Innovative Partnerships: 
How Collaboration Leads to 
Stronger Global Dietitians

Disclosures

• Dr. Diane Stadler: None
  • Oregon Health & Science University

• Erin Bergquist: None
  • Iowa State University

• Dr. Laurene Boateng: None
  • University of Ghana

• Dr. Chandavone Phoxay: None
  • Lao Ministry of Health & National Nutrition Center

• Joanna Cummings: None
  • Oregon Health & Science University

Learning Outcomes

• Describe the challenges and complexities of educating and working in a low resource, low income setting.

• Identify how each educational approach is tailored to the region and culture while remaining respectful of resources available.

• Summarize how collaboration between organizations and countries is improving lives around the world through access to dietitians/nutritionists.
Malnutrition: Global Overview

- Stunting: 155 million
- Wasting: 52 million
- Overweight: 41 million


What is the value for RD/RDN’s to gain global perspective?

Complexity of malnutrition and food insecurity

- World hunger is on the rise - ~821 million are undernourished
- Food insecurity contributes to overweight and obesity, as well as undernutrition
- Gender differences in food security – women are more likely than men to be food insecure in Africa, Asia, and Latin America
- War and conflict
- Soil degradation & reduced biodiversity
- Safe water
- Climate change
- Psychosocial

RD/RDN’s at the Global Table
Building Confidence

Iowa State University & University of Ghana

- 4 week community nutrition rotation in rural Ghana
- Research project focus - complementary feeding practices
- Expertise shared from University of Ghana dietitians
- Customs and culture sessions from local experts
- Interns experience a variety of cultural activities

Preparing Interns: Challenges

- Language barriers
- Cultural differences
- Income – low-resource region
- Low-literacy
- Public health issues
Findings and Interventions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>June 2015 (n=116)</th>
<th>Jan 2016 (n=92)</th>
<th>June 2016 (n=92)</th>
<th>Jan 2017 (n=87)</th>
<th>June 2017 (n=61)</th>
<th>Jan 2018 (n=87)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Untreated water</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate protein</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate Vitamin A</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate nutritional variety (&gt;4 food groups)</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nutrition Research & Training Center

- Funded through grants from Global Livestock Collaborative Research Support Program, USAID and University of Ghana funds
- Demo garden – teach mothers and caregivers how to improve diet
- Field site for higher ed research, projects from World Vision, McGill University, Iowa State University, SUNY Oneonta
- Training site for district assembly, government hospital, and district health directorate

Building Capacity of Ghanaian Dietitians through international collaborations

- Brief overview of Dietetics Education in Ghana
- Building capacity - offshoot of collaboration between UG and ISU
- New partnerships – UNF on board
- Activities - Research and training workshops for Ghanaian Dietitians
  - 2013 – NCP workshop
  - 2015 – NCP implementation study
  - 2017 – NCP update workshop
  - 2017 – Nutrition care documentation study
  - 2018 – Nutrition focused physical findings study
  - 2018 - Nutrition focused physical findings workshop

Outcomes

- Implementation of NCP in Ghanaian hospitals
  - 97% of Ghanaian dietitians working in the hospital setting implement NCP
- Improved documentation of nutrition care
  - Enhanced profile of the dietitian in work settings
- Interest in Academy Membership
  - 2 members in 2013
  - 12 members in 2018
Challenges

- Government reluctance to employ more dietitians
- Limited opportunities for specialisation
- Inadequate access to in-service training and job aids

Future perspectives

- Further research and training for Ghanaian dietitians through international collaborations
- Centre of Excellence for Dietetics Practice at UG

Lao-American Nutrition Institute (LANI)

Collaboration between Lao Ministry of Health, U.S. Government and Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) to train Clinical Dietitians for Lao PDR

Mission

To provide high quality, evidence based nutrition education at the university level with a global reach through our research, publications and training of local leaders

Vision

The Lao-American Nutrition Institute will be the center of excellence for nutrition education and research in Lao PDR

Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics in Lao

- 22 Clinical Nutrition Specialists
- 6 Provinces
- 12 hospitals
- ~2600 patients per month

Developing Clinical Nutrition Program

- Needs Assessment
- Food & Resource Identification
- Other nutrition projects and programs in Lao
- Interviews with key stakeholders
Challenges

• Language
• Staff
• Funding
• Collective agreement on priorities, objectives and outcomes
• Time
• University & Governmental process, policies and procedures to work through
• Creating course content that is culturally appropriate, cognizant of resources and abilities, and translated correctly

Research & High Local Impact Opportunities

• LANI provides a unique opportunity for U.S. and other international students to come work and learn in a new environment
• Encourage “out-of-the-box” thinking and solutions
• Learn about cultural foods, practices, cooking techniques and the impact on nutrition
• Conduct high-impact research that can be applied to improve health and well-being of Lao nationals

Achievements

• LANI provides a unique opportunity for U.S. and other international students to come work and learn in a new environment
• Encourage “out-of-the-box” thinking and solutions
• Learn about cultural foods, practices, cooking techniques and the impact on nutrition
• Conduct high-impact research that can be applied to improve health and well-being of Lao nationals

The way forward
Future in Global Nutrition

Practice Applications

• Join the Global Member Interest Group (coming 2019) or International Affiliate of the Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics (IAAND)

• Reach out and engage with others working internationally!

• Look outside of the “standard” career path for RD’s!