Meeting the information needs of healthcare providers in LMICs

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Introduction

Dr Neil Pakenham-Walsh
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NHS/Ecuador/Peru 1983-90
→ Medicine Digest/Wellcome Trust/WHO 1990-95
→ INASP 1995-2004
→ HIFA 2005-present
→ Dgroups Foundation 2013-present
HIFA

Global campaign and knowledge network
>15,000 members, 175 countries, 5 forums, En/Fr/Pt

HIFA vision: “A world where every person and every health worker will have access to the information they need to protect their own health and the health of others.”
The HIFA forums are hosted by the Dgroups Foundation - 700 CoPs

Dgroups Vision: “A world where every person is able to contribute to dialogue and decision-making for international development and social justice.”

www.dgroups.info
Health professionals lack access to health information

“The studies suggest a gross lack of knowledge about the basics on how to diagnose and manage common diseases, going right across the health workforce and often associated with suboptimal, ineffective and dangerous health care practices.”


http://www.human-resources-health.com/content/7/1/30
Example: hospital care of children

'3 in 4 doctors caring for sick children in Africa and Asia lack basic knowledge of common causes of child death‘

http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(00)03542-X/fulltext#
Example: home care of diarrhoea

'4 in 10 mothers in India believe they should withhold fluids if their baby develops diarrhoea, thereby tragically increasing their risk of death from dehydration' (India MoH, 2006)

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Government of India. National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3) 2005/6
Example: Ebola

“Ebola kills people; but more lives are put at risk because of lack of information or misinformation”

Dr. Guido Borghese, UNICEF Principal Advisor Child Survival and Development for West and Central Africa
The Global Health Information System

Understanding information needs

Making information available

Producing reference and learning materials

Undertaking and publishing health research

Producing systematic reviews and guidelines

Paper: Can we achieve health information for all by 2015?

*The Lancet, 2004; 364:295-300*

Fiona Godlee, Neil Pakenham-Walsh *et al.*
“Clinical trials should begin and end with systematic reviews of relevant evidence”

Publishing health research

“Abstracts of research should be routinely available in the main language of the country where the research was undertaken”

HIFA members (especially those in francophone and lusophone LMICs)
Making research information available

“Open access, open access, open access…”

Openness, transparency and sharing in health research, publishing and information sciences
Making actionable information available

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Publishers
Information services
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BMA
WHO

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- Children for Health
- Commonwealth Nurses Federation
- Council of International Neonatal Nurses
- eCancer
- Elsevier
- Friends Of Chitambo
- Global Health Media Project
- Haiti Nursing Foundation
- HealthProm
- Intel Corporation
- International Child Health Group
- International Foundation for Dermatology
- International League of Dermatological Societies
- International Society for Social Paediatrics and Child Health
- IntraHealth International
- Joanna Briggs Institute
- Knowledge Transfer Africa Ltd

- The Lancet
- LiveWell Initiative
- mPowering Frontline Health Workers
- Medical Education Cooperation with Cuba
- Network for Information and Digital Access
- Partnerships in Health Information
- Physicians for Haiti
- Public Library of Science (PLOS)
- Quality + Care Solutions
- Royal College of Midwives
- The Test Foundation
- The Mother and Child Health and Education Trust
- WHO Collaborating Centre for Knowledge Translation & Health Technology Assessment in Health Equity
- Wiki Project Med Foundation
- Your.MD
- Zambia UK Health Workforce Alliance.
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2. Continue the discussion on the HIFA forum: www.hifa.org

   Thank you