

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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## Practicing Knowledge Translation workshops in Ethiopia & Uganda:

The Knowledge Translation Program at St. Michael's Hospital (Toronto, Canada) was invited by the World Health Organization (WHO) and health system partners in Ethiopia and Uganda to conduct capacity building workshops on the use of KT for guideline implementation. This work was borne out of a long-standing partnership between the Knowledge Translation Program, the WHO, PATH and health system partners in Ethiopia and Uganda who have been collaborating on guideline implementation in LMICs through the [GREAT Network](#) since 2013. As part of GREAT Network activities, initial workshops were held in both Bishoftu, Ethiopia (May, 2015) and Entebbe, Uganda (August, 2014) to prioritize clinical areas for guideline implementation and to understand multilevel barriers and facilitators to guideline uptake. This work was continued through the *Knowledge Translation: Guideline Adaptation and Implementation* workshops, conducted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Kampala, Uganda in October and November 2016, respectively, with a focus on equipping health system stakeholders with the knowledge to plan for guideline implementation.

The workshops were organized and facilitated by Dr. Lisa Puchalski-Ritchie, Sobia Khan and Shusmita Rashid from the Knowledge Translation Program, Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, Toronto, Canada; Dr. Dina Neelofur Khan from the Department of Reproductive Health and Research, WHO, Geneva, Switzerland; PATH and health system partners in Ethiopia (e.g., Federal Ministry of Health and WHO-CO, Ethiopia) and Uganda (e.g., Makerere University).

### HEALTH SYSTEMS RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The fourth Global Symposium on Health Systems Research took place in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada from November 14 to 18, 2016. The theme of the conference was "Resilient and responsive health systems for a changing world". The GREAT Network was represented well at HSR:

- Dr. Julia Moore presented an e-poster on GREATs activities titled "Using the KTA to develop a tailored program for guideline implementation in LMICs".
- GREAT Network partner, Kyu Kyu Than, from the University of Melbourne, Burnet Institute also presented an e-poster titled "Auxiliary Midwives in Myanmar: Resilient and responsible or collides with policy in saving lives of mothers in hard to reach areas of Myanmar".

More information about the HSR conference can be found [here](#).

**FEATURED SEED GRANT RECIPIENT:****Dr. Peter Kivunike Mukasa**

Round 1 of the GREAT Network seed grant competition funded a knowledge-to-action project focused on evaluating the effect of implementation of a multi-component training intervention called “academic detailing” which includes SMS reminders and feedback on correct and persistent use of partographs at the point of care in rural Uganda.

The project was carried out in Iganga District General Hospital and service providers and health facility management were engaged to identify gaps and barriers to partograph use in the hospital and identified actionable solutions to improve use of partograph in the hospital. Preliminary results indicate that the intervention has been successfully implemented as of April 2016 and is shown to increase health professionals’ adherence to guidelines for screening, partograph use, and to reduce inappropriate use of medicines.

Correct and consistent use of the partograph requires leadership and commitment within the facility and health system, access to basic equipment and supplies and continued supervision at all levels.

The final report with full details of this project will be available on the GREAT network website.

## Announcements



Congratulations to GREAT Network Executive Committee member, Dr. Charles Wiysonge, who will lead the Cochrane SA unit of the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) as Director of Cochrane South Africa.

## 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).

## Opportunities

**PLANNING FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND SUSTAINABILITY:**

The KT program is offering a 3-day workshop on how to apply the science of KT to real-world implementation projects to enhance and sustain project outcomes in April 2017. For more information, please contact Melissa Courvoisier at [CourvoisierM@smh.ca](mailto:CourvoisierM@smh.ca) or visit: [www.knowledgetranslation.net/capacity-building/our-courses/planning-implementation-sustainability](http://www.knowledgetranslation.net/capacity-building/our-courses/planning-implementation-sustainability)

**WHO INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF PREGNANCY AND CHILDBIRTH (IMPAC):**

The WHO created a package of guidelines and tools that respond to key areas of maternal and perinatal health programs to support countries to improve maternal, perinatal and newborn health. IMPAC addresses different factors that are crucial for access to skilled care before, during and after pregnancy by targeting health systems, health workers and health promotion. For more information, please visit: [www.who.int/maternal\\_child\\_adolescent/topics/maternal/impac/en](http://www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/topics/maternal/impac/en).