

Building Stronger Universities Platform on Human Health

Newsletter 02 January 2012

Please find below latest news and activities from the Platform on Human Health (PHH).

Tanzania Mainland

- In November 2011 a **PhD Student Platform** was initiated at [Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College \(KCMC\)](#) in Tanzania and a Board has been established including Dr. Florida Muro, Dr. Titus Msoka, Mr. Jovin Kitau and Dr. Elichilia Shao. A webpage describing the Student Platform and its members will be launched in February by the Board and the webmaster Mr. Frank Mnango. The development of the Student Platform concept takes place in close collaboration with PhD students Sisse Ditlev and Christian Wang from the [PhD Network in Global Health, University of Copenhagen](#).
- The Danish representative of the Implementing Committee, **Thor Theander, will follow up on various PHH activities** during his visit to Tanzania January 13 – 25.
- PHH supports a **Course in Molecular Diagnostics of Non-Malarial Fevers** from February 21 – March 2, 2012 at [KCMC](#). The course will introduce a mixed group of 16 staff and students from KCMC and the [National Institute of Medical Research \(NIMR\)](#) in Tanga to applied molecular and serological diagnostic methods used in the identification of possible causes of non-malarial fevers in an African context. The planning of this course was already initiated during the PHH pilot phase, and involves close collaboration between KCMC (main resource person Reginald Kavishe), NIMR (main resource person Deus Ishengoma) and Michael Alifrangis, Karin Schiøler, Christian Wang and Louise Jørgensen from [Centre for Medical Parasitology](#) and [the International Health Unit](#), University of Copenhagen.
- A **PHH Curriculum and Course Development Workshop** will be held March 19 – 23 at KCMC. Participants will come from KCMC, NIMR, other relevant KCMC programs addressing PhD training, and other relevant training institutions in Tanzania. Lead from KCMC is Frank Mosha and Jim Todd and from NIMR Julius Massaga. Representatives from the Danish universities will include Lisa Ann Richey, Roskilde University, Niels Ørnbjerg and Dorte Holler Johansen, University of Copenhagen, supported by resource person delegated to contribute to selected course development and implementation activities (announced in [PHH Newsletter 01 2012](#)).

Read more about PHH in Tanzania [here](#).

Zanzibar

- The Danish representative of the Implementing Committee, Henrik Bregnhøj, and Coordinator, Bjørg Elvekjær, will **meet with the Working Groups in Zanzibar** early February 2012 **to coordinate the initiation of Phase One activities** according to agreed plans.
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Read more about PHH in Zanzibar [here](#).

Ghana

- **Announcements** were made in December 2011 for **PhD positions at [University of Ghana](#) and [KNUST](#)** as agreed in the PHH work plans. Interviews with applicants will take place during January 2012, at UG with support from Danish representative of the Implementing Committee, Ulrika Enemark.
- The new Danish representative of the Implementing Committee at KNUST, Jørgen Kurtzhals (replacing Pascal Magnussen) and Ghana Coordinator, Dorte Holler Johansen (replacing Karsten Kryger) are planning to **visit UG and KNUST week 9/10 to coordinate initiation of Phase One activities** according to the agreed plans.

University of Ghana (UG)

- On January 18, 2012 a **Workshop will be held on Course Accreditation in the Context of Higher Education Reform**. Organizers include Richard Adanu, PHH Implementing Committee leader (from School of Public Health at UG) and Margareth Gyapong, Director of the Research Institute for Infectious Diseases of Poverty. Resource persons from Denmark include Shirley Pollak and Helle Trøst Nielsen from [Copenhagen School of Global Health, University of Copenhagen](#).
- January 21 - 30, 2012 a **PhD Course will run on Logistic and Survival Regression Analysis of Epidemiologic Data using Stata** for 20 participants. Co- course directors are Richmond Aryeetey, PhD, MPH, [School of Public Health, University of Ghana](#) and Henrik Ravn, Statistician, PhD, [Bandim Health Project](#), State Serum Institute.

Read more about PHH in Ghana [here](#).

Crosscutting PHH and BSU activities

- A first list of **PHH assignments** in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar, involving short term support from scientific and/or administrative resource persons from the participating Danish universities has been **announced** in [PHH Newsletter 01 2012](#). Deadline for submission of Expression of Interests (CVs) is January 25, 2012.
- February 1 – 3, 2012 in Moshi, Tanzania, PHH will host a joint, hands-on **Financial Management Workshop, for East African BSU partners**.

Invited participants include selected accounting/administrative staff working specifically with the BSU grant at the State University of Zanzibar, Zanzibar College of Health Sciences, KCMC (PHH's partner institutions), [Sokoine University](#) and [University of Dar es Salaam](#) (partners of the [Environment and Climate Platform](#) and the [Growth and Employment Platform](#)) and [Gulu University](#), Uganda, and [Maseno University](#), Kenya (partners of the [Stability, Democracy and Rights Platform](#)). Tupokigwe Jana from KCMC/KCRI will be lead on logistics; facilitators will be administrators Dorte Holler Johansen and Christian Gregart from University of Copenhagen.

A similar Financial Management Workshop is expected to take place in Ghana with relevant staff from UG and KNUST. Programme, date and venue are yet to be announced.

Denmark

- The **Danish PHH [Steering Committee](#)** will meet on February 9, 2012 in Copenhagen for a regular briefing on progress of activities. In addition visions for BSU in Phase Two and onwards shall be discussed. Findings and conclusions reached on this issue shall be submitted to the BSU Advisory Group who will meet in March to discuss BSU future scenarios based on the input received from all four BSU platforms.
- The **[Working Group Sexual and Reproductive Health](#)** – counting more than 40 members from research institutions, development NGOs and consultancy companies– will meet for its **ordinary working group meetings** on 29 March and 24 May, 2012, 14:30 - 16:00, at CSS, building 9, University of Copenhagen.

The same working group will organise its next **Journal Club** on 23 February 2012, 15:00 - 16:00 on Sex Selection and Son Preference in Vietnam, introduced by Tine Gammeltoft, Institute of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen. All meetings are open to anyone with an interest in sexual and reproductive health.