regulations in the United States and Europe, IVUmed, a nonprofit organization, has for 20 years supported urological educational programs in >30 LMICs by coordinating a network of U.S. and international academic and private individuals, institutions, industry, and professional societies. IVUmed’s motto, “Teach One, Reach Many” has emphasized a teach-the-teacher approach.

Structure/Method/Design: The most limited resources for collaborative surgical training are time and administrative support. For most academic training departments even in wealthy countries, small numbers of specialized faculty mean that each has a very limited time available to train surgeons in poor countries. In order to maximize the short time available for teaching, IVUmed has developed:

1. Long-term MOUs with partner programs in LMICs
2. Expert training teams including surgeons, anesthesiologists, and nurses
3. Specific objectives for training based on procedure or problem or type of patients
4. Scholarships for American residents to build sustainable leadership through experience working in LMICs during training.
5. Close relationships with regional, national, and international urological associations such as the American Urological Association, the Societe Internationale d’Urologie, the Pan African Urological Surgeons Association, and the Societe Haitien d’Urologie.
6. Telemedicine support for interim case conferences and training between workshops.

Results (Scientific Abstract)/Collaborative Partners (Programmatic Abstract): IVUmed partner sites have built sustainable training programs to address common and complex urological problems. Reconstructive surgery of children and adults lends itself well to short-term training. Endoscopic surgery for stone and prostatic disease is more difficult and cancer care is most challenging because the need for radiology and pathology and medical oncology, in partner sites.

Summary/Conclusion: Successful collaborations for surgical training benefit from dedicated nonprofit involvement to coordinate volunteers, maintain standards of education and research, and to leverage support from consortia of institutions, industry, and individuals.

Empowering Armenia: Implementation of collaborative diabetes outreach project in Armenia

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Background: Multidisciplinary collaborative diabetes outreach project developed and piloted in four regions of Armenia. Aim was to raise awareness about type 2 diabetes and provide educational materials and seminars for general population and health care providers. 

Structure/Method/Design: The project utilized seminar and health fair formats. The health fair portion provided a validated type 2 diabetes risk assessment and education materials through stations and personal interaction. Diabetes health promotion and educational materials covered topics on hypertension, diet, nutrition, body mass index, and exercise.

The seminar portion of the project was divided into two groups: population and health care providers. The population seminar focused on raising awareness about risks factors and prevention of type 2 diabetes, and provided strategies for effective management and complication prevention. The health care provider seminar shared tools and approaches for early diagnosis and prevention of type 2 diabetes and health complications. Seminars introduced risk assessments and diabetes management tools in Armenian that can be used in provider’s practices to educate patients about prevention and management of type 2 diabetes. Both provider and population seminars were conducted in the four regions visited. All materials were created, evaluated, and translated into Armenian by the Global Health Armenia program at the University of Utah and the Yerevan State Medical University Division of Public Health.

Results (Scientific Abstract)/Collaborative Partners (Programmatic Abstract): Global Health Armenia, University of Utah, Health Ministry of Armenia, Yerevan State Medical University Division of Public Health. Students from both universities played an active role in developing and implementing this project.

Summary/Conclusion: The diabetes outreach project was well received by the general population and health care providers. Providers were eager to participate in seminars and trainings. They appreciated health information handouts that were prepared in Armenian and found them very valuable. The providers asked for additional handouts for their practice to distribute to their patients. The general population were engaged and eager to attend the health fair and seminars.

With the limited knowledge about the baseline understanding of diabetes in Armenia, developing specific program was challenging. There is a need for more health education training and seminars for type 2 diabetes. Hands-on activities should be incorporated into seminars and additional type 2 diabetes materials should be developed to address the type 2 diabetes health disparity.

Training young Russian physicians in Uganda—A unique program for introducing global health education in Russia

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Background: The concept of global health as a discipline is new in Russia. The collaboration among the departments of medicine of Yale School of Medicine, Makerere University College of Health Sciences, and Kazan State Medical University (KSMU) began in 2010, Western Connecticut Health Network joined in 2012, to introduce the concept of global health to a Russian medical university and to familiarize participants with the practice of medicine in culturally different, resource-limited settings.

Structure/Method/Design: Participants were chosen among a competitive pool of applicants based on their class standing, global health knowledge and experience, English-language skills, cultural sensitivity, motivation, and an interview by members of KSMU Global Health Office. Participants underwent orientation sessions before the rotation. During the 6-week elective, participants, in addition to clinical responsibilities, had didactic sessions on common diseases of Uganda, classes in the health care system and medical education in Uganda, and weekend trips to historical sites. Upon return, participants presented their experience repeatedly to different audiences to increase awareness of and interest in global health. Recently, a standard questionnaire aimed at understanding the program’s impact was sent to all previous participants.