

We Talk About Our Hypertension in Hung Yen province, Vietnam

Location: Hung Yen, Vietnam

Offered: Spring/Summer 2015

Duration: 4-8 weeks

Lodging: Hostel or Homestay

Number of open position: 01

Faculty mentors:

Dartmouth: ?

Vietnam Faculty Mentor: Duc Anh Ha, Senior Staff Scientist, Institute of Population, Health and Development (PHAD), Hanoi

- Additional support provided by Dr. Cuong Kieu Nguyen, and Ms. Oanh Pham, staff members at PHAD

Description:

Vietnam as an emerging economy country is facing an alarming burden of non-communicable (NCDs) diseases, among them cardiovascular disease (CVD) will continue to increase. A national survey in 2008 found that the prevalence of hypertension (HTN) was approximately 27% among Vietnamese adults. The project entitled "Chúng ta nói về bệnh tăng huyết áp - We Talk About Our Hypertension", an NIH-funded collaborative work between the Institute of Population, Health and Development (PHAD) and the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) will address this emerging thread to public health in Vietnam. Introducing a novel application of narrative intervention, or "storytelling", to rural communities in the Red River Delta region of Vietnam, the approach aims to promote HTN control for adults as well as to evaluate the feasibility and acceptability of the intervention through the conduct of a pilot randomized trial.

The student will join the research team at PHAD to learn how to engage community members from Hung Yen province to produce an interactive, multi-media intervention based on patients' stories in culturally and literacy appropriate ways. The student will assist the study team in producing a series of interactive DVDs that encompass health message domains, which are consistent with the Health Behavior Model, the Adapted Slater Model of Narrative Communication, the cultural background of participants and the desired behavior change.

Expectations:

The student should be highly adaptable in a non-English speaking environment, prepared to work 40 or more hours a week, and be comfortable traveling to remote areas of Vietnam (and possibly staying for a few days) to implement the project and

conduct trainings. The student should be willing to take on additional responsibilities and projects as needed. Familiarity with some aspects of computer programming is not essential but helpful.

Who should apply?

- Students with an interest in global public health, medicine, epidemiology, software development, multi-media, statistics, anthropology, and health policy should consider applying. Students with some background or interest in film, photography, comparative literature, communications or computer science are strongly encouraged to apply.

Student qualifications:

- Medical student or Completion of freshman year by summer 2014
- Willingness to live independently and commute using non-English speaking public transportation