Author: Amira Khan

Co Author: Bianca Carducci (The Hospital for Sick Children)

Topic: Capacity development for public health nutrition

Title: Innovative Capacity Building in Public Health Nutrition through Online Learning

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With the objective of increasing access to training for healthcare providers worldwide and enhancing the capacity of health systems in public health nutrition (PHN) through innovation, The SickKids Public Health Nutrition (SPHNC) course was designed for health care professionals (physicians, nurses, dietitians, health and nutrition managers) as a means of responding to nutrition challenges faced by vulnerable populations, especially women and children in low-middle income countries. By leveraging SickKids expertise and global networks, the course will provide participants with exposure to key issues in PHN through multiple teaching pedagogies, including translational and transformative learning.

Supported by evidence-based research, key public health nutrition topics are taught in 7 interactive modules, where each module contains 3-7 sessions. Overarching modular topics range from micronutrient deficiencies and nutrition across the lifecycle to nutritional assessment and cost-effective nutrition interventions. A practicum component of the SPHNC has also been developed to enhance user techniques in anthropometric assessments, as well as programmatic planning and management of nutrition related projects. As means of providing an interactive course, a variety of leading global experts in Maternal Newborn Child Health and Nutrition are also highlighted through short video vignettes as part of the course lecture series. The application of SPHNC content is essential for filling critical knowledge gaps and strengthening health systems to improve population nutrition in LMIC, especially post-2015. Showcasing course sessions will allow for engagement and discussion with primary healthcare providers and potential users on course content, design and functionality and feedback and discussion on distribution approaches.