



The Young Professionals Public eHealth Program at a Glance September 2011 - January 2013



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
DALLA LANA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Embark on a professional journey to become pioneers and leaders in a cutting-edge field that will dramatically impact the future practice of public health in the region.

Inequities in health are prevalent across many parts of Latin America and the Caribbean. They can be found between different social groups and are influenced by race, gender, and ethnicity, among other things.

The eSAC project aims to improve the health of disadvantaged groups and contribute to the advancement of equity in health in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), by nurturing and promoting Public eHealth innovations.

What is eSAC?

- An initiative that nurtures and promotes Public eHealth
- A project that will foster an environment for innovation
- A public health wide vision of information and communication technologies (ICTs); including both the traditional applications and more recent and innovative ones supported by Web 2.0 solutions

Mission

The eSAC project will offer Young Professionals (YPs) a unique opportunity to learn, gain field experience, and greatly expand their professional networks.

Central to the eSAC model is the work of a small network of highly educated and motivated YPs who will support the development of a regional community of practice comprised of innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers, policy makers, the media, and the general public.

Main Responsibilities

eSAC's two vital responsibilities are:

- Supporting communication, networking activities, and mutual understanding between public health stakeholders
- Creating opportunities for distributing problem solving of Public eHealth-related challenges

YP's main responsibilities will be to catalyze the development of the regional community of practice and the eSAC virtual community. YPs will operate at the regional level, both individually and as a team, and provide necessary assistance to most project activities.

Overarching Objectives

- To foster and support the development of technical capacity in eHealth for LAC
- To improve the application of Public eHealth tools and methods to promote health equity in LAC
- To strengthen policy processes, management, and communications in LAC

Main Components

- Information technologies
- Equity and health
- Training
- Communication
- Knowledge management
- Networking

Values

- Creativeness
- Social commitment
- Excellence

Key Concepts

- Communication
- Communities of practice
- Effectiveness
- Equity and health
- Evidence-based decision-making
- Evidence-based public health
- Leadership
- Knowledge management
- Knowledge translation
- Cost efficiencies
- Integral health
- Innovation
- Networking
- Public eHealth

Benefits

By the end of the program, selected YPs will be able to:

- Understand various eHealth programs in LAC
- Apply critical thinking skills to analyze local health problems and the use of ICTs
- Understand evaluation frameworks including qualitative and quantitative eHealth evaluation methods
- Apply the basics of advocacy for formulation implementation and evaluation of eHealth evidence-based policies
- Communicate effectively with various stakeholders and decision-makers
- Write technical documents and policy briefs
- Manage thematic social networks
- Promote teamwork, team building, and organizational leadership

Program features

Fieldwork

During their assignment Young Professionals will join their colleagues on field assignments dealing with issues of regional impact in their own countries. These assignments present opportunities for Young Professionals to experience firsthand the challenges of global health, understand key aspects of Public eHealth, and the roles of different stakeholders.

Training

YPs Workshop Orientation:

Young Professionals will participate in a specially designed orientation workshop that will enable them to integrate into their work teams smoothly and efficiently.

YPs Individual Training Opportunities:

Young Professionals will have the opportunity to participate in several training activities organized within the institution as well as seminars offered outside the eSAC project.

YPs Roundtables:

A series of discussions will be organized for Young Professionals around the procedures, policies, and work plans. Performance and feedback will also be discussed.

Coaching and Tutoring

Young Professionals will have several tutors, based on their professional interests and cultural backgrounds.

Young Professionals PAHO/WHO Project Manager:

Will be dedicated to helping integrate Young Professionals into the eSAC project and will coordinate various activities designed to support Young Professionals, including tutoring and helping them formulate working strategies.

Compensation and Benefits with PAHO/WHO

Format: Contractual services

Location: the YP country of residence.

Travel: PAHO/WHO will cover all travel costs related to the project.

Virtual collaboration tools: YPs will use a series of software and web services for virtual collaboration during the implementation of the project, as well as for the interaction with their tutors.

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