

Malnutrition eLearning Newsletter October 2014



Welcome to the 7th Newsletter

The Malnutrition eLearning Course, developed by the University of Southampton and the International Malnutrition Task Force (IMTF), is a freely available course to train health workers across the world

www.som.soton.ac.uk/learn/test/nutrition

What is the course?

The Malnutrition eLearning course is designed to provide specific training for professionals working in the treatment and management of childhood malnutrition. The course is completely online, so no other materials are required. The course is completely free and has been used by over 8000 people from over 130 countries in the last 2 years.

What can you expect from the course?

Based on the WHO's guidelines, the course provides interactive learning in 3 modules. In module 1 you will learn the definition and classification of malnutrition, the visible and invisible changes caused by malnutrition and why malnourished children need different care from other children. In module 2 you will learn how to assess and screen children, and in module 3 how to manage children with malnutrition. These will include the ten steps for successful management, how community- and facility-based approaches can be integrated to widen coverage and why common conditions such as gastroenteritis, pneumonia and malaria have to be treated differently when there is coexisting malnutrition.

Research funding awarded!

Following the increasing use of the Malnutrition eLearning course, the University of Southampton has been awarded a research grant to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. The research project will start on 1st October and will last for 2 years. We shall be working with three partners, Dr Reginald Annan, from KNUST **Ghana**

Dr Demeke Mekonnen from Jimma University **Ethiopia** and Prof Michele Monroy, Universidad Rafael Landívar, **Guatemala**. We are also looking in detail at the impact of the course across the whole world.

The funding, called the "Nutrition Embedding Evaluation Programme" was made available by the UK government and administered by PATH, following the publication of the 2013 lancet series on Malnutrition. The aim of the funding is to gather greater information about which interventions are the most effective in making an impact with childhood malnutrition.

We may need your help. We shall be making contact with many people who have done the course with a brief questionnaire to see what impact the course has had on your knowledge. Please help us in this exciting research.

Using the course as part of a formal

Our dream

teaching program.

The Malnutrition eLearning course can be used as part of an academic program, to help your students develop their knowledge in this field. The course could be completed by each of your students, who can work on the material at their own pace. Students can print out a certificate of completion when they finish the course, so that teaching staff can check that they have finished.

The course is now being used by

- Catholic University of Ghana
KNUST, Ghana
- College Of Health And Wellbeing
Kintampo, Ghana
- Makerere University, Uganda
- Mulago School Of Nursing And
Midwifery, Uganda
- University Of Nairobi, Kenya
- Universidad Rafael Landivar,
Guatemala
- Jimma University, Ethiopia
- Universidad Nacional De
Colombia, Columbia
- Mangosuthu University Of
Technology, South Africa
- Michael Opkara University Of
Agriculture Umudike, Nigeria
- University of Columbo, Sri Lanka

Different institutions are using the courses in different ways, for example, either as part of their formal assessments or as class room assignments.

If you have any questions about using the course with your students, please email t.pickup@southampton.ac.uk

Have you seen the Youtube Video?

Listen to Prof Alan Jackson describing the course and why he thinks it is important.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zug8koNHS1A>

There is a huge need to improve the management of childhood malnutrition in the world. This can be addressed, at least in part, by training doctors, nurses, nutritionists and public health professionals. Our dream is to provide the training with the Malnutrition eLearning course to 100,000 health workers across the world. This could make a significant difference in the fight to address the suffering of millions of children.

Please help the project by sending this newsletter to your colleagues, students, and professional association, or anyone else who might benefit from this course.

Facebook for Malnutrition?

The Malnutrition eLearning course facebook page has now got over 1000 likes and is a great way of promoting the course amongst Facebook users. If you use facebook, please come and visit our page and support us by “Liking” our page. Visit the Malnutrition eLearning course

on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/MalnutritionElearningCourse>



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