordinator for Psychosocial Support in Emergency in Saptari and Sunsari with the Centre for Victims of Torture (CVICT). Ganga Laxmi Awal holds a Masters degree in Sociology and Anthropology from Tribhuvan University in Nepal. She is currently the Executive Director of the Centre for Victims of Torture (CVICT). Anup and Ganga have both received a one-month fellowship to attend the Summer Program in Social and Cultural Psychiatry and the Advanced Study Institute in Montreal.

HINARI Links Researchers to Health Literature

The HINARI Programme, set up by WHO together with major publishers, enables developing countries to gain access to one of the world's largest collections of biomedical and health literature. Over 6200 journal titles are now available to health institutions in 108

countries, areas and territories benefiting many thousands of health workers and researchers, and in turn, contributing to improved world health. Local, not-for-profit institutions in two groups of countries may register for access to the journals through HINARI. The country lists are based on GNI per capita (World Bank figures, 2006). Institutions in countries with GNI per capita below \$1250 are eligible for free access. Institutions in countries with GNI per capita between \$1250-\$3500 pay a fee of \$1000 per year / institution. For more information, please visit <http://www.who.int/hinari/en/>.

what's new?

Have something to share with the rest of the team? Send your news and feedback to Ms. Tamsyn Farr at tamsyn.farr@gmail.com



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events

March 18-21, 2009

Taller: Investigación cualitativa: uso de métodos cualitativos y técnicas para el análisis de datos (International Course on Qualitative Research Methods) **Guatemala City, Guatemala**

A course consisting of training in the use of qualitative methods for research and data analysis.

April 2-3, 2009

Conference on Wellbeing and Development in Sri Lanka **Colombo, Sri Lanka**

For further details contact Mihiri Ferdinando, SPARC, Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo.

April 2-4, 2009

Curso Internacional sobre Violencia y su Impacto en la Salud (International Course on Violence and its Impact on Health) **Lima, Peru**

For more information, please visit <http://www.acadnacmedicina.org.pe> or email academia.nac@speedy.com.pe.

April 22-27, 2009

Trauma & Global Health Program Third Management Committee Meeting & Annual Meeting **Montreal, Canada**

For information, please contact Consuelo Errázuriz at consuelo.errazuriz@mail.mcgill.ca.

April 30 - May 1, 2009

Advanced Study Institute: Child, Family, and Community Mental Health in Cultural Context **Montreal, Canada**

For more information, please visit <http://www.mcgill.ca/tcpsych/training/advanced/2009/>.

May 4 - June 1, 2009

Summer Program in Social and Cultural Psychiatry **Montreal, Canada**

For more information, please visit <http://www.mcgill.ca/tcpsych/training/summer/>.