



The leading causes of death in Caribbean populations are cardiovascular disease (CVD) and cancer, respectively. Heart and blood vessel diseases, cancer, diabetes and lung disease have consistently led mortality rates in the Caribbean region. It is reported 400,000 annual deaths are attributable to hypertension and slightly less than 300,000 annual deaths are attributable to each of obesity, alcohol, and tobacco in the Caribbean and Latin America. Further, half (50%) of the Americas' cancer mortality is in the Caribbean and Latin America. Thus, there is an urgent need to bolster efforts that control and prevent chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs), with particular emphasis on CVD and cancer. If risk factors are controlled, nearly 80 percent of heart disease, stroke, and diabetes plus 40 percent of cancers could be prevented. Since predominant risks are behavioral and social factors, dissemination of effective interventions is vital for population impact and is an efficient method of linking investments in existing discoveries to goal attainment of NCD burden reduction.

The U.S National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the nation's medical research agency responsible for scientific discoveries that improve health and save lives. NIH's Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) in collaboration with the NIH/National Cancer Institute (NCI), NIH/National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), and NIH/Office of Disease Prevention (ODP) are hosting this three-day training program to provide participants with a thorough grounding in implementing behavioral and social intervention research for CVD and cancer prevention. This initiative is aligned with agency goals of facilitating translation of research into practice and addressing health of minority populations in underserved areas.

Workshop foci feature CVD (hypertension, stroke, diabetes, and obesity), cancer (cervical and lung), and key risk factors for NCD prevention and management (physical activity, diet and nutrition, alcohol, tobacco, health literacy and treatment adherence). Content includes plenary sessions on NCD surveillance, epidemiology, cultural adaptation, research partnerships, and available grant funding sources as well as small intensive breakout sessions for review of evidence-based interventions (EBIs) which can be culturally tailored for local Caribbean contexts. Faculty offering instruction represents NIH scientific staff joined by CDRC, UWI, and CARPHA officials.

Workshop Goals

The training workshop primarily aims to rapidly accelerate cardiovascular disease and cancer control and prevention in Caribbean populations by:

1. Fostering good epidemiological practice,
2. Diffusing evidence-based interventions (EBIs) from the behavioral and social sciences,
3. Promoting cultural tailoring of interventions for optimal efficacy and sustainability, and
4. Providing an evidence base to aid formation of policy.

Eligibility

This capacity-building program is designed for health researchers, practitioners, clinicians, and ministry of health officials permanently residing and employed in Caribbean countries/territories. Both country of citizenship and permanent residence must be indicated in application materials. Participation by individuals outside of this geographic region is strictly prohibited. Also note that participants must write and speak fluent English as the training will not be offered in any other language.

Only those professionals who fit any of the following four categories will be considered. Application materials should indicate which of these eligible categories fits the applicant:

1. **Researcher:** Doctoral-level professionals at any career stage conducting health research at a university, government agency, or organization (public or private). Those without chronic NCD experience will be considered after applicants with relevant experience have been evaluated.
2. **Clinician:** Doctoral-level physicians, psychologists, or psychiatrists at any career stage in the fields of medicine, behavioral medicine, or health science. Those without chronic NCD experience will be considered after applicants with relevant experience have been evaluated.
3. **Practitioner:** Full-time professionals with a postgraduate degree and demonstrated experience in health science (e.g., public health, behavioral health, nursing, epidemiology, medical sociology, medical anthropology, health policy).
4. **Ministry of Health Official:** Full-time key employees of ministries of health with a postgraduate degree.

Beyond these eligibility criteria we are seeking participants with a strong commitment to control or prevention of CVD or cancer, or addressing non-communicable disease lifestyle risk factors.

Application Process

Applicants should electronically submit the following by 11:59 PM (EST) on May 11, 2015:

- Application form
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Two-page statement of interest describing (1) research or professional experience and career interests, and (2) specific plans for utilization of workshop instruction over the next 1-3 years.

Application materials must be provided in a single electronic submission to the following e-mail address: NIHCaribbeanNCDWorkshop@gmail.com. *Selections will be made via e-mail no later than May 22, 2015.* Upon acceptance, workshop materials will be forwarded. General inquiries should be addressed to Workshop Chair, Dana Sampson, of NIH's Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) at Sampsond@od.nih.gov.

Costs

There is no fee to apply to attend the training workshop. Those selected trainees may have travel supported for active participation in this program. Participants are strongly encouraged to bring a laptop; they are also responsible for their own meals.

Organizers

Workshop Organizing Collaborators:

NIH/Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR)
NIH/National Cancer Institute (NCI)
NIH/National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)
Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)
University of West Indies (UWI)-Cave Hill,
Chronic Disease Research Centre (CDRC)

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NIH/Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR)
NIH/National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)
NIH/Office of Disease Prevention (ODP)
NIH/National Cancer Institute (NCI)

**National Institutes of Health (NIH)
2015 Research Capacity-Building Workshop**

**Improving Chronic Disease in the Caribbean through
Evidence-Based Behavioral and Social Interventions**

**Bridgetown, Barbados
July 21-23, 2015**

APPLICATION FORM

APPLICANT INFORMATION: *Please type or print clearly the information requested below.*

Name: _____

Professional Title: _____ Academic/Prof Degree(s): _____

Department/Division: _____

University or Institution: _____

Address: _____

City, Country/Territory: _____

E-mail: _____ Tel: _____ Fax: _____

Country of Citizenship: _____ Country of Residence: _____

SUPPORTING MATERIALS:

In addition to the application form, we require a two-page personal statement describing a) your research or professional experience and career interests, and b) as specifically as possible, how would you use what you learn during this training course over the next 1-3 years. The statement should also address your experience/interest in cardiovascular disease, cancer, and/or related lifestyle risk factors. In your personal statement, please include what eligible category you fall into (i.e., researcher, practitioner, clinician, or ministry of health official).

Applications must be submitted electronically via e-mail by 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST), Monday, May 11, 2015. You will be notified of your acceptance no later than May 22, 2015. **Submit a complete set of the following (three total separate attachments in ONE e-mail) electronically to the Selection Committee, NIHCaribbeanNCDWorkshop@gmail.com.** General inquiries should be addressed to Workshop Chair, Dana Sampson, of NIH's Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) at Sampsond@od.nih.gov.

- Application form
- A two-page personal statement
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)

I understand that the Training Workshop can accommodate only a limited number of applicants and that an applicant who fails to attend after acceptance denies another worthy applicant the opportunity to participate. Therefore, I assure the National Institutes of Health that, if accepted, I will participate in the full program of the 2015 NIH Research Capacity-Building Workshop from July 21-23, 2015. **I am a citizen or a non-citizen with permanent resident status in a Caribbean country/territory.**

Signature: _____

Date: _____