Scientific Staff Meeting CIH: Monday 14 January 2019 in ODH Assembly area 5th floor

Present: Guri, Joar, Hallgeir, Andrea, Joyce Nalugya (presenter), David, Graziella, Elinor, Hanne, Marthe, Thorkild, Karen Marie, Bente, Ingvild S., Sven G., Halvor (arrived later), Catherine (arrived later), Melf (arrived later), Carmeliza (minute writer).

Presentation by Joyce S. Nalugya from Makerere who is visiting us
Presentation on Childhood alcoholism, followed by discussion, comments and suggestions.

(she has published an interesting article from a controlled trial here: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Nalugya+JS)

Request from Research Council of Norway

1. NFR has requested proposals of names for possible participants of their future Programme Board (Portefølie Styret). Some have suggested names (namely Thorkild and Halvor). Bente has asked about age limit, because of the suggestion of Bernt. There have been retired people in such positions, but the NFR has not yet thought about it, so they haven’t been able to respond.

2. NFR has requested a text describing what is important to have reflected in the new programme, in areas where Norway has strong research capacity in global health.

   Mother and child is the obvious, as well as intervention studies and control trials. However, Halvor suggested that we should not report only on what we do, but rather propose that the new programme contribute to identifying and reducing diseases with high disease burden. Andrea suggested that a measure of equity should be included in the text. Thorkild added that poorer population segments, including in middle income countries should be considered, as well as efforts in institutional developments and collaborative research with partners (Bente).

3. NFR wants to know in which SDGs should there be focus. There are many in which CIH has experience (almost half of them). Maternal and child mortality are the most obvious. Halvor has suggested that SDGs related to death have become outdated, as mortality rates are reducing. More focus could be put on physical and cognitive development, rather than mortality.

   Thorkild reminded that Scandinavian countries have been strong in sexual and reproductive health, including reproductive related rights. Halvor suggested that there should be something positive in the text, reminding that CEPI focuses on rare and fringe diseases with strong disease burden, however NFR should focus on common diseases.

   In relation to primary care, focus should rather be directed at health care priorities, which CIH works with. In addition, there should be a mention to the support to students from low income countries and the role of CIH on education. New formats should be found to replace the quota system, but there should be a recognition of the positive aspects it brought. Opinions were divided between whether students should stay longer (Ingvild S.) or shorter times (Thorkild, Bente). Thorkild also suggested that only PhD level students should be part of mobility programs. Otherwise it would be better to focus on partnerships and capacity development.

Short information about administrative issues

1. Remember the abstracts for Global Health conference 2-3/4 - before 1th Feb.
2. Siri is now in charge of the cash card issue. Mails have been sent today with suggestions from us how to solve the situation. There will be a meeting with the Economy Director, to explain how we work later on; to avoid similar problems later.

3. Bente will send out a guideline about what to do and who to contact when guests come to CIH. Linda will assist with all aspects regarding master students, Daniel will assist with PhD students, and Carmeliza (or the person who will fill the position afterwards) will assist with guest researchers. These aspects include flights, lodging and financial support. This is to avoid having to go to different persons for the same visitor.

Other issues

1. Bente has been to the FESTMIH (Federation of European Societies for Tropical Medicine and International Health) board meeting in London, which is held once a year. They hold an European conference every two years. In 2019, it will be held in September, in Liverpool. Abstracts should be sent by 1 February. Bente will send relevant information about the conference and confirm capability and liability of holding the conference in Bergen in 2021.

2. The PhD conference of the Norwegian Research School will be held in Rosendal right after the GHN conference. PhDs who register to one conference are welcome to register in the other.

3. There is an allmøte at IGS on Wednesday 16/1. Unfortunately, it coincides with the International day at the faculty, where Bente, Thorkild, Linda, Karen M, Sven G must attend. All from CIH are welcome both places. Pick your choice.