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features

→ helping to heal a shaken nation: program responds to Peruvian earthquake



On the evening of August 15th, an earthquake rocked Peru's coastal areas 300 kilometers south of Lima. Registering at nearly 8.0 on the Richter scale, the quake killed over 550, injured more than 1000,

and made some 100,000 people homeless. In collaboration with the Peruvian Ministry of Health (PAHO), local organizations, and NGOs, the Trauma and Global Health Program is pitching in with the relief efforts by sponsoring training workshops for mental health workers from the areas of Cañete, Pisco, Chinchá and Ica in catastrophe intervention on September 20-21 and October 1-6. Local and international experts on the psychological and social consequences of disasters and intervention models will be participating.



notes from the field: Peru

It's almost midnight here in Lima. I'm just back from visiting the cities and villages hit by the devastating earthquake. The scale of the tragedy is overwhelming... but it is comforting to see the ongoing massive effort of countries, from Cuba to Argentina, and the brigades of health workers, voluntary agencies (i.e. Clowns without Borders) and many humanitarian organizations involved in delivering relief services, including mental health services at the most basic level. I'm pleased to report that the Trauma and Global Health Program has been actively involved in providing both technical and financial support to these efforts from the very beginning, to these extremely poor, courageous and resilient men, women and children survivors of the earthquake.

- Duncan Pedersen, Canada Team Leader



notes from the field: Sri Lanka

I recently visited Alankuada, home to many refugee families. While about 65% have bought private land and are living in temporary or semi-permanent houses, 35% remain in camps. A majority were once farmers or fishermen, but land is scarce in Alankuada and many are dependent on casual labour. Men find little agricultural work, as local soil is sandy and light. Some women grow vegetables, but migrated to the Middle East, looking for work. Refugee families also experience social problems such as sexual abuse in camps, teenage marriages, drug abuse, and school dropouts. However, about 10% of the families have decided not to return to their original villages even if the security situation improves, as they have almost integrated into the host communities.

- Chamindra Weerackody, Sri Lanka Team Leader

features

→ Sri Lankan team studies family well-being



region of Hambantota, four full-day sessions involving 15 participants each were held in the tsunami affected communities of Mawella and Pahajjawa in collaboration with NGO partner Basic Needs. Field work is set to start in early November in the Eastern region of Batticaloa, where Team Leader Chamindra Weerackody has trained researchers to conduct the same study in one tsunami affected community and one conflict affected community. In Puttalam, the North-Western province, researchers are working to identify internally displaced communities. Because of security concerns, research in the northern region of Jaffna has been put on hold.

The Trauma and Global Health Program's Sri Lankan team has begun its first round of qualitative research on family well-being in tsunami and conflict affected areas. In the Southern

→ call for fellowship candidates

Time to start looking for this year's Summer Students' Fellowships and In-Service Research & Training scholarship candidates! Opportunities are offered for candidates from Guatemala, Nepal, Peru, and Sri Lanka wishing to strengthen knowledge and skills in mental health research (clinical, ethnographic and epidemiological) as applied to populations exposed to episodic natural disasters and protracted violence.

Every year, our fellows take part in the annual Summer Program in Social and Cultural Psychiatry, as well as the McGill Advanced Study Institute in Cultural Psychiatry, an intensive three-day programme on a topic related to ongoing faculty research activities in social and cultural psychiatry. The theme for 2008 is of special interest to Trauma and Global Health Program researchers and will address "Peace, Conflict and Reconciliation: Contributions of Cultural Psychiatry." More information about our summer program will be posted in the coming months to:

www.mcgill.ca/tcpsych/training/summer



TRAUMA & GLOBAL HEALTH QUARTERLY

october 2007

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

fellows' notes

I welcomed the combination of structure and flexibility that was a hallmark of the Fellowship. The summer courses were rigorous and met the expectations of a demanding but superior quality study: the following two months allowed me greater opportunity to be self-motivated and self-directional in the types of work and activities that I chose for myself.

- Varuni Ganepola, Sri Lanka Fellow, In-Service Research & Training Scholarship, May-July 2007

My ultimate hope is that McGill will extend its summer course every year and provide further scholarships for people in the third world who get so few chances to attend such excellent sessions. I am now in Colombo, pursuing my Diploma course in psychiatry until June 2008.

- Judy Ramesh Jayekumar, Sri Lanka Fellow, Summer Student Fellowship, May 2007

in brief

→ program website launched

Last month, we launched the official Trauma and Global Health Program website, available at www.mcgill.ca/trauma-globalhealth. Check back soon for new Country sections where you will be able to post updates on your activities and exchange ideas. As we are continuously expanding the site and adding content, we welcome your input and feedback. Please e-mail any comments, suggestions, or corrections to Ms. Tamsyn Farr at tamfoolery@gmail.com.

→ access to McGill libraries online

Trauma and Global Health Program team members now have one-year, renewable passes to McGill Libraries Online. Up-to-the-minute research in full-text, electronic format is available at your fingertips through McGill's article indexes and databases, such as MEDLINE, ProQuest, and PsycINFO. Thank you to Duncan,

Annie and the Trauma and Global Health team at the Douglas Hospital for their perseverance, as well as to the people of the Network and Communications Services (NCS) at McGill who were attentive to our needs.

→ charting the course in Peru and Guatemala

Our teams in Peru and Guatemala have submitted their workplans and partnership agreements. Thank you and congratulations for your dedication and hard work!

→ trip to Nepal rescheduled

Due to the Teasdale Corti meeting to be held this November in Ottawa, the McGill team's visit to Nepal has been postponed to early February 2008.

→ WHO Geneva launches IASC guidelines on mental health and psychosocial support in emergency settings

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings were launched last month, identifying the essential first steps toward protecting mental health and providing psychosocial support in the midst of emergencies. Combining the efforts and input of 27 agencies and hundreds of expert practitioners, the Guidelines describe a multi-sectoral, inter-agency framework that enables effective coordination, identifies useful practices, flags potentially harmful practices and clarifies how different approaches to mental health and psychosocial support complement one another. The Guidelines and other resources are available for download from <http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/content/products/default.asp>



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what's new?

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

calendar

→ october 22, 2007 funding opportunities for LMIC members – Canada

GHRI Career Development Awards: The Global Health Research Initiative (GHRI) has just launched the second component of the Teasdale-Corti Global Health Research Partnership Program (The Global Health Leadership Awards). These are career development awards offered by GHRI to LMIC individuals. Registration due: October 22, 2007. For more information please visit <http://www.idrc.ca> or contact: TCgrant@idrc.ca

→ november 7-9, 2007 Teasdale Corti forum – Ottawa, Canada

The funding agencies lead by IDRC are hosting a meeting with all 13 Teasdale-Corti teams in Ottawa. Duncan Pedersen has been invited to become involved in the discussion of the agenda for meeting. Team leaders from Guatemala, Peru and Nepal, as well as two from McGill, will represent our team.

→ january 20-26, 2008 trauma and global health second international course – Colombo, Sri Lanka

Six members of McGill department of Psychiatry will be travelling to Sri Lanka to participate in a 3-day Transcultural Psychiatry International Course and a 3-day Workshop on Qualitative Research methods. The courses will be offered consecutively, in order to open registration of both the course and the workshop to all participants. We expect a registration of no less than 60 full-time participants in the course and no less than 40 in the workshop.