Low cost tube thoracostomy model for training in resource poor settings

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Program/Project Purpose: Tube thoracostomy is an integral procedure in trauma training. The Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) and Primary Trauma Care courses both include chest tube insertion stations. Advanced simulators such as TraumaMan are available, but are often cost prohibitive, particularly in resource-poor settings. Here we introduce a new low-cost tube thoracostomy model made out of widely available five-gallon water jugs.

Structure/Method/Design: Materials: Five-gallon water jug Masking tape Clear packing tape Knife/shears Large construction paper Paper towels Permanent marker Cut a five-gallon water jug in half longitudinally so that there are two half cylinders, one with a handle and one without. Discard the one with the handle. With the remaining half, cut out four parallel, rectangular rib spaces in the transverse plane of the jug. The plastic that remains in between each space will serve as the skin. Draw important landmarks including the nipples and axilla and tape this to the water jug.

Outcomes & Evaluation: The following outcomes have been observed.

1) Increased interest in research: 103 PIH/Rwanda, RMoH and UR-SPH colleagues have completed training programs since 2012 and demand for training far exceeds capacity (only 25-50% of applicants accepted into trainings). 2) Increased research productivity: The number of publications highlighting PIH/Rwanda-supported programs has increased from 1-5 peer-reviewed publications per year from 2006-2012 to 10 publications in 2013 and 15 publications published/accepted/submitted as of September 2014 (published/accepted/submitted as of September 2014). 3) Increased Rwandan leadership in research: The first Rwandan-led manuscript describing a PIH/Rwanda-supported program was published in 2013, and, in 2014, 67% (of 15) were first-authored by a Rwandan. 4) Increased link of research to policy: Current research is led or advised by RMoH and PIH/Rwanda program leads, better linking results to program implementation/policy.

Going Forward: This work will continue to leverage the institutional strengths of PIH/R and HMS and partnerships with RMoH and UR-SPH. Fostering inclusive research, with clear guidelines, technical support and trainings, remains a priority. However, flexible funding for in-country infrastructure, mentorship and field-based training programs is essential for continued growth.

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Cancer genetics education in a low- to middle-income country: Evaluation of an interactive workshop for clinicians in Kenya

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Program/Project Purpose: Clinical genetics is becoming the standard of care in the treatment of many inherited disorders, including some forms of cancer. Retinoblastoma (Rb) is an aggressive early childhood cancer that affects families worldwide. Rb can be heritable or non-heritable, and subsequent treatment of the affected individual, his/her siblings and future offspring is impacted by this diagnosis. While genetic testing and genetic counseling are readily available in developed countries, in low- to middle-income countries such as Kenya genetic testing is limited and genetic counseling is virtually non-existent. Genetic testing is likely to become widespread in Kenya within the next decade yet there has not been a concomitant increase in genetic counseling resources. Our aim was to design an intervention to build capacity in Rb genetic counseling in the health care workforce in Kenya.

Structure/Method/Design: We developed a comprehensive workshop on Rb genetics geared towards physicians and other medical professionals working with the families of Rb patients in Kenya. The workshop took place in Sept 2013 during the Kenyan National Rb Strategy (KNRbS) meeting. Participants were KNRbS meeting attendees: ophthalmologists, pathologists, oncologists, ophthalmic clinical officers and nurses. The workshop included a presentation on Rb genetics, small group discussion of Rb patient case studies and genetic counseling role-play of case studies. We assessed Rb genetics knowledge of participants pre- and post-workshop using a multiple-choice test. One year post-workshop, the test was re-administered to workshop participants at the September 2014 KNRbS meeting. The primary outcome desired was increased Rb genetics knowledge immediately and one-year post-workshop.