

CIF Internship program 2012-2013

Introduction

Curatio International Foundation

Curatio International Foundation (CIF) is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization, established in 1994. Since its formation the organization has been actively focusing on reforming health systems in transition economies of Former Soviet Union and beyond, specifically in the Southern Caucasus (since 1995), Central Asia (since 1998), North Africa and Middle East (since 2004).

CIF contributes to the reforms in the public health system with the belief that health, more than any other aspect of social care, determines the quality of community life. We believe that an easy access to the essential health services is vital for having well developed and prosperous community members.

CIF aims to influence public policy with the purpose of increasing the efficiency and sustainability of health systems through improving management, financial access, and quality of health care. Therefore, CIF conducts unbiased analyses of the most critical issues regarding health systems and policies, and renders recommendations aimed at improving functionality and adequacy of policies.

CIF works in collaboration with a network of national and international professionals and researchers in order to bridge the gap between what is known about the problems at hand and what has to be done in order to solve them.

For additional information please visit www.curatiofoundation.org

Internships

Since 2002 CIF attracts interns from around the world who are studying at masters or Ph.D. level and who are interested to have first-hand experience in the real-life setting and to contribute to the research projects implemented by the organization.

Timing of the Internships

- Winter interns (December through February) from 2 to 8 weeks
- Summer interns (June through September) from 1 to 4 month

Terms of the Internships

CIF provides following to the interns:

- Office space and access to internet communication and office equipment;

- Access to on-line library with more than 8,000 information resources and in 30 different languages;
- Internship coordinator, who provides continuous guidance around the research topic and support to an intern during their stay in Georgia and after their departure, during scientific paper preparation;
- Logistical support prior to arrival to Georgia and during their stay, which includes following but not limited to: acceptance letter to facilitate obtaining travel grants from different donors, support for finding accommodation in Tbilisi-Georgia, guidance for travel, etc.
- Block grant in the amount of 500 USD will be provided to an intern arriving for the period of 8 or more weeks. Shorter internships will receive 300 USD as a one-time payment.

The Benefits to Interns are:

- Ability to apply knowledge and research skills on practice and satisfy project requirements at their school;
- Contribute to and be one of the authors of a scientific paper published in a peer reviewed journal with high impact factor;
- Interact with the professionals continuously involved/contributing to policy making process;
- Visit country of Georgia well known for its beautiful nature, history, culture, hospitality, wine and cuisine.

Intellectual property

A scientific paper production will be regulated by an International Research Exchange Agreement between CIF and the intern that articulates CIF’s position on the intellectual property.

Interns will be given right to use the data for their dissertation or course paper, per university’s requirement, but the rights will be ONLY transferred for the pre-agreed scientific work which will be elaborated in the International Research Exchange Agreement between CIF and the intern.

Responsibility of Intern

In close collaboration with CIF researchers interns are expected to contribute to and be author of at least one scientific paper, which will be published in international peer-reviewed journal.

Application Process

Applications are accepted twice during a year

- Deadline for application for winter internship is October 20th
- Deadline for application for summer internship is March 31st

Interested candidates are required to submit following documents via e-mail (cif@curatio.com):

- Motivation letter, indicating which research topics they have selected (see the list of research themes currently in implementation at CIF) and how they can contribute to the research project;
- Detailed Curriculum Vitae
- Support letter from their school indicating applicants capabilities relative to the requirements stated in the research themes section for the selected research topic.

Selected candidates will be notified:

- On or before October 31st for winter internships
- On or before April 15th for summer internship

The List of Research Themes

Winter and Summer Internships for 2012-2013

For the 2012-2013 Winter and Summer Internship Program CIF offers three broad research areas where interns could engage and advance their knowledge and skills. These research areas are as following:

1. Bio-behavioural survey data

Curatio International Foundation (CIF) has conducted **Bio-behavioural surveillance survey among people who inject drugs (PWID), female sex workers (FSW), men who have sex with men (MSM) and prisoners** in various cities of Georgia in 2010 and 2012. Objective of the Bio-BSS was to measure prevalence of HIV and other diseases among various risk groups for HIV infection, provide measurements of key HIV risk behaviours, evaluate outcomes of national response – preventive interventions and generate evidence for advocacy and policy-making. The studies were implemented within the financial support from the Global Fund grant to Georgia.

The surveys for PWID and MSM were conducted using Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS) methodology and will be analysed in RDSAT (Respondent Driven Sampling Analysis Tool) by CIF. Final report and dataset in SPSS/RDSAT format are available in English. CIF intends to produce publications based on available data with specific focus on behavioural factors contributing to high prevalence rates of HIV and other infections (specific focuses for the publications are to be determined during discussion with the intern(s)).

Interns interested in HIV and behavioural issues with good quantitative analysis skills and scientific paper writing skills will strongly benefit from participating in this study.

The interns will be expected to participate and contribute to the following activities: a) undertake literature review; b) contribute to the quantitative data analysis; c) contribute to the specific sections of the paper that will be published in peer-reviewed journal.

2. Health Utilization and Expenditure Survey data analysis

Georgia has conducted two **nationally representative quantitative Health Utilization and Expenditure Surveys (HUES)** in 2007 and 2010 (quazi-experimental design). The surveys were planned to help evaluate impact of recent health sector reforms initiated by the Government, therefore the HUES offers pre and post intervention survey data for intervention and control

groups. Therefore, CIF intends to use different analysis techniques (suggested by interns) to undertake analysis of population health seeking behavior in Georgia and observed changes between 2007 and 2010.

Interns interested in the issues of health policy and health service delivery with good quantitative analysis skills and policy analysis skills will strongly benefit in participating in the HUES analysis. CIF considers following research questions to be answered by this analysis:

- How and to what extent the utilization patterns for the health care services by the State Insured population have changed between 2007-2010?
- How and to what extent the prices paid by population for health services have changed between 2007-2010?

The interns would benefit from: a) analyzing real-life policy initiative on a national level in Georgia; b) carrying out quantitative analysis on the large dataset and applying skills obtained during university studies; c) undertaking literature review; and d) along with the CIF staff contributing to scientific papers to be published in peer-reviewed journals.

Curatio International Foundation is undertaking study to evaluate the costs of routine immunization program and the costs of a new vaccine introduction in Moldova. This study is part of multi-country effort supported by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. These studies are implemented by several organizations in different countries using unified methodologies and producing comparable results, which will generate new information that will help:

- a) Improve planning for resource requirement and financing at the country level;
- b) Improve understanding of the delivery costs associated with the new vaccine introduction that will be important for updating GAVI Alliance policies on new vaccine introduction support, and for domestic and external resource mobilization for routine programs;
- c) Document information on financial flows for the new vaccines and routine programs, particularly from the government sources that will be useful inputs into policy dialogue on sustainability and co-financing of new vaccines;
- d) Shed light on areas where the comprehensive Multi-Year Plan (cMYP) costing and financing tool for immunization could be strengthened and on how costing and financing analyses might be linked with the Post-Introduction Evaluations (PIEs) conducted in countries usually six months after new vaccine introduction.

The study implemented by CIF has following four objectives:

- a) Evaluate overall cost and detailed cost categories (elements, line items) of the routine immunization program and explain observed variation in the cost elements.
- b) Evaluate cost of a new vaccine introduction for rotavirus vaccine using prospective approach
- c) Evaluate main sources of financing for the routine immunization program and for new vaccine introduction and
- d) Evaluate variability of the costs of the routine immunization program within the country

Interns interested in the issues of health policy and immunization programs with good quantitative analysis skills and policy analysis skills will strongly benefit in participating in this study. CIF considers following research questions to be answered by this analysis:

For Routine Immunization

- What is the total cost of the routine immunization program in Moldova?
- What is the cost structure (cost by line item) of total costs generated above, particularly cold chain recurrent and capital costs?
- What is the delivery cost associated with the routine immunization program (delivery costs per dose and/or per infant).
- What are the unit costs of the routine program at facility level, and what are the factors that drive the variation in total and unit costs on a facility and district level?
- What are the determinants of routine program costs and levels of output?
- What is the relationship between estimates of cost in the comprehensive Multi-Year Plan (cMYP) for immunization, the costing study, and the national budget for immunization?

For New Vaccine Introduction

- What is the total cost of vaccine introduction by major line item for new vaccine introduction?
- What is the delivery cost per child and delivery cost per dose for new vaccine introduction?
- What is the delivery cost per child and per antigen?

The interns will be expected to participate and contribute to the following activities: a) undertake literature review; b) contribute to the quantitative data analysis; c) contribute to the specific sections of the paper that will be published in peer-reviewed journal.