

Fogarty International Collaborative Trauma and Injury Research Training Program

Program Review 2005-2014

Fogarty International Center

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Executive Summary

According to the World Health Organization, over five million deaths per year are caused by trauma and injury, including both intentional and non-intentional types. Furthermore, over 90% of the injury-related deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) due to factors such as access to quality

Program Goals

The program currently solicits collaborative research and research training activities that will strengthen the capacity of institutions in LMICs to conduct human injury and trauma research by:

- Providing training in (1) research design, methods, and analytic techniques appropriate for trauma research; (2) advanced degree trauma and injury research; and (3) scientific presentation and publication
- Supporting mentored research using state-of-the-art methods
- Supporting faculty and mentors at LMIC institutions to foster in-country trauma-research networks

emergency trauma care or rehabilitation services, unenforced or nonexistent preventative policies, and working or living in unsafe conditions. To address this challenge, the Fogarty International Center (FIC) and its partnering institutions Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation established the Collaborative Trauma and Injury Research Training Program (Trauma Program) in 2005. The program has sought to create a cadre of researchers in LMICs who conduct research and research training related to the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of injury and trauma.

Over the past decade, thirteen awards were funded in six regions of the world: Sub-Saharan Africa, East Asia and Pacific, Middle East and North Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, South Asia, and Europe and Central Asia.



Scientific Publications

Publications allow program grantees to share relevant and important research evidence with the global trauma and injury community. To date, over 105 publications have been published with Trauma Program support. The majority of these publications focused on issues related to road traffic injuries (topics also associated to alcohol drinking and/or automobile driving) and self-inflicted injuries like suicide. See Table 2 for a heat map of publication topics.

Training Trauma and Injury Researchers

Training the next generation of trauma and injury scientists is central to the Trauma Program. Over 280 individuals have received long-term trauma and injury research training to date. In fact, long term training experiences were identified in eleven of the 13 programs, with most training experiences ranging between six and 24 months. Eight of the 13 programs held workshops or symposia.

In Egypt, a collaboration between the between the Ain Shams University School of Medicine in Cairo, Egypt (hereafter Ain Shams) and the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMD) School of Medicine created the Injury Prevention Research Training that later spread to other Middle East countries. The success of the program was recognized and called upon in May 2005 by the Iraqi Kurdish Ministry of Health after the bombing of Erbil in northern Iraq. The Ministry of Health requested UMD and Ain Shams to develop a week-long course on emergency preparedness and response. Led by the Trauma Program grantee, they worked with the government and to improve trauma research capacity at the Kurdish Health Ministry and established a formal medical emergency response plan. The training was designed to help health professionals with supervisory roles assess the current level of emergency relief capabilities and manage disaster situations. Training components included rescue, decontamination, triage, stabilization, evacuation and treatment plans, as well as communications in post-disaster recovery. Additional funding from NIH and the World Bank (the latter through the Iraqi Central Ministry of Health) allowed for additional disaster preparedness training courses for physicians in Afghanistan, Iraq and Egypt.

A collaboration between the University of Iowa (UI) and the University of Babeş-Bolyai in Cluj-Napoca, Romania resulted in the creation of the Injury and Violence Division of the University's Center for Public Policy and Public Health. The Center Director and the six researchers within the Division were all trained under the UI International Collaborative Trauma and Injury Training program. Through this Trauma award, the team also established Romania's first child injury registry, then subsequently received funding from the European Union to expand it as part of the European Union Trauma Data Bank. The team is now expanding trauma data infrastructure to Armenia, Georgia, and Moldova.

The project has also supported the 2007 launch of the Cluj School of Public Health at Babeş-Bolyai University. Not only is the Cluj School Romania's first degree program in public health, but it is currently the only Public Health program taught in English in the entire Central and Eastern European region.