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http://www.equator-network.org/

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Memorandum of Collaboration between The Global Health Network and EQUATOR (Enhancing the QUAlity and Transparency Of health Research)

Insofar as the overall goals and objectives of the organisations are consistent with regards to using the internet to build capacity in health research, and to standardize and improve the quality of health research being conducted, it is clear that there are some obvious overlaps and areas of work that it is beneficial for our two organisations to collaborate on.

This memorandum outlines the key areas of current and future collaboration, but is not exhaustive to the opportunities that may exist.

1. Web technology and capacity

The Global Health Network and EQUATOR have several years of online development experience. We undertake to share our expertise, technology already developed, and to collaborate on commissioning new technology and capacity. The Global Health Network also has an IT Coordinator, and we believe that the best way to maximise new development would be to make some of this coordinator's time available to the EQUATOR team to coordinate and collaborate on technology transfer and development.

2. Online dissemination

Where appropriate, we undertake to cross-post and collaborate on the dissemination and publication of resources that are of mutual interest to the audiences of our respective websites. This would include posting up links to new resources, discussions or articles. This requires a conscious effort, which we will coordinate by email and regular (at least quarterly) face-to-face meetings. We will also support each other's social media efforts by sharing the output of each other's social media streams.

3. Regional faculties

Both organisations have a key focus in setting up regional presences, and we will coordinate our efforts in this regard. This would include sharing our contacts to identify relevant champions or regional community leaders, organisations and other key contacts in regions in which we work in order to facilitate entry for each other in mutually beneficially ways.

4. eLearning

The Global Health Network has the capacity and experience, as well as the mandate, to create short and modular 'how to' online training courses which lead to certification. We wish to collaborate to help EQUATOR

develop online courses around the toolkits, guidelines and other guidance that they have created. These materials will be turned into online, certified modules for hosting on the network, and on the EQUATOR site.

Cancer website

The Global Health Cancer site is available for posting up material, and for disseminating information relating to cancer research. As the medical statistics unit has funding for a research fellow in cancer research, we believe that it would be mutually beneficial for this fellow to use the existing cancer research platform on the network as needed to disseminate information, and to build a community around cancer research studies as useful or needed, and the network operational staff will provide support as necessary to make this possible.

6. Academic seminars and visitors

As there is a lot of overlap between the work of EQUATOR and of the network, we will collaborate to share academic presentations, seminars, and information about visitors to the benefit of both organisations. The Global Health Network hosts a seminar series which is recorded and disseminated on the network, and we will collaborate in the first instance to host a seminar by Doug Altman, and one by Iveta Simera.

This short list of activities outlines the most obvious and initial list of mutually beneficial collaborative activities, and we will collaborate in any way that supports the activities of both organisations.

Signed on behalf of The Global Health Network

Douglas G. Altman

Signed on behalf of the EQUATOR Network

Trudie Lang