

THET Conference 2016

Abstract Submission Form

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| Applicant for correspondence (name and position) | Siân Williams, Executive Officer |
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| Full title of your submission |
| Improving care for people with asthma: building capacity across a European network of primary care organisations - the IPCRG's Teach the Teacher Programme. |
| Abstract of your research (maximum 400 words) |
| <p><i>Improving health system management through health partnerships</i></p> <p>The International Primary Care Respiratory Group (IPCRG) is an international network of organisations committed to improving assessment/treatment of chronic respiratory disease (CRD) in primary care. As a charity we support improvements in health systems within member countries by disseminating research evidence such as the findings from the recent U-BIOPRED project on severe asthma¹ and offering evidence-based resources such as a structured asthma review 'SIMPLES' and desktop helper on difficult to manage asthma². One approach to building capacity in primary care described in the IPCRG's education strategy³, is Teach the Teacher.</p> <p>Aim: We ran a pilot 'Teach the Teacher: Difficult to Manage Asthma' programme to check feasibility of the initial training, assess the challenges faced by local teams, and test approaches to evaluation.</p> <p>Approach: We convened an 'Expert Faculty', including clinical, educational and patient representation (European Federation of Asthma and Airways Diseases Patients Associations). Seventeen clinical colleagues from Romania, Greece, Turkey, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, UK and Portugal met in January 2015 to develop skills in teaching colleagues, design 'in-country' educational programmes adapted to local health systems and needs</p> <p>We explored impact using an educational evaluation framework⁴ informed by: i) participant reactions, ii) participant learning, iii) organisational changes, iv) use of new knowledge, v) impact on practice and service users.</p> <p>Results: We had excellent engagement throughout with our colleagues; evidence of participant learning and use of new knowledge, and proactive post-event activity. Seven countries developed</p> |

and delivered in-country programmes, that were evaluated for impact on clinician behaviour and organisational change.

National groups assessed learning needs and context, and adapted the programme to overcome local challenges, enable delivery of the core educational components and support change in clinical practice. To date, over 230 health professionals have participated in educational events in seven countries, including specialist nurses, physiotherapists, general practitioners (GP), early career GPs, and GPs with a special interest in asthma/COPD.

Learning and implications: Variation in the design and focus of in-country events was crucial to local implementation. Teams encountered, and found local solutions for, challenges in assessing learning needs, setting up education programmes and in supporting clinical practice change. Project funding enabled national programmes, but sustainability will require additional resource and a longer-term strategy.

The European programme U-BIOPRED funded the programme.

1. See: <http://www.europeanlung.org/en/projects-and-research/projects/u-biopred/news-and-events/news/ubiopred-primary-care-training-day>
2. See: <http://www.theipcr.org/display/TreatP/Home+--+Difficult+to+manage+asthma>
3. McDonnell J, Correia de Sousa J, Baxter N, Pinnock H, Román-Rodríguez M, van der Molen T & Williams S. Building capacity to improve respiratory care: the education strategy of the International Primary Care Respiratory Group 2014–2020. *npj Primary Care Respiratory Medicine* 24, Article number: 14072 (2014)
4. Guskey T. 2002. Evaluating Professional Development.

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International Primary Care Respiratory Group (IPCRG)

Tick this box to confirm that this submission has been approved by all authors X

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