Evaluating the impact of family physicians within the district health system of South Africa

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www.sun.ac.za/fammed
National Project
Strengthening primary health care through primary care doctors and family physicians

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Project objectives

- To strengthen primary health care through capacity building of primary care doctors and family physicians:
  
  I. To build the capacity of primary care doctors and family physicians to function in support of community-based primary care teams and to improve the quality of PHC services
  
  II. To build the capacity of family physicians to offer effective leadership and clinical governance to PHC facilities
  
  III. To evaluate the contribution of family physicians to strengthening district health services
To strengthen primary health care through capacity building of primary care doctors and family physicians:

I. To build the capacity of primary care doctors and family physicians to function in support of community-based primary care teams and to improve the quality of PHC services

II. To build the capacity of family physicians to offer effective leadership and clinical governance to PHC facilities

III. To evaluate the contribution of family physicians to strengthening of health services

Research on FP impact
Primary care doctors for a revitalised PHC system

Primary care doctors

Medical practitioners, 18000

No formal postgrad training in family

Family physicians, 570

1. Diploma

FUTURE DIPLOMAS

Stellenbosch University
University of KwaZulu-Natal
University of Cape Town
Pretoria University

Going to scale with postgraduate training opportunities for primary care doctors
Aligned with national learning outcomes

Medical practitioners with PG Dip - equipped for undergrad supervision
Postgraduate programmes offered at Stellenbosch University

**Postgraduate Diploma**
- 2-years
- Clinical
- Aimed at primary care doctors

**MPhil in Family Medicine**
- 2-years
- Non-clinical
- Aimed at doctors who have an interest in the development of the FM discipline (especially research) in Sub-Saharan Africa

**Masters in Family Medicine**
- 4-years
- Aims to prepare doctors as registered family physicians in South Africa (via registrar programme)
Postgraduate programmes offered at Stellenbosch University

Postgraduate Diploma

- 2-years
- Clinical
- Aimed at primary care doctors

Clinical Governance for Primary Care

Clinical Primary Care

Community-Oriented Primary Care

Core Dimensions of Primary Care

Learning in Primary Care Teams

Primary Care Consultation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Module 1:</th>
<th>Module 2:</th>
<th>Module 3:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Research Proposal Development (10 credits)</td>
<td>Principles of Family Medicine</td>
<td>Teaching and Learning in Family Medicine (20 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Research Thesis (90 credits)</td>
<td>Community-oriented primary Care (20 credits)</td>
<td>Leadership and Clinical Governance (20 credits)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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2. Activities aimed at:
   Funded by EU and THET

a. Training of **clinical trainers** (FPs training registrars)
b. Training of **examiners** (FPs involved with assessment: national exit exam)
c. Implementing a new module on clinical leadership & governance in all MMed programmes
Articles


Which phenomenon are we studying? And why?
Meeting the challenges and convincing the leadership

“There is an urgent need to link family medicine, and the implementation of high-quality primary care, with the global movement to achieve universal health coverage.”

Chapter 1, p. 11 - 12
Convincing the leadership

Present the evidence

Show living examples

Develop international collaboration

Chapter 1, p. 11 - 12
Finding the FM evidence
What to consider when designing the research

- Context
- Roles
- Organisation of health system

These 3 factors determine the scope of the FP’s training and practice

Chapter 1, p. 4 - 12
**SOUTH AFRICA**
Two-tiered health system

+ Quadruple DISEASE BURDEN
+ post - 1994
+ Unequal distribution HUMAN RESOURCES

Context
Six roles of the South African family physician

1. Expert generalists*
2. Successfully completed postgraduate training
3. Postgraduate training is organised in same model as other specialists

Care-provider – competent to work clinically throughout the district
Consultant – to the primary care services
Capacity-builder – teaches, mentors, supports, develops other practitioners
Supervisor – of registrars, interns, medical students
Manager – clinical governance of team
Champion of COPC – engages with the community served

The contribution of family physicians to district health services: a national position paper for South Africa

R Mash, G Ogunbanjo, SS Naidoo, D Hellenberg

*Medical generalism - Amanda Howe
Conceptual framework
Evaluating the impact of family physicians within the district health system of South Africa

Health system performance:
- Access
- Co-ordination
- Comprehensiveness
- Efficiency

Organisation of health system

Structure
Generic processes
Targeted processes

Policy interventions
Family physicians
Generic interventions
Targeted interventions
e.g. education and training

Clinical processes
Quality of care
- HIV/AIDS
- TB
- Injury
- MCH
- NCDs
- Mental health
- Prevention/promotion

Clinical interventions
e.g. drugs, devices, therapies

Outcomes
Mortality rates
Morbidity rates
Research project overview

District Health System

Health System Performance

Clinical processes
– Quality of Care

Outcomes

Family Physicians
Looking through 4 lenses
Evaluating the impact of family physicians within the district health system of South Africa

District Health System

1. DHS facility
2. DHS facility
3. 3 provinces
4. Family Physicians

7 provinces

Strengthening primary health care through primary care doctors and family physicians
Quasi-experimental study

- Facility-level data of district hospitals and community health centres with and without FPs

Intervention

- 15 DH
- 15 CHC

Control

- 15 DH
- 15 CHC

Facility details and family medicine influence (dose)

Database preparation for analysis to follow
FP Impact Assessment Tool

- Evaluation of the impact of family physicians based on a 360-degree evaluation by their co-workers

Pasio K, Mash R. Assessment of the perceived impact of family physicians in the district health system of the Western Cape Province, South Africa [MMed thesis]. Cape Town: Stellenbosch University, 2014.
DHIS analysis

Correlation between supply of FPs (number/100,000) and routine data indicators measuring district performance

Methods informed by Pilot study in Western Cape (Dyers R, Mash B, Naledi T)
Interviews with district managers

• Semi-structured interview guide informed by conceptual framework

45 – 60 minutes per interview

Managers of districts with family physicians
Positive impact on the quality of clinical processes with specific examples given for HIV/AIDS, TB, maternal and child health, non-communicable diseases and mental health.

Some impact on health services performance in terms of improved access to care, better coordination, more comprehensive and efficient services.

Anticipate impact on health outcomes but early days.


See also: “The emergence of family medicine in Africa” (PhD: Shabir Moosa)
Looking through 4 lenses
Evaluating the impact of family physicians within the district health system of South Africa

Reflection on results; sharing of findings

District Health System

Strengthening primary health care through primary care doctors and family physicians
Convincing the leadership

- Present the evidence
- Show living examples
- Develop international collaboration

Chapter 1, p. 11 - 12
Chapter 1, p. 11 - 12

Family medicine role models?
Best practice training complexes?
Best practice academic departments?

Show living examples

Develop international collaboration
Opportunity for Primafamed?

Develop international collaboration

Family medicine role models?
“Teams are based on mutual trust and mutual understanding”
Peter Drucker

This study was conducted with the financial assistance of the European Union (EU). The contents of this presentation are the sole responsibility of the authors, and cannot be regarded as a reflection of the position of the EU under any circumstances.

Thank you!
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http://www.symplur.com/healthcare-hashtags/PrimaFamed16/

Top 10 by Mentions

@klaussvon 158
@jkaramana 126
@sufammed 119
@jandemaeseneer 114
@woncaafirica 100
@saafp1 68
@gaujot 63
@ronniekib 33
@l_pc 28
@c84boro 27

Top 10 by Tweets

@jkaramana 54
@klaussvon 50
@sufammed 30
@saafp1 29
@alstacs 24
@su_dihs 18
@ronniekib 8
@jandemaeseneer 8
@l_pc 7
@hcsnnews 7

The Numbers

269,104 Impressions
300 Tweets
37 Participants
2 Avg Tweets/Hour
8 Avg Tweets/Participant

17 - 23 May 2016
THANKS FOR TWEETING 😊

#PRIMAFAMED16

PRIMA FAMED (AFRICA) NETWORK
“PRIMARY CARE & FAMILY MEDICINE EDUCATION NETWORK”

8th Primafamed workshop