

14th World Congress of Bioethics and 7th National Bioethics Conference

PRE – CONGRESS WORKSHOP

Developing a contemporary public health ethics curriculum for post graduate education and community health in India

Organiser: Society for Community Health Awareness, Research and Action (SOCHARA)

Date: December 4, 2018, 9 am to 1.30 pm

Venue: Annexe 3 Board Room, St John's Medical College Campus, Bengaluru

Co-Organisers

- a. Society for Community Health Awareness Research and Action (SOCHARA)
Bengaluru
Thelma Narayan, Director Academics and Health Policy Action
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- b. Division of Health and Humanities, St. John's Research Institute, St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bengaluru
Mario Vaz, Professor of Physiology and Head Division of Health and Humanities
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- c. Azim Premji University (APU), Bengaluru
Arima Mishra, Professor, School of Development, Azim Premji University
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- d. Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Public Health (RGIPH), Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) - Drs Pallavi, Allen Ugargol and Ram Mohan Madhav.
- e. Mala Ramanathan (<http://ijme.in/working-editors-of-ijme-mala/>)
- f. Anuradha Rose, CMC Vellore (anurose@cmcvellore.ac.in).
- g. Nobhojit Roy, nobsroy@gmail.com, Neha Madhivala and Rakhi Ghoshal (formerly with the Centre for Studies on Ethics and Rights, Mumbai)

Participants from the Public Health Education Network in Bengaluru and others from the Congress who are interested will be welcome to join the event. A preparatory meeting of the public health education network will be held in Bengaluru in November 2018.

Contact details

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Target audience

20-30 (max. 40) key persons from multi-disciplinary backgrounds involved with post-graduate education of health and development professionals will participate in the meeting. Collective work on a draft document that outlines the proposed curriculum will be undertaken prior to the Conference by the co-organisers of the preconference event. This document will be finalised after the event and shared widely, thus reaching a larger number of stakeholders involved with teaching learning processes in public health ethics.

Session format

1.	Time	Activity with details	Point person/s
2.	9.00- 9.15am	Registration	Sochara team
3.	9.15-9.30 am	Welcome, Introductions, Sharing expectations	Mario Vaz
4.	9.30-9.40 am	Objectives and overview of the workshop	Thelma Narayan
5.	9.45-10.00 am	The teaching of public health ethics in India – a bird's eye view highlighting issues requiring attention	Mala Ramanathan
6.	10.00-10.45 am	Issues arising from institutional experiences, including teaching learning methods used: CMC Vellore RGUHS-RGIPH 3 year MPH course Azim Premji University	Anuradha Rose Pallavi/Allen/Ram Mohan Arima Mishra
7.	10.45-11.00 am	Other experiences and comments	All
8.	11.00-11.15 am	Tea Break	
9.	11.15 am – 12.15pm	Small group work	
10.	12.15 pm -1pm	Small group reports with discussion	Chair from the group
11.	1.00-1.30 pm	Concluding session	Neha Madhivala, Rakhi Ghosal

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There are broadly three components to the half day workshop:

- (a) Short presentations will raise issues and stimulate discussions, based on the draft document and experiences with critical learnings from institutions that have initiated teaching modules in public health ethics.
- (b) The work in small groups on the document and on questions or issues raised will endeavour to:
- Ensure that the proposed curriculum outline is comprehensive and does not omit critical issues in an Indian context;
 - Outline optimal teaching-learning methods linked to the specific elements of the curriculum
 - Integrate the ethics curriculum with the existing public health and community health curricula;
 - Highlight opportunities for the ‘practice’ of public health ethics.
- (c) Concluding session– bringing together the key points from the day.

Background, rationale and overview

One of the obligations of and challenges to global bioethics is to evolve a socially relevant, context specific, curriculum for public health ethics in an unequal world. Textbooks for public health ethics and literature in the English language have been available from the Association of Schools of Public Health, USA, Europe, Australia; WHO SEARO; and SEAPHEIN. But with rapid academic growth of the discipline, the huge challenges and barriers in realising the goal of Health for All continue to exist, with widening health inequalities within and between countries.

Scholar activists working towards Health for All joined forces through the People’s Health Movement and other social formations. Campaigns at local, national and global levels addressing injustice and lack of fairness in access both to health determinants and to healthcare have been increasing. However, most health science graduates and post graduates have little or no exposure to the larger debates and campaigns and struggles of people for the basic determinants of health or access to healthcare. Moral reasoning and ethical underpinning of health activism is kept away from young minds. It is in this larger context that the session will specifically focus on curriculum development processes for the learning of public health and community health ethics by post graduates. Case studies and life stories from the real world will support modules to understand the ethical questions and dilemmas that need to be discussed and addressed. An initial bibliography and list of films used to generate discussion on ethical questions will be prepared. Besides the ‘what’ of public health ethics, ‘how to’ facilitate its learning will be addressed ie, there would be a focus on issues, content and teaching learning methodology (pedagogy). The scope and need for cross-cultural understanding allowing multiple, differing perspectives to be in conversation with each other can be explored.

Recently, in India, short courses and modules on public health ethics have been developed. The RGIPH three-year MPH (Hon.) programme offers a five-credit course over three weeks on Public Health Law, Ethics and Rights. APU has an optional module on Public Health Ethics for

their Master's in Development Studies students who opt for the Health stream. However, these two important initiatives are not the norm. Interaction with postgraduates and young professionals from the health sciences from several other Universities reveals a huge gap in knowledge about bioethics and public health ethics.

The proposed background document, to be developed collectively, will be a small step to fill this gap. The output will be the document, discussions and networking. Participants can then take it further based on the energy that gets generated.

Logistical requirements

A non-AC room with LCD facilities where 2-3 small groups of 8-10 persons can meet for the break-out sessions.

Paper, Pens; Drinking Water; Tea and biscuits

Funding

SOCHARA has received a small grant for this workshop from Misereor, Germany.

Conflicts of Interest

None (Two persons are members of the Congress Organising Committee- Dr. Thelma and Dr. Mario).
