



8th “Spring” Institute for New Global Health Researchers (SI-8)

April 27-May 8, 2015

The Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research is pleased to announce the 8th Spring Institute for new Global Health Researchers. This SI-8 will be held in Dalanzadgad (southern Gobi), and Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The Institute will be conducted in partnership with Leading Researchers, a local research-to-action NGO founded by one of our Institute alumni; the World Health Organization (Geneva and Mongolia); the Mongolia Ministry of Health; and the Canadian International Institute for Extractive Industry Development (CIIEID; Program Area 3: <http://www.ciieid.org/programming/>). The Institute is funded by a grant to CIIEID from the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD, formerly CIDA) Travel funding for Canada-based scholars is being provided by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research.

A special feature of this year’s Institute is to explore the challenges of identifying and managing the health effects of extractive industry processes, especially from a policy and health systems perspective. We will ask how health and health equity outcomes can be improved through both a focus on the conduct of individual projects, as well as through enhancing strategic policy and health systems responses. The integration of community perspectives into decision-making is a particular emphasis. The core of the Institute will be a focus on learning about health impact assessment (HIA) concepts, tools, methods, and outcomes as applied to mining development, both at the level of specific projects as well as at a more strategic, sector-wide level.

The focus of this 8th Institute will be on the Mongolian context, where the Coalition and CIHR have been involved since 2009 in research-to-action activities that have resulted in significant progressive legislation that now mandates the inclusion of human health into environmental assessments of mining project impacts. With its country and international partners, the Coalition is now working to support the development of implementation, monitoring, and evaluation guidelines. The SI-8 has thus been designed to increase health impact assessment capacity within Mongolia, especially among policymakers and academics there. Although based in and focused on Mongolia, the activities and outcomes of the Institute will enhance and support the applied research and knowledge translation competencies of policymakers and scholars from other countries, including Canada, where the extractive industries are a prominent sector of the economy. The main Institute activities will take place in the southern Gobi region of Mongolia, where both small- and

large-scale mining activities have increased rapidly over the last decade. There will be opportunities to visit affected communities and mining sites.

The program will include presentations on specific aspects of mining and health in low-to-middle income countries, and in high-income countries where activities have the potential of negative impacts on vulnerable populations. Individual and group work will be supported by expert facilitators and resource persons, a “virtual platform” where readings and other resource materials will be posted, and where we will engage in pre- and post-Institute dialogs.

In addition to a substantive focus on some feature of mining and health, teams will address specific issues of equity and health, gender, the social determinants of health, and knowledge translation and exchange. Participants will be expected to provide an analysis of a topic of interest related to the Institute mandate and identify research-to-action plans. The Institute will conclude with a policy-oriented “briefing day” in Ulaanbaatar where participant teams will present action-oriented recommendations to high-level Ministry, intergovernmental, and civil society representatives in Ulaanbaatar.

Institute sessions will be held in English and Mongolian; there will be translation services available for presentations and small group work. All written materials and PowerPoint slides will be available in English and Mongolian.

We anticipate inviting 5 Canada-based scholars to participate in the Institute, 4 scholars from mining-affected LMICs, and 20 Mongolian researchers and policymakers representing public, private and civil society organizations. Teams will be comprised of a mix of researchers and policymakers.

Specific goals of the Institute:

This is an applied research and learning/capacity-building project that will build capacity for knowledge users and researchers to manage the public health and health system implications of extractive institute activities. Its overarching objective is to “seed” capacity for undertaking health impact assessments, development of health action plans, and implementation of such plans within Mongolia, where capacity needs are vast, in other LMICs, and in Canada. Specific objectives include:

1. To develop and/or strengthen research partnerships among teams of LMIC and Canadian participants through the development of “research to action” plans;
2. Develop capacity amongst actors involved in the environmental assessment system in LMICs to address health issues using health impact assessment tools and methods;
3. Foster consideration of the need for formal institutional structures to ensure adequate delivery of health impact assessments and related health action plans;
4. Build institutional capacity for further training of practitioners, i.e. through training cadre of new experts who may in turn engage in training and capacity building activities;
5. Create a blueprint and organizational support for institutionalizing and sustaining health impact assessment and public health management activities in the extractives sector; and

6. To learn about, acquire and strengthen catalyst competencies in global health research (box 1), including learning, mentorship and leadership; knowledge translation; partnering and networking that are critical to global health research and to a fuller understanding of the social determinants' of health framework.

Box 1 –“Catalyst Competencies” in global health research:

These are the skills that contextualize the research process and its outputs. They include:

- Partnering and networking: coordinating and collaborating to help individuals, institutions and systems to work together more effectively;
- Translating and exchanging knowledge: from synthesis and dissemination of findings to engaging research-users through dialogue and brokering;
- Learning, mentoring and leadership: actively reflecting upon, improving and shaping the work of individuals, institutions and systems.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

1. Have embarked, or be about to embark upon, a career that includes a focus on addressing the health impacts (defined broadly) of extractive industry development;
2. Have demonstrated interests in global health research and its application to the mining and health and health system challenges faced by LMICs.
3. Be currently based in Canada.
4. Must be competent in English and/or Mongolian.
5. Be committed to participate in a pre-institute electronic dialogue, attend the entire Institute, and participate in post-institute contacts for up to 12 months. These will involve email exchanges, telephone calls, webinars, or where possible, in-person interviews and consultations.

Expenses:

The Summer Institute will cover:

- the lowest possible economy airfare and/or bus fare to Dalanzadgad, Mongolia;
- 13 nights accommodation costs in Mongolia at a hotel designated by the CCGHR and up to two additional nights when “stay-overs” are required by the travel itinerary;
- Most meals during the Summer Institute;
- Cost of visa applications (if needed).

The participant is responsible for any additional meals/transportation/incidentals.

The Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research (CCGHR, also known as “the Coalition”) is a not-for-profit organization that was founded in 2003, with a mandate to “*promote better and more equitable health through the production and use of knowledge*”. With an orientation toward health research in low and middle-income countries (LMICs), and with an understanding of global health research as described above, the CCGHR is a Canada-based global network committed to: strengthening capacities of individuals, institutions and systems in Canada and LMICs to produce and use knowledge; speaking as Canada’s voice for global health research; building effective, equitable and respectful south-north research partnerships; connecting people, ideas and expertise; and learning from and communicating our work.

The annual “Summer” Institute for New Global Health Researchers has been a flagship event of the Coalition since its very first year of work (2004). It represents the Coalition’s commitment to preparing the next generation of global health research leadership, bringing together researchers and research users from both Canada and LMICs, for an intensive and dynamic 10-day learning experience. Previous summer institutes have been held in various settings (Burkina Faso, India, Mexico, Tanzania, Ecuador) as well as Canada (Halifax, Victoria). There now are more than 120 graduates, or alumni, of the summer institute, many of who are providing research leadership in their own institutions and in the Coalition.

Applications:

The deadline for receipt of applications is **December 1, 2014**. They should be mailed to the address below or via electronic mail to si-8@ccghr.ca. The application may be written in English, French or Mongolian (?).

Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research / Coalition canadienne pour la recherche en
santé mondiale
569 ch Riverside
Wakefield, QC J0X 3G0 CANADA
ccghr@ccghr.ca
www.ccghr.ca

Participants selected for SI-8 will be posted on the CCGHR website www.ccghr.ca by January 15, 2015. For more information, please contact CCGHR at si-8@ccghr.ca.

Application Details: Please provide the following

1) A current CV and/or resumé, with complete contact information, academic and employment background and current status.

2) A cover letter in which you address the following:

- Why you are interested in attending the Institute? Include your learning objectives and what you expect to gain overall in terms of your career or future professional development.
- Please describe any current research program or project in which you are currently involved that may be relevant.
- Is there a particular facet of the extractive industry and health issue that you would be especially interested in exploring?

3) At least one letter of support from someone who is familiar with your academic background and research experience/expertise. This should be sent separately, directly to the CCGHR at the email/address indicated above.