

The GREAT Network is an international partnership whose goal is to facilitate the efforts of local stakeholders focused on enhancing maternal and perinatal health in low and middle income countries through the implementation of evidence-based guidelines.



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## New publications featuring work from the GREAT Network

***Two-year follow up on recommendations to improve the use of maternal health guidelines in Kosovo***

A paper authored by Dr. Julia Moore and colleagues has been accepted for publication in the BMC Public Health Journal and is currently in press. This paper describes the results of a study that involved conducting a qualitative process evaluation of progress, barriers, facilitators, and proposed solutions to operationalize nine recommendations to prepare Kosovo to implement the WHO 2012 prevention and treatment of postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) guideline. Focus groups and one-on-one interviews with participants from the first meeting in Kosovo were conducted to evaluate progress on the nine recommendations. While progress has been made towards implementation of some of the recommendations, scale up has been limited by barriers. Based on participant feedback in this study, the recommendations were refined to facilitate operationalization in Kosovo. The findings of this process evaluation are transferrable to other areas of maternal health work and implementation of evidence-based guidelines, particularly in LMIC settings.

***Barriers, facilitators and priorities for implementation of WHO maternal and perinatal health guidelines in four lower-income countries: a GREAT Network research activity***

A paper authored by Dr. Joshua Vogel and colleagues has been accepted for publication in the Public Library of Science (PLoS) One. The paper describes the results of a study that used a systematic approach, based on the knowledge-to-action (KTA) model, to incorporate evidence and theory to identify barriers and facilitators to implementation of WHO maternal health guideline recommendations in four lower-income countries. A mixed-methods study was conducted in each of the countries (Myanmar, Uganda, Tanzania, and Ethiopia). Activities included stakeholder surveys, in-person workshops at which focus group discussions and prioritization exercises took place, and the development of an implementation plan. Barriers identified across different countries were often similar, despite differences in guideline priorities and contexts. Stakeholders identified tailored strategies to address local barriers and leverage facilitators. While further evaluation of the impact of implementing identified strategies is needed, this approach to identifying barriers, facilitators, and potential strategies for improving implementation proved to be feasible in these four lower-income country settings.

Once published, the full articles will be available on the [GREAT Network website](http://www.greatnetworkglobal.org).

### SEED GRANT PODCASTS

The GREAT Network Knowledge to Action (or Implementation) and Knowledge Synthesis seed grant funding opportunities aimed to facilitate the implementation of knowledge to enhance the quality of care and support the completion or updating of knowledge syntheses in low- and middle-income countries. The countries include Uganda, Sri Lanka, Italy, China and Ethiopia. The podcasts feature work done by the funded recipients and their teams.

For more information on the GREAT Network's seed grant-funded projects and to listen to the podcasts please visit: [www.greatnetworkglobal.org/funding](http://www.greatnetworkglobal.org/funding).



## Opportunities + Announcements



### 1-DAY PRACTICING KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION (PKT) WORKSHOP:

The KT program at St. Michael's Hospital will be hosting a 1-day Practicing Knowledge Translation course on November 14, 2016 in Vancouver, Canada. Attendees of the Health Systems Research (HSR) conference are welcome to participate in a full day interactive KT workshop that offers a high level overview of important KT competencies including:

- Introduction to KT
- Components of implementation programs
- Assessing barriers and facilitators to change
- Selecting implementation strategies

For more information, please contact Melissa Courvoisier at [CourvoisierM@smh.ca](mailto:CourvoisierM@smh.ca).



### WHO INTERIM GUIDANCE UPDATE: ZIKA VIRUS INFECTION

In May 2016, WHO released an interim guidance report on the management of pregnancy in the context of Zika virus infection. This report provides guidance for interventions to reduce the risk of maternal Zika virus infection and to manage potential complications during pregnancy. It is intended to inform the development of national and local clinical protocols and health policies that relate to pregnancy care in the context of Zika virus transmission. For access to the report, please visit: [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/204520/1/WHO\\_ZIKV\\_MOC\\_16.2\\_eng.pdf?ua=1](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/204520/1/WHO_ZIKV_MOC_16.2_eng.pdf?ua=1)



### SYSTEMATIC REVIEW COURSE:

The KT program is offering an online introductory course on systematic reviews and meta-analyses starting in January 2017. For more information, please contact Gail Klein at [KleinG@smh.ca](mailto:KleinG@smh.ca).



### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: HRP/TDR/PAHO JOINT SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH ON THE ZIKA VIRUS OUTBREAK IN THE AMERICAS

This is a joint Initiative between TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases that is co-sponsored by UNICEF, UNDP, the World Bank and WHO; the UNDP/UNFPA/ UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP); and the World Health Organization's (WHO) Regional Office for the Americas - the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

Researchers and health care providers working in low- and middle-countries with ZIKV outbreaks in the Latin American and Caribbean Regions of PAHO are eligible. Applications should fall under the theme of implementation/operational research and be prepared with the holistic view on research themes. The deadline for submission is September 15, 2016. For more information please visit: <http://www.who.int/tdr/grants/SGP-HRP-TDR-PAHO-EN.pdf?ua=1>

## Resources of Interest



### KT PROGRAM WEBSITE:

The Knowledge Translation Program at St. Michael's Hospital has launched their new website! The website features information about the knowledge synthesis, implementation, and capacity building work done by the KT program. For more information, please visit [www.knowledgetranslation.net](http://www.knowledgetranslation.net).



### WHO "SAVING MOTHERS' LIVES":

The WHO created a series of infographics to help convey information and health messages to the public. The infographic titled "Saving mothers' lives" presents data on global maternal needs, goals, and successes to date. This tool may help in bringing awareness to the issue and engage the public. To access the infographic, please visit: <http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/monitoring/Full-infographic.pdf?ua=1>