



The Second MedCHAMPS meeting, Izmir, Turkey

The second consortium MedCHAMPS meeting was held in Izmir, Turkey during 13-14 January 2010.

It was attended by the leaders of Work Packages as well as Project Management Committee (PMC), Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and Project Monitoring and Advisory Committee (ProMAC) members.

During the meeting, Pro. Julia Critchley presented a summary of progress of MedCHAMPS and challenges over the first 9 months and a feedback from ProMAC members on how they would like to be kept informed.

The leaders of the work packages updated the meeting on the progress, and then all the partners offered a feedback on local MedCHAMPS launch meetings.

A list of tasks, recommendations and next actions have come out of this meeting to follow up working on the different work packages.

The next annual PMC/ProMAC meeting will be held in February 2011, in Tunisia.



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Overall strategy of MedCHAMPS

The overall project design uses a variety of approaches (situation analysis, policy analysis, key informant interviews, secondary analyses of quantitative surveys, qualitative and participatory studies, reviews of documents and literature, model development and analysis) to explain trends in CVD and diabetes prevalence, and mortality, and to explore the most effective and feasible strategies for prevention and intervention. The best available evidence about current health service provision, policy implementation and the likely future disease burden will be generated. The evidence will be used to assess the acceptability and feasibility of different policy options and the likely effectiveness and cost effectiveness of those options.

PETER PHILLIMORE



PhD,
Chair in social anthropology
School of Geography, Politics &
Sociology

Prof. Peter Phillimore's PhD is in social anthropology, from Durham University (1982), and was based on ethnographic fieldwork in India, where he researched kinship, marriage, and the shepherding economy of one of the major groups of transhumant pastoralists of the western Himalaya. He has been at Newcastle University (UK) since 1988. His subsequent research has been in two main areas: the sociology of health and the sociology of the environment. For many years he researched health and inequality in northern England, later working with epidemiological colleagues at Newcastle on studies of environmental pollution and health. He has also done extensive research on environmental politics in major steel and chemical producing centres in Britain and Germany.



TRAINING WORKSHOP ON QUALITATIVE AND ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH METHODS FOR WORK PACKAGE 5

The Training for Work Package 5 on Qualitative and Ethnographic Research Methods was held in Aleppo, 3-11 October 2009. This training workshop was planned, organized, and run by Dr. Shahaduz Zaman and Prof. Peter Phillimore in Newcastle and Dr. Fouad Fouad in Aleppo. Staffs from Syria, Tunisia and Turkey, were present for this workshop.

The purposes of this workshop were to train those researchers who will be responsible for conducting and organizing WP5 in their own country, and to plan the timetable and practical organization of a multi-level, interdisciplinary program for data collection and ensure that those involved were familiar with the range of research activities.



WP5 is the one work package that entails collection of qualitative data using a combination of semi-structured and in-depth interviews, focus groups, and observation. It covers both theoretical and practical aspects of qualitative and ethnographic research methodology, oriented to WP5 activities.

The sequence of sessions was as follows:

1. The purpose and challenges of WP5 within MEDCHAMPS
2. The principles of qualitative methods and ethnographic approaches
3. How to conduct an in-depth interview
4. Practical exercise: doing an in-depth interview and transcribing it
5. How to observe systematically
6. Practical exercise: doing a clinic observation and recording it
7. How to store and handle qualitative data for analysis
8. Practical exercise: initial steps in coding and analysis using in-depth interviews
9. Reviewing protocols/guidelines and detailed planning

The next stage will be to have Dr. Zaman visit Tunisia, Turkey and Syria during the data collection phase to provide on the spot support and guidance.

SHAHADUZ ZAMAN



MD, PhD,
Medical Anthropology

Dr. Zaman is a physician by training and later specialized in Medical Anthropology and Public Health. Currently he is working as a Senior Research Associate at Institute of Health and Society, Newcastle University, UK, coordinating a research project in four Mediterranean countries (Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and Palestine) since April 2009. The project is investigating cardiovascular diseases and diabetes, and the health policies aiming at reducing the burden of these diseases in those countries. Dr.Zaman has done Master's and Ph.D. in Medical Anthropology from University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. He also has done Masters in Public Health (MPH) and Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) from Bangladesh. He is a Bangladeshi by born and before joining Newcastle University, UK was working as the Coordinator of the MPH programme at BRAC University, Bangladesh.



THE TRAINING WORKSHOP ON CARDIOVASCULAR AND DIABETES EPIDEMIOLOGY AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL MODELS

The training workshop on “Cardiovascular and Diabetes Epidemiology and Epidemiological Models” was held in Izmir, Turkey, 15-19 January 2010. Senior and junior researchers from all four of the MEDCHAMPS participating countries were presented for this workshop. In addition, there were three junior researchers from EU countries, including N.Ireland, Portugal and Ireland.

The aim of this training course was to provide the participants with an introduction to cardiovascular and diabetes epidemiology and epidemiological modelling.

The course covered the aetiology of the diseases and treatments, sources of data and modelling techniques. At the end of the course the participants were equipped with a better understanding of the diseases and some practical training in using the Cardiovascular diseases IMPACT models, developed by Prof Simon Capewell and colleagues. In addition, the participant had a better understanding of the data needs for developing simple CVD models in their own country.



The sequence of sessions was as follows:

1. Introduction to CVD and diabetes epidemiology
2. Cohort studies
3. Practical exercise: appraising a cohort study
4. Main risk factors for CVD and diabetes
5. Treatments for CVD and diabetes
6. CVD and diabetes Survey epidemiology
7. Case-control studies
8. Practical exercise: appraising a case-control study
9. Introduction to CVD epidemiological models
10. Practical session: Data available from each country
11. Practical session: Using the CHD IMPACT model
12. Changing parameters and sensitivity analyses

Further training and exchange visits are to be arranged in the next 6-9 months to provide support for the researchers to develop epidemiological models in these Mediterranean countries.

MARTIN O'FLAHERTY



MD
Cardiovascular Epidemiology

Martin O'Flaherty is a physician interested in cardiovascular epidemiology and in using a modelling approach to inform the decision making process in healthcare. He is a researcher in several projects aimed to refine, extend and improve the usability of the IMPACT Coronary Heart Disease Policy model, led by Prof. Simon Capewell in Liverpool. Currently the model is being implemented in Canada, Spain, Poland, Tunisia, Palestine, Syria and Turkey. He is also working in describing and understanding current trends in CVD mortality globally. His research interests are the epidemiology of cardiovascular disease, epidemiological modelling and research synthesis.



MedCHAMPS' work packages, an overview

MedCHAMPS project contains the following ten work packages. Each one of those non chronological but overlapping working packages has its own role to achieve the main object of MedCHAMPS. Leaders of each WP will be responsible for setting up a working group involving representatives of key partners participating in each WP. The main functions of the working group for each WP are to develop detailed activity plans according to the objectives and to ensure the completion of these activities in a timely and effective manner.

WPs		Key Outcomes
WP1	Development of project framework and methodological approaches	Project design framework with an agreement on key approaches and methods, and methodological guidelines for collection of existing and primary data for the situation analysis, monitoring and evaluation.
WP2	Data collection, secondary analyses, critical appraisal	Summary of data available for CVD and diabetes modelling in each study country
WP3	Model development and adaption	CVD and diabetes model suitable for use in countries at different stages of epidemiological transition, specifically where CVD and diabetes mortality and morbidity rates may be increasing.
WP4	Data entry, model analyses and validation in Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey	Reports on data entry and model analyses submitted every 6 months
WP5	National situation analyses of current policy and health system contexts	An overview of the current policy situation in each study country, characterising any gaps in current policy, or policies which are not enforced. This will guide the policy options considered in WP6.
WP6	Developing and evaluating policy options	Set of policy options, with estimates of effectiveness and cost-effectiveness, for each study country.

FOUAD M. FOUAD



MD,
Coordinator, SCTS

Dr Fouad Fouad is a researcher and coordinator of the Syrian Center for Tobacco Studies, in Aleppo. He has several years' experience with the coordination and planning of research activities at SCTS, including surveys on CVD risk factors and smoking. He has also extensive experience with the collection of qualitative data, including key informant interviews and focus groups. Fouad was the former Director of Primary Health Care in the Syrian Ministry of Health.

RANA KHATIB



PhD, MSc
Pharmaceutical Policy and Management

Dr. Rana has a MSc in Medical and Pharmaceutical Research, and a PhD in Pharmaceutical Policy and Management. She has expertise in developing pharmaceutical policies including rational use of medicines, procurement policies, drug utilization reviews, health management and planning, health system building and policy formulation. She is a main researcher in the MedCHAMPS project Palestinian team She is also the financial manger of the project from the Palestinian side.



WPs	Key Outcomes	
WP7	Integration	Explicit consideration and discussion of generalisability of results from study countries.
WP8	Dissemination and implementation of policy options	Attendance and participation of key national and regional policy makers, and representatives of health providers and the target population at initial project workshop, preliminary findings workshop and final dissemination workshop. Policy briefings for national and international policy makers detailing study findings and recommendations. Web-pages detailing study findings and recommendations. Media press releases, radio broadcasts and newsletters aimed at target population and service providers detailing study findings and recommendations in accessible language.
WP9	Training of junior researchers	Progress reports enumerating completed activities related to training of junior researchers (number of exchange of visits, short course participation, Masters/PhD student registrations, any other activities as appropriate) Final report detailing the research capacity enhancement in each partner as a result of the project
WP10	Project Management	Annual and six-month reports and financial statements. Final project report at the end of the project.

MEDCHAMPS NEWS AND PROGRESS

The first workshop with key national policy makers in Palestine

The Institute of Community and Public Health (ICPH)- Birzeit University (BZU) organized the first workshop with key national policy makers in Palestine for launching MedCHAMPS. The workshop was held in Birzeit University on December 15th, 2009. It was attended by representatives of different health providers in addition to representatives of major international donors and technical advisors bodies as fundamental influencing stakeholders.

MedCHAMPS launch meeting in Turkey

One day event was organized in IZMIR, on November 11th, 2009 to launch MedCHAMPS project to the local and national stakeholders in Turkey. 72 participants were invited including PROMAC members, representatives of MoH, Director of NCD from MoH, representatives from Izmir Health Authority, public health academicians from the Universities and representatives from different Associations (including cardiology, cardiac surgery, diabetes, neurology, primary care, family medicine, and nursing).



(PROMAC) meeting in Syria

The first meeting of the National Project Monitoring and Advisory Committee (ProMAC) was held in Syria at the World Health Organization's office in Damascus, on May 18th, 2009. The Syrian (ProMAC) composes of Dr. Ibrahim Betelmal, WHO representative in Syria, Dr. Saer Koudsie, member of Peoples Council, Dr. Maher Abo Mayaleh, director of the health program in Aga Khan foundation, Dr. Hala Alkhair, director of communicable and non-communicable diseases in Syrian MoH and Dr. Fouad M. Fouad, co-ordinator, SCTS.

Key national policy makers and health providers meeting in Syria

The Syrian Center for Tobacco Studies (SCTS) organized on June 22nd, 2009 the first workshop with key national policy makers and representatives of health providers in Aleppo. The workshop was attended by 32 participants including: the director of the health in Aleppo, the director of adapting and training department, the director of chronic diseases, the director of diabetes programme, the president of Aleppo University, the vice-president of Aleppo University, the head of medical syndicate, the director of Syrian Society Against Cancer, representatives from public hospitals, cardiologists, diabetologists and economists.

