

and create similar means of involvement of civil society in settings where they hold a privileged position to do so.

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Students for global oncology: Building a movement for student education and engagement in an emerging field

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Program/Project Purpose: Increased recognition of the global cancer burden and inequalities in care and outcomes have led to the growing field of global oncology, focused on strengthening health systems to improve cancer prevention and care. Motivated students and trainees are in need of pathways to approach these challenges. In 2012, Harvard Medical students formed Students for Global Oncology (S4GO), an adjunct to the larger inter-professional organization Global Oncology. The group had three aims: 1) connect students with mentors in the field, 2) develop novel approaches in global oncology, and 3) disseminate global oncology knowledge.

Structure/Method/Design: S4GO has created content and organized events to increase awareness about the global cancer burden, while promoting trainee opportunities in research and practical hands-on projects. Engagement was enhanced by mentorship from more senior students and faculty, to interface with existing global oncology projects.

Outcomes & Evaluation: Since 2012, S4GO has grown from two to 68 students. Currently, new chapters at seven other institutions in the US and Canada are being developed. As of October 2014, S4GO has developed a case-based cancer care delivery curriculum with six case-based seminars, along with numerous blog entries and interviews of leading researchers in the field of global oncology, all available on the S4GO website. Students have completed projects in over nine countries and are actively involved in technological and on-the-ground efforts to develop creative solutions and collaborations aimed at easing the global cancer burden. Held in February 2014, the inaugural student-led global oncology symposium involved 200 individuals from across the world, including leaders in global health, pharmaceutical industry, public policy and cancer care. This symposium has been viewed by hundreds online and has fostered novel collaborations and projects focused on enhancing cancer care delivery.

Going Forward: In the coming years, S4GO will continue efforts to build awareness and catalyze creative solutions for cancer care in resource-limited settings. These efforts will increase exposure for

novel and successful student efforts as well as intra-institutional and intra-professional activity.

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Competency-based continuing education for nurses in Lesotho

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Program/Project Purpose: Lesotho suffers from both a heavy burden of infectious disease and poor human resources for health. Lesotho has the third highest HIV prevalence rate (23.3%) and fifth highest tuberculosis incidence rate worldwide. As a result, life expectancy at birth has fallen to 48 years for the Basotho population. District hospitals are staffed by limited numbers of physicians, and health centers are completely staffed and run by nurses. Nurses account for 90% of all personnel providing health services in the country. The Lesotho-Boston Health Alliance (LeBoHA), operating through Boston University, has partnered with the IZUMI Foundation since 2009 to support and strengthen the clinical skills of Lesotho's nurses.

Structure/Method/Design: During the first phase (2009-2012), our team established a competency-based continuing education training program for nurses in the Leribe district of Lesotho. The pilot project created a competency-based curriculum and implemented a cascade-training model that trained nurse participants in four primary health center sites. The nurses from the four primary health center sites then trained nurse participants from four secondary health center sites for a total of eight participating health centers. A nurse from the Motebang District Hospital outpatient department was included in the training, linking health center-based care to the district hospital. Our second phase of the project (2012-2014) expanded the program to eight additional health centers in the Leribe district, for a total of 16 centers. One nurse was trained at each of the eight expansion health centers, and follow-up mentorship visits were continuously made to the original eight health centers from the first phase. Both phases of training established a system for the continuing education of community-based nurses which has been recognized and supported by the Ministry of Health.

Outcomes & Evaluation: Our competency-based program was approved by the government for continuing professional development (CPD) credit, allowing nurses in our program to obtain CPD points necessary for re-licensure, making our program the first formal CPD-approved continuing education program for health professionals in the country. In addition, we also saw an improvement in nurses' clinical knowledge and confidence, improvement in nurses' clinical documentation, and strengthened clinical mentoring for nurses. These changes were measured through pre and post knowledge assessments, self-reported nurse confidence surveys, review of patient records, and a mentoring survey.

Going Forward: In partnership with the Lesotho Nursing Council and the Nursing Directorate in the Ministry of Health, we plan to expand the program to additional clinics as well as focus on improving nurses' maternal health clinical skills with the goal of increasing the percent of safe deliveries performed at a health center.