

# GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY AND ADVOCACY UNIT NEWSLETTER



January 2024

## Korle Bu Teaching Hospital MicroResearch Workshop 2023



The Global Health Equity and Advocacy Unit in collaboration with our partners at Korle Bu, IWK Micro Research, and Academics Without Borders held our first Micro Research Workshop from November 6th to 17<sup>th</sup> 2023. The Korle Bu Micro Research workshop was organized in response to the request of our partners at Korle Bu Teaching Hospital for a research skills workshop within the faculty to promote research skill-building among trainees, allied health professionals, and junior faculty. The goal of Micro Research is to develop the local capacity to undertake community-based health research in Sub-Saharan Africa, other regions in the Global South, and Canada to find local solutions to local maternal child health problems that fit the

context, culture, and resources. This workshop involved 16 participants recruited from different institutions across Accra, Ghana. The workshop was conducted in person with virtual lectures from Micro Research facilitators in Canada. The 16 participants were divided into three teams. The ten-day workshop combined lectures and daily small group interdisciplinary, interactive working sessions. Session lectures began at 1:00pm local time in Ghana. The lectures, exercises, and group work over the nine days led the participants step-by-step through the development of a research proposal overview. Participants moved from formulating an idea to the development of the research question to the selection of methods to fit the questions taking into account the budget available and the formulation of the overview of a knowledge translation plan and determination of what communities to engage, when and how. On the final day of the workshop, each team presented the overview of their proposal in a ten-minute presentation to a panel of four local experts. The review panel, along with the two Canadian facilitators, adjudicated each team's presentation and suggested how the proposals might be further strengthened. On the final day, the teams came up with the following research objectives:



**Team 1:** Adherence to the Standard of Care Among Pregnant Women Diagnosed with Hypertension with Severe Features in Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital.

**Team 2:** Referral delays of hypertensive emergencies in pregnancy; Associated factors and Outcomes, The Korle Bu Teaching Hospital experience.

**Team 3:** Assessing Knowledge And Practice of Maternal Nutrition Among Pregnant Women Attending ANC at Korle Bu Teaching Hospital.



The Micro research workshop not only sparked a heightened interest in research for participants but also significantly enhanced their research abilities and skills, fostered effective teamwork, and presented valuable mentorship opportunities. This positive feedback emphasizes the workshop's effectiveness in fostering competence in their research endeavours and professional development. This workshop also highlighted

the importance of research skills training as part of the residency curriculum and promoted interest in modifying the MicroResearch training course to create a mandatory residency research training course at Korle Bu for Obstetrics and Gynaecology Residents.

*“I enjoyed every bit of the lectures. They were all helpful to me as a new person venturing into research.”*

*“You guys are awesome and enjoyed the camaraderie. The flash drive was great and the website is excellent. I am glad I took part in this program.”*

*“Resources were concise and provided in-depth clarification. The coaches/facilitators were all very welcoming to questions and always provided alternatives for further reading for clarification.”*



The teams are currently developing their MicroResearch proposals for a grant submission to MicroResearch and review by an international panel of research experts from Canada and Africa. Once the research teams have responded to the reviewers' recommendations with changes to their proposal, approval will be given on scientific merit. Subsequently, the teams can proceed to submit their proposal to their local Research Ethics Committee (REC or IRB) for approval and carry out their research. They are also encouraged to bring their findings back to the community through a Knowledge Translation plan.

### Hats off to our Facilitators and Organizers:

- Dr. Finlay Maguire
- Dr. Heather Scott
- Dr. Jocelyn Stairs
- Dr. Jerry Coleman
- Dr. Alim Swarray – Deen
- Dr. Noni MacDonald
- Dr. Bob Bortolussi
- Kelly Hunter

### Special thanks to our Micro Research partners and supporters!



Department of  
Obstetrics and  
Gynaecology



**Stay tuned for announcement on our multilingual birth unit tour video in our next newsletter!**

**For more information or suggestions on global health initiatives, kindly contact:**

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