

pharmacists trained in QI system strengthening research, Apply implementation science methodology to disseminate QI research outcomes

Outcomes & Evaluation: To date, six mentors and one fellow have been trained, with plans to train another fellow in 2016. The first US fellow was hired in July 2015 and is working with mentors to design QI projects internationally and domestically.

Going Forward: We anticipate ongoing expansion of the fellowship over the next several years. Accountability to global stakeholders for conducting QI research provides opportunities for dialogue over QI themes. Securing funding is an area of ongoing challenge. Funding was provided by the “Living the Wisconsin Idea” fund for the first two-year cycle. The Global Health Institute visiting scholars grant made international mentor QI training possible.

Funding: None.

Abstract #: 2.068_HRW

Empowering workers to organize for the right to occupational health

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Program/Project Purpose: Increased globalization of production in recent decades has outpaced the development of labor laws and worker rights, leading to a “trade imbalance” with disastrous consequences for worker health in export factories. In response, Hesperian developed *Workers’ Guide to Health and Safety* to equip workers with resources to organize for the right to health in the workplace, drawing from the experiences of worker groups globally. The book provides workers with organizing tools to make workplaces safer physically (by identifying and remedying hazards in the garment, shoe, and electronic industries), and socially (by addressing issues such as discrimination, unfair wages, and pollution).

Structure/Method/Design: *Worker’s Guide* includes first aid guides for both common health problems and health emergencies in the workplace. Easy-to-read chemical charts were developed to help workers identify and protect themselves from commonly used chemicals. Interactive how-to guides, activities, and stories from workers’ organizations around the world model effective strategies for workplace organizing. These materials were field-tested by 40 grassroots groups in 25 countries, and were reviewed by over 300 expert and technical reviewers prior to publication.

Outcome & Evaluation: A key evaluation measure is the ongoing diffusion and adaptation of book content. To date, workers’ organizations in the US, India, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Indonesia, and Bangladesh have incorporated the materials into their trainings. Organizations in China, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia have also volunteered to translate materials into local respective languages, which will help promote greater diffusion of these materials for training purposes, and which illustrates the global demand for the book. The guide is also being translated into Spanish in-house at Hesperian.

Going Forward: Materials from the book will be developed into a train-the-trainer curriculum for use in the US. Training topics will include the identification, characteristics, and health effects of

common workplace chemicals, how to reduce exposure to chemicals, personal protective equipment, and how to lead a peer discussion and other participatory activities regarding chemical hazards and exposure risks. The curriculum will likely be further adapted for use abroad.

Funding: Funding for *Workers’ Guide to Health and Safety* was subsidized by book sales, grants, and individual donations.

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Kaiser Permanente Vietnam medical project: Foot and ankle reconstruction

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Program/Project Purpose: Podiatric surgical residency training has evolved to include all aspects of complex foot and ankle surgical reconstruction. International surgical experience provides residents exposure to inadequately treated, neglected, and rare pathologies, while sharing surgical expertise and equipment. The Kaiser Permanente Vietnam Medical Project has expanded over its 17 year history to include multiple attending and resident surgeons during an annual mission to Da Nang, Vietnam. The project aims to increase resident training in complex foot and ankle reconstruction and increase access to foot and ankle reconstructive surgery in Da Nang.

Structure/Method/Design: The project consists of an annual one-to-two week session at Da Nang Orthopedic and Rehabilitation Hospital. Visiting foot and ankle surgical attending staff and residents perform reconstructive surgery on patients with complex foot and ankle pathology. Patients are pre-screened by local staff physicians over the preceding 12 months, and are evaluated as a team at the beginning of each session for preoperative planning. As many cases as can be reasonably scheduled are performed within the limited days available. Fixation materials and surgical techniques are shared with the local hospital. Patients are followed immediately post-operatively by the visiting team, but remain in hospital under local physician care longer term until stable for discharge.

Outcome & Evaluation: Though no formal long-term follow-up of outcomes exists, residents present case series of their surgical experiences to podiatric and orthopedic departments at training sites. They also report surgical experiences to the Kaiser Permanente Northern California Residency Global Health Program. The project has increased access to advanced foot and ankle reconstructive surgery in Da Nang, and has also successfully disseminated successful conservative treatment of congenital deformities.

Going Forward: The project aims to continue its annual visit, building upon relationships formed with local surgeons, and increasing access to specialist care in Vietnam. This international experience has also become an educational draw of the Kaiser South Bay residency.

Funding: Travel expenses provided by the Kaiser Permanente Global Health Program.

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