

Report

Global Health Norway Conference April 2-3. Competence Building for impact – Time for Revolution.

PHD annual conference in Global Health, Rosendal Fjordhotell. Beyond Informed Consent: the ethics of global health.

Chola Nakazwe



Centre for International Health

Department of Global Public Health and Primary Care

University of Bergen, Norway

Introduction.

This report contains a brief summary of the proceedings at the Global Health Norway conference 2019 and the annual PHD conference 2019. With support from the Norwegian Research school of Global Health (NRSGH), I attended the global health Norway conference and Annual PHD conference, which took place in Bergen, Norway.

Conference: Title, Place and Dates.

The Global Health Norway Conference, which was held in Bergen from 2nd April to 3rd April 2019, at the Scandic City Center Hotel. The theme of the conference was 'Competence Building for impact – Time for Revolution'. The PHD conference is Global Health 2019, which was held immediately after at the Rosendal Fjordhotell from 3rd April to 5th April, 2019.

Conference focus, topics and activities.

The Norwegian Global Health Conference provides a forum for global health experts, scientists, clinicians and students to discuss global health issues. The specific aim of the 2019 conference was to discuss ways of building and strengthening capacities of global health researchers and experts in order to improve work standards, improve co-operations and networking among key players. This improvement it is envisioned will positively affect global health. It has been noted that though health outcomes have improved in low and middle income countries in the past decades, there is still need for optimization of health care in these populations. The conference shed light on how to improve and maintain good health in these populations and the contribution global health experts can make. A fundamental question was asked, which was the focus of most discussions particularly on the first day. 'Is it time for a revolution in terms of capacity building, to co-operate and work differently'.

Knowledge and Skills gained. What are the Lessons Learnt.

I learnt a lot about health research work being implemented in some LMIC that has potential to provide information to design new health initiatives that can have an impact on improving health outcomes. It was also enlightening to learn about the capacity building initiatives in LMIC, most of which are North to South collaborations. Key highlights emerging from the conference was the need to strengthen south to south capacity building and strengthening initiatives. The need for mentorship beyond PHD or post doc training was also noted to ensure sustainability of programs. In response to the question 'Is it time for a revolution', one discussion noted that the revolution already happened with the discontinuation of the quota program, this has led to limited resources for capacity building. On one hand this threatens the years of capacity building efforts, but on a positive note it helps us to rethink capacity building strategies by promoting exchange programs. The conference provided me the opportunity to interact and network with other PHD students and global health experts. I benefited from the wealth of information to view my PHD project beyond the training and actively consider ways to develop further through mentorship.

I benefited a lot from the comprehensive and detailed presentations and active discussions on very relevant topics at the PHD conference. Dealing with a very pertinent health issue for my country in my PHD project, the knowledge received on the ethical issues and politically inclined perspective was important. The session on supervisor and PHD student relationship was very helpful for me. It has helped me re-strategies on the best way to make communication and feedback more effective and efficient between my supervisors and I.

Positive and Negative Experiences of the Conference.

Would you recommend this course to other PhD students in global health?

The global health conference was very good and provided an opportunity to learn, gain valuable knowledge on pertinent global health issues. It was also a good opportunity to network. I would recommend other PHD students to attend.

The PHD conference is a must attend for all PHD students, I would definitely recommend it. This was my first PHD conference and it was a good interactive learning experience.



