

Building Resources for Context Based Medical Education in Rural Nepal and Newfoundland and Labrador

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Context: The Karnali Academy of Health Sciences (KAHS) was established in 2011. Its mandate is to develop human resources to meet the health needs of one of the most remote and underserved areas of Nepal. The Doctor of Medicine in General Practice (MDGP) training program at KAHS is thus centered exclusively in the Karnali region. Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) is shaped by a similar philosophy whereby family physician training is predominantly in rural contexts. Further, the MUN Enhanced Skills fellowship in Care of Underserved Populations (CUP) includes four months of training in remote Labrador and two in global health in Nepal. The shared philosophies between MUN and KAHS are common ground for mutually beneficial creative collaboration in medical education.

Objectives:

- 1- Develop a plan for a learning exchange for learners and faculty at both KAHS and MUN.
- 2- Strengthen opportunities for KAHS and MUN to build on existing mentorship programs.

Methodology: Dialogue online and on site in Karnali region began in 2019 with community consultations and has continued around building a collaboration to support primary health care training. When in person, co-development of goals for collaboration and educational activities are established. A general Memorandum of Understanding was signed between both academic institutions in 2022.

Participants: The CUP resident and a MUN faculty member will travel to Jumla annually to collaborate with the KAHS MDGP program director.

Outcome: In 2022 the KAHS MDGP program director participated in the 6for6 mentorship program offered by MUN to build research capacity among rural family physicians. During the 2023 site visit, clear objectives were co-established; onsite mentorship in research, bedside teaching and workshop based presentations on topics identified by the MDGP on arrival and ongoing discussion around support for the development of KAHS fellowship in global health. This visit prompted a proposal for the MOU to become a university wide collaboration with MUN.

Conclusion: International partnerships between medical training institutions take time to develop and must be founded on trust. Key to this process is having clear objectives identified by both partners and a commitment to ongoing discussion in person and online as well as the flexibility to respond to local opportunities within the partnership.