PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centres: Celebrating the Achievement of Our Common Goals

Friday, 10 March 2023, 10:00 AM (EDT)
Land Acknowledgement

The University of British Columbia (UBC)’s Point Grey Campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam) people. The land it is situated on has always been a place of learning for the Musqueam people, who for millennia have passed on their culture, history, and traditions from one generation to the next on this site.
Protecting healthcare workers during a pandemic: what can a WHO collaborating centre research partnership contribute?

• Names of authors:
  Jerry M. Spiegel, Muzimkhulu Zungu, Annalee Yassi, Karen Lockhart, Kerry Sidwell Wilson, Arnold I. Okpani, David Jones, Natasha Sanabria

• Speaker name/title:
  Jerry M. Spiegel, Professor

• Department/Institution name:
  Global Health Research Program
  School of Population & Public Health
  University of British Columbia
  Vancouver, Canada

Funding: International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
Overview of Article

We sought to ascertain whether and how working as a partnership of two World Health Organization collaborating centres (WHOCCs), based respectively in the Global North and Global South, can add insights on “what works to protect healthcare workers (HCWs) during a pandemic, in what contexts, using what mechanism, to achieve what outcome”.

A realist synthesis of projects in a collaborative research program carried out to characterize

- Context (C) (including researcher positionality);
- Mechanism (M) (including service relationships); and
- Outcome (O) in each project.

An assessment was then conducted of:

*the role of the WHOCC partnership in each study and overall.*
Results – 7 Projects analyzed

1 - Global comparative study
   Comparative N-S perspective
   161 countries / economic disparity effects

2 - Workplace assessment (SA)
   Readiness / adaptation (HEALTHWISE)
   effects of OH policy & compliance with good practices

3 - Cohort study (C)
   effects of control measures / vaccination

4 - Cohort study (SA)
   effects of control measures / vaccination

5 - Nested case control study (C)
   effects of exposure factors / control measures

6 - Mental health study (SA)
   effects of support / training

7 - Information System study (SA)
   Building on long history of collaboration in implementation

   Readiness & feasibility of strengthening workplace systems
Conclusions/results?

- lower-resourced countries with higher economic disparity incurred greater occupational health risk and had less acceptable measures to protect HCWs at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic than higher-income more-equal counterpart countries.

- Rigorously adopting occupational health measures can indeed protect the healthcare workforce; training and preventive initiatives can reduce workplace stress;

- information systems are valued; and HCWs most at-risk can be readily identified to trigger adoption of protective actions.

The C-M-O analysis showed various ways in which working through a WHOCC partnership not only enabled knowledge sharing, but allowed for triangulating results and, ultimately, initiatives for worker protection.
How does this activity support the Organization's goals and mandates?

Substantive contextualized insights into protecting health care workers - during emergent pandemics

Insights into the value of CCs and global health partnerships – and how to monitor and evaluate their contributions
  - bi-directional learning
  - take advantage of established networks
Thank you!

Gracias!

Obrigado!