

SPH NEWSLETTER

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Bold Innovation to Improve Tuberculosis (TB) Care in Armenia and Globally Receives Grand Challenges Canada Funding

Grand Challenges Canada, funded by the Government of Canada, awarded seed grants to 83 innovative new ideas that address health problems in resource-poor countries. The Honourable Christian Paradis, Canadian Minister of International Development and Minister for La Francophonie highlighted: "Grand Challenges Canada's portfolio of projects shows how innovators with bold ideas have the potential to make a big impact on global health. By connecting game-changing ideas with some of the most pressing global health challenges, these projects will lead to sustainable and affordable health solutions in low- and middle-income countries."

The American University of Armenia (AUA) School of Public Health (AUA SPH) received the only seed grant awarded in Europe and will implement its project,



Project funded by:

Grand Challenges Canada™ Grands Défis Canada™

"Innovative Approach in TB Care in Armenia," in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health's National TB Control Program (NTP). The NTP Director Dr. Armen Hayrapetyan emphasized: "Our team at the National TB Control Office has been open to innovative ideas. I am sure the collaboration between the National TB Control Office and AUA School of Public Health can lead to changes in the National TB Control Program to improve TB treatment outcomes and to reduce the spread of TB in Armenia and other low/middle income countries." The project will enable self-administered drug intake by empowered TB patients – supervised by a trained family member and supported by medical counseling and reminders – to improve treatment adherence and treatment success rates, and thereby forestall TB and multi-drug resistant TB epidemics. The innovative treatment approach integrates several educational, technological, and social evidence-based components.

The reviewers of this project noted: "The strength of this proposal resides in its focus on social innovation with elements of technology that are not particularly innovative but are based on common sense and common tools." TB is a global public health issue and improvements in TB care could have a significant impact in resource-poor countries.



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GRADUATING COHORT 2013 (PART II)

MPH Integrating Experience Project Brief Abstracts

records deployment in Armenia: A cross-sectional Artik. The study showed that living in Alaverdi increased

Currently health care systems face significant indications, stillbirths, and perinatal mortality. challenges related to the need to harness an increasing

flow of information. The main objective of this study is to understand major barriers to successful implementation and widespread adoption of Electronic Health Records (EHR) system from the perspective of physicians in Armenia. Findings suggest that major barriers to EHR implementation in Armenia are



clinical concerns at a group level, personal attitudes, evaluate the health insurance component of the Social characteristics, and negative perceptions about patientprovider relationships. The study team made several recommendations to overcome the identified barriers.

Proposal

Induced abortion is one of the most common Armine Vardanyan; Risk Factors and Prevalence of gynecological interventions. About 44 million abortions Adolescent Depression in Yerevan, Armenia take place globally each year. Several studies found that Major depression is a widespread serious mental abortions are most common among young, unmarried, health illness. In 2012, 350 million people suffered from low-income, and educationally disadvantaged women. depression worldwide. Adolescents have the highest Gender selective abortion is a new phenomenon placing risk of depression - 20% of them have some type of pressure on women to produce children of a certain mental disorder and the most common one is desired sex and to have an abortion if that is not the depression. The aim of this study was to measure the case. The proposed study aims to identify determinants of abortion among women living in Yerevan who have at least one child and to find associations between socioeconomic characteristics, family structure, life satisfaction score, and repeat abortions.

among Women of Childbearing Age in Alaverdi (Lori Armenia: A Case-Control Study Proposal

marz) and Artik (Shirak marz) Cities: a Cross-sectional Survey Heavy metals and sulfur dioxide can adversely influence reproductive health of women. The main aim of the study was to find out the prevalence of reproductive health problems, particularly infertility, miscarriages, and abnormal births and check if there



Armine Vardanyan, MPH 2013

was an association between living near the polymetalic infections among children under five years old in smelter (as a proxy measure for being exposed to heavy Yerevan, Armenia. A case-control study design is metals and sulfur dioxide) after controlling for other proposed with children under five years old with present reproductive health risk factors. A cross-sectional study or recent (30 days prior to the day of interview) ARI with was conducted with 370 participants (never married and without complications living in Yerevan. women of reproductive age) from the smelter town

Mher Beglaryan; Barriers to electronic health Alaverdi and 370 participants from the comparison town the risk of having induced abortions due to medical

Armine Tumasyan; Health Insurance Component of the Social Package: a Qualitative Assessment

Armenia implemented several major health care reforms in the last 20 vears. The main reform efforts aimed to establish a balance between hospital and primary care and to make those services accessible to the population. This study aimed to

perceived ease of use, resistance to change, personal Package program for evidence-based decision and policy making in Armenia exploring attitudes, practices, and experiences in terms of how the health insurance component (HIC) influenced access to healthcare Lusine Kocharyan; Determinants of Induced services, out-of-pocket payments, and overall Abortion among Reproductive Age (18-44) Women satisfaction of different stakeholder groups with the Living in Yerevan Who Have At Least One Child: mandatory and voluntary parts of the HIC of the Social Package.

> prevalence and explore the potential risk factors for depression among adolescents 14-17 years-of-age in Yerevan.

Lilit Vardanyan; Risk Factors Related to Complications of Acute Respiratory Infections Aelita Sargsyan; Reproductive Health Problems among Children under Five Years Old in Yerevan,

Acute respiratory infections (ARI) are infections of any part of the respiratory system (from para nasal sinuses to pleural cavity) lasting less than 30 days. ARI is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in children under five years old worldwide. The aim of the proposed study is to determine the risk factors contributing to complications of acute respiratory

Full project reports are available at www.auachsr.com

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SHARING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

CONFERENCES

15th World Conference on Tobacco or Health: Towards a Tobacco-free World - Planning Globally, Acting Locally. March 20-24, 2012, Singapore

*Movsisyan N., Petrosyan D., Petrosyan V. Monitoring Compliance with Smoke-free Legislation to Advance the FCTC Implementation in Armenia [oral presentation].

AHarutyunyan A., Petrosyan D., Movsisyan N., Petrosyan V., Stillman F., Hepp L., Avila-Tang E., Donaldson E. A Clinical Trial to Reduce Secondhand Smoke Exposure in Households with Children in Yerevan, Armenia [oral presentation].

15th European Health Forum Gastein. October 3-6, 2012, Bad Gastein, Austria

▲ Petrosyan V. Access to Health Services in Times of Economic Downturn: the Case of Armenia [oral presentation].



Arusyak Harutyunyan and Ruzanna Grigoryan

34th Annual Meeting of the Society for Medical Decision Making (SMDM): "From Evidence to Decision Making: Role of Behavioral Economics in Medicine." October 17-20, 2012, Phoenix, Arizona, USA

△Truzyan N., Petrosyan V., Grigoryan R. How Decisions on Tuberculosis Care Utilization and Place of Work among Migrant Workers from Armenia Impact TB Health Outcomes [poster].

2nd Global Symposium on Health Systems Research, October 31- November 3, 2012, Beijing, China

▲ Petrosyan V. Re-establishing Universal and Comprehensive Health Coverage in former Soviet Union Countries [oral presentation].

5th European Public Health Conference, November 8-11, 2012, Malta

A Harutyunyan A., Movsisyan N.K., Petrosyan. V, Petrosyan D. Reduced Secondhand Smoke Exposure in Homes, Armenia, 2010 [oral presentation].

AGrigoryan R., Petrosyan V., Demirchyan A., Truzyan N., Martirosyan H., Crape B. Evaluation of the Child Health State Certificate Program, Armenia 2011 [moderated poster presentation with brief oral presentation].

▲ Grigoryan R., Truzyan N., Petrosyan V. Tuberculosis among Migrant Workers from Armenia, 2012 [oral presentation].

World Psychiatric Association Thematic Conference "Mental Health and Mental Illness: Focusing on Eurasia" August 29–31, 2013, Yerevan, Armenia

*Khachadourian V., Goenjian A., Demirchyan A., Armenian H.K. Posttraumatic stress disorder, alcohol

and dignity as determinants of poor short-term memory among the 1988 Armenian earthquake survivors [oral presentation].



Nune Truzyan, Ruzanna Grigoryan and Vahe

13th Health Impact Assessment 2013 International Conference, October 2–4, 2013, Geneva, Switzerland

Khachadourian V., Armenian H.K, Goenjian A., Demirchyan A., Petrosyan V. Determinants of recovery from post-earthquake psychopathology: a 23 years longitudinal study [poster].

▲ Truzyan N., Harutyunyan T., Crape B., Koshkakaryan M., Petrosyan V., Grigoryan R. Health impact of family-based one-session training in homes with tuberculosis patients in Armenia, 2013 [poster].

→ Grigoryan R., Petrosyan V., Truzyan N., Martirosyan H., Crape B.,

Demirchyan A. Health Impact of the National Child Health State Certificate Program, Armenia [poster]. 35th Annual Meeting of the Society for Medical Decision Making (SMDM): "Bench, Bedside and Beyond: Medical Decision Making and Public Policy." October 20-23, 2013, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

▲Petrosyan V., Martirosyan H., Truzyan N., Crape B. Decision Making in Diabetes Care in Armenia [poster].

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LATEST NEWS



AUA SPH Faculty workshop

The AUA School of Public Health Held Its Annual Faculty Workshop: The AUA School of Public Health held its annual Faculty Workshop at Boston University School of Public Health on November 2, 2013. The AUA SPH was well represented with faculty from various parts of the US and Armenia. AUA President Dr. Bruce M. Boghosian and President Emeritus of Boston University Dr. Aram Chobanian were in attendance and participated in AUA SPH strategic planning discussions.



Participants of the meeting

A Series of Discussions on Tobacco Control Policy in Armenia: The tobacco control team of the AUA SPH Center for Health Services Research and Development started a discussion series to facilitate tobacco control policy implementation in Armenia that was decelerating in 2009-2013. The CHSR hosted the first meeting on October 11, 2013. The Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Health Suren Krmoyan, Deputy Director of the National Institute of Health Alexander Bazarchyan, Head of the Public Health Unit of the Ministry

of Health Lusine Kocharyan, and Health Policy Expert from World Vision Armenia Naira Gharakhanyan joined the representatives of CHSR and the Coalition for Tobacco-free Armenia.



Michael Varadian

September 26, 2013: The AUA School of Public Health hosted Michael S. Varadian, a senior health official from the US, who led an interesting and interactive seminar on National Health Reform in the U.S. or "ObamaCare" - a hot topic as October 1st was the first big start date for the U.S. states for offering expanded enrollment in health insurance on health exchanges, where people can choose the insurance plan they want to get covered for 2014.



Marine Petrosyan and Dana Walrath

June 26, 2013: The AUA School of Public Health organized a bilingual poetry reading "Healing Words" dedicated to the healing power of words. The poetry reading was lead by Dr. Dana Walrath, a medical anthropologist, writer, artist and a Fulbright Scholar in the AUA SPH and Marine Petrossian, a prolific contemporary Armenian poet known for her outspoken literary work and recognized for her accomplishments in Yerevan.

MPH ALUMNI SUCCESSES



Yeva Sahakvan

intervention: the Armenian the United States to win this

experience" in September 2013 in the Healthcare highly competitive grant from the Robert Wood in Low-resources Settings, an internationally Johnson Foundation. ranked peer-reviewed academic journal.

Yeva Sahakyan, MPH (2011) Lusine Poghosyan, MPH and her coauthors Lusine (2003) has been selected as Abrahamyan, PhD, MPH 2013 Robert Wood Johnson (2003), and Michael E. Foundation Nurse Faculty Thompson, MS, DrPH, Scholar, a prestigious program published the article "Sex that advances careers of differences in long-term talented junior nurse faculty. outcomes of patients with She is one of just 12 nursing percutaneous coronary faculty members from across



Lusine Poghosvan

To learn more

about the School of Public Health please contact: Phone: (+374 60) 61 25 92, Fax: (+374 60) 61 25 66, or E-mail: mphinfo@aua.am, 40 Marshal Baghramyan Ave., Yerevan 0019, Republic of Armenia www.aua.am, www.auachsr.com