

APACPH Regional Office of the Americas (APACPH-ROA)

Dr. Andy Johnson, Regional Office Director
Professor and Dean, School of Community and Global Health
Claremont Graduate University

&

Professor Emeritus, University of Southern California

Report from November 1, 2008 – July 31, 2009

Associate Professor Paula Palmer, APACPH Program Committee Director
Project Specialist, Ms. Cevadne Lee, Coordinator
James Pike, Film maker and media specialist

APACPH-ROA-initiated and related activities to stimulate research projects and training programs and opportunities between APACPH member institutions over the past 9 months have included:

1. APACPH-funded post-tsunami study: Level 1 (demographic) and Level 2 (psychosocial) data have been received from both sites. Analysis is currently underway with submission of first paper anticipated to be submitted for publication by early fall. Preliminary findings indicate that after nearly 5 years many victims report they live in homes that still either need to be rebuilt or at least require substantial repairs. In Sri Lanka, levels of psychological distress have decreased over the years but in impacted areas remain higher than for controls. In Kerala, the tsunami project has resulted in a community training program for lay counselors supported by local psychiatrists. This, in response to lingering psychological and family adjustment issues.
2. Dr. Palmer visited Rykhus University in January as a guest lecturer in a global health seminar series at the invitation of Dr. Hokama.
3. Dr. Indika Karunathilake visited the Claremont School of Community and Global Health for several weeks to work on a distance learning project (the virtual global health classroom) as part of the Pacific Rim Fogarty Framework, which also includes Mahidol University, Achutha Menon, NIPSOM, and Eastern University.
4. Continuation of our Pacific Rim Global Health Framework grant from the U.S. National Institutes of Health. We are currently in year two of our three year grant to support the development of global health interdisciplinary training and research programs across APACPH-member institutions and other public health partner institutions in Bangladesh (NIPSOM), China (Sichuan University), India (ACHMSS), Sri Lanka (U of Colombo & Eastern University), and Thailand (Mahidol).

5. Delivery of second year tobacco and alcohol abuse prevention interventions and collection of data as part of the continuing NIH-sponsored trial in Chengdu, China, with participation of faculty and students from Sichuan University- School of Public Health (APACPH member)
6. Participation in and presentations at the APRU World Institute (AWI) Public Health Research Forum meeting hosted by the University of Singapore November 10-11. The objective of this meeting was to begin to identify non-communicable disease prevention and control research for collaboration. Several APACPH member institutions are founding members of the AWI Public Health Research Forum.
7. Participation in and presentations at the Stanford University-hosted Public Health Research Forum meeting February 23-27. A pilot project and four research projects were selected to be championed by Singapore National University, Stanford, University of Sidney, Tokyo University, and Claremont Graduate University, all but CGU APACPH members.
8. Participation in and presentations at the Johns Hopkins University-hosted Public Health Research Forum meeting June 23-26. Projects were finalized and a collaborative position paper on the need for research in non-communicable diseases and their prevention in the API region was agreed upon with Dr. Johnson taking the lead.