



Bulletin from the Teaching and Learning TWG

Second Quarter 2016

Greetings from the Teaching and Learning TWG!

We hope that this update finds you doing well. We have number of initiatives in progress, and a number of important and exciting ideas and activities coming up that we hope you will provide input for and participate in!

As a TWG, we are facilitated largely by volunteers with some coordination from within the TWG as well as administrative support from the Health Systems Global Secretariat. Over the last few years, we have been able to get quite a few ideas and initiatives going, and now we need your help to expand and improve them! We also want to think about other activities that the TWG could be working on going forward beyond the Symposium in Vancouver this fall.

Below is a list of ongoing areas and projects where we need your help. We have described the task, including estimated timeframe, as clearly as possible. There is a diversity of opportunities, and we hope you will consider contributing to one or more efforts. Please email Meike at hpsrmapping@gmail.com to sign up to help with an activity or to find out more about a specific task. Collectively, we can do a great deal to move this important working group forward! Thank you very, very much!

Current TWG Initiatives and Ways You Can Get Involved:

Conference listing: we have a draft excel sheet of upcoming conferences where HPSR teaching and learning outputs could be presented, which can be viewed here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1CXbecVBOArNF2nIzVPNk893nukV0d9vV6KWzuowVbto/edit?usp=sharing>.

- *Task:* We need to continue to update it, and also look for additional conferences and meetings to add, particularly those not limited to the health sector, where we might find additional innovative ideas.
- *Timeframe:* Ongoing; we can check in or promote updates to it every few months.

Policy brief input: We have had a draft of a policy brief based on the 2014 mapping study for nearly a year now. It is ok as it is, but could be dramatically improved, particularly in terms of formatting and also the recommendations section (one idea is to focus more on how to fill identified gaps).

- *Task:* Provide input and suggest revisions to the current version. Co-authorship a possibility depending on contribution made.
- *Timeframe:* before the Symposium, but as soon as possible.

Webinars: We are planning one for May or June 2016 to discuss the planned skills-building “clinic” session at the Symposium in November. We are interested in continuing to plan webinars

around areas of interest to TWG members, and the HGS secretariat will help to host them. This could include further planning to address gaps from the mapping study, or other topics.

- *Task:* Consider additional topics for webinars, and organize at least one
- *Timeframe:* Before the Symposium in Vancouver

Flyers: Sophie from IDS is helping us put together a general one for the TWG that covers the objectives, major accomplishments, and other information about the TWG.

- *Task:* Provide input on a forthcoming draft, and think about what other promotional material could benefit the TWG.
- *Timeframe:* In April and May 2016.

Skills-building “clinic” session at Symposium in Vancouver: We have a growing list of interested TWG members and others for this “clinic” session. We are very excited about it, and look forward to seeing a great turn out and discussion take place! We have a google form: <http://goo.gl/forms/VXXZl7Bo20> where interested people can sign up to participate in a number of ways and also ensure that they will receive further communication about the session.

- *Task:* Sign up if you are interested!
- *Timeframe:* Between now and the Symposium, but as soon as possible!

Booth at Vancouver Marketplace: TWGs are offered space at the Symposium marketplace. We are interested in seeing whether we can partner with another TWG to share space (and the manning of the table). The Secretariat is looking into this at the organizational level as well, but we need to keep working on it.

- *Task:* Substantial coordination is needed to ensure that we have a display, promotional materials, and volunteers to man the table—particularly if we have a computer set up with the training database available live on it for people to explore.
- *Timeframe:* From now until the conclusion of the Symposium

Training Database update: Our global training database of HPSR courses is currently being re-designed. It can be viewed at: <http://courses.healthsystemsglobal.org/>. The database will be ready for further updates and additions by June 1, 2016.

- *Task:* All help is welcomed for seeking additional courses, reviewing existing content for accuracy and relevance, or helping us test features of the database once it is operational again.
- *Timeframe:* Ongoing from June 1. We can check in every few months and evaluate progress and what other revisions and additions might be needed.

Regional “Champions”: As we are aware from the 2014 mapping study and our ongoing work, there are several regions—Latin America, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa in particular—where current training options for HPSR are limited, or have not been identified so far. We already have some momentum building around the Latin America region, and we look forward to seeing that continue and to connecting more directly and strongly with the other regions. We have a draft of a short PowerPoint presentation, and are developing flyers to help with this.

- *Task:* Raise awareness in your region of the TWG and available resources, research potential partners and interested faculty members and practitioners and reach out to them, facilitate networking and sharing ideas and promotional materials within your region.
- *Timeframe:* Ongoing. It would be great to have a push before the Symposium.

TWG Leadership Succession Planning: The TWG would like to encourage our members to consider whether they are interested in holding leadership roles for the TWG in the future. This could be as a co-chair of the TWG, or in a coordinating role for a project of the TWG or of a standing sub-group within the TWG. As we look forward beyond the upcoming Symposium, there will be leadership positions to fill for the TWG.

- *Task:* Think about the long-term vision for and capacity of the TWG. Consider whether you are interested in holding a leadership role, or who else you think would be strong candidates.
- *Timeframe:* Leading up to the Symposium, and will likely be discussed there.

Fundraising: we need some help to scope additional ideas and help work on building relationships with potential donors to lead towards proposal development and submission. We have had funding from Wellcome Trust and from the Alliance for HPSR. A recently identified opportunity is: Developing Excellence in Leadership, Training and Science Initiative
<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/Funding/Biomedical-science/Funding-schemes/Other-schemes/wtp057105.htm>.

- *Task:* Search for potential funding for the projects listed here and other TWG interests (including your own!).
- *Timeframe:* Ongoing, can have a check in with leadership of the TWG every month or two to plan for follow-up and what kind of support is needed.

Blog Postings and Social Media Presence: The Health Systems Global blog is an avenue to disseminate products and ignite dialogs around HPSR teaching and learning! The Secretariat can help with copy editing and will manage the actual posting of entries.

- *Task:* Develop (or solicit from colleagues) blog posts about current projects or ideas related to the TWG focus. Help disseminate the posting through your networks. We can also work on developing and using a hashtag for the TWG, and increasing our social media presence.
- *Timeline:* It would be great to have a couple of blog posts out before Vancouver.

**Please note:* the items on this list are the things we are already working on and aware of. If you have other ideas that you think are important and relevant to the TWG, let's get them on the agenda and make them happen!

If you would like to get involved, we would like to hear from you! The hpsrmapping@gmail.com account is the best way to volunteer to participate in some of the TWG work, but please do not hesitate to contact any of us!

Very sincerely,

Dina, David, and Meike
Co-Chairs and Coordinator for the TWG