

## **Delemne 4.4: Global health**

**Part of Curriculum:** MED-2520 International semester

**Revised and updated:** May 2013

**Approved by the Programstyret for medisn date:** 20.6.2013

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**Duration of the course:** 6 weeks, part time (one week course per student group).

### **Learning objectives and knowledge**

The main objective of the course is to give the students a deeper understanding and interest in the global perspectives of health, and develop skills and attitudes for future specialisation and work in the context of global health issues. The Arctic and the indigenous dimension will be given special attention.

After this course the student should be able to

- K1. Account for the main determinants of the maternal and child global health situation, like: poverty, gender, nutrition, education, climate, environment, reproductive health, water supply and sanitation
- K2. Account for the complex mechanisms causing the inequity in health globally, and interpret the relative importance of the different factors involved.
- K3. Identify and explain international strategies and the programmes of the international agencies and organizations aiming to reduce the gradients in maternal and child health care in the world.
- K4. Account for tools to be used in practical international health work, to promote health development

### **Teaching and learning methods**

Group work (13-16 students in each group).

The course lasts 6 weeks and every group will have a one week course.

Teaching will be held from Monday to Friday:

- 08-09: Plenary lecture (1 hour)
- 09-12: Group work
- 12-17: Independent work with report (to be finished by the end of the week)

Total content: 5 hours lectures, 15 hours group work under supervision and 25 hours work with a report. The detailed organization plan will secure participation in other planned activities.

### **Mandatory attendance/approval required**

Each student must hand in an individual report; minimum 4 pages plus references.

Topics for the report are suggested below, but other topics are appreciated based on individual suggestions and agreements with supervisor, using the same criteria as below. The report should be handed in on Fronter, and use appropriate references including websites and scientific literature. The report is mandatory and will be graded as approved/ not approved. Suggested topics for the report are:

### **1. Major issues of global maternal/child health**

Addressing issues like: What are the three major issues in each of Gynecology, Obstetrics, and Pediatrics in a global perspective? Justify your selection.

### **2. Infectious threats for global maternal/child health**

Addressing issues like: Pregnancy and child-related infectious diseases, e.g., HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis; malaria; pandemics; vaccination; the international system for identifying, notifying alerting and containing important infectious threats in a maternal/child perspective. Basic concepts of maternal/child related infectious diseases. Contribution of these major diseases to global mortality, with examples from selected parts of the world. The burden of disease for maternal/child health in developing countries.

### **Clinical and epidemiological aspects**

Epidemiological topics of maternal/child health issues and infectious diseases, as well as circumpolar health challenges are prioritised.

### **Recommended learning resources**

No particular textbook is recommended. Two relatively recent textbooks are available and sample chapters for these books can be accessed online.

- Lindstrand A et al. Global health: an introductory textbook. Lund, Sweden: Studentlitteratur, 2006. Article #8012-01; ISBN 9789144021980
- Skolnik R. Essentials of global health. Boston MA: Jones and Bartlett Publishers, 2008. ISBN 9780763734213

### **Other sources:**

- Sachs JD. The end of poverty. Economic possibilities for our time. London: Penguin Books, 2005. ISBN 9781594200458
- WHO Millennium Development Goals. <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/> and <http://www.unicef.org/mdg/> ;
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights. <http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html>