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## CIF Winter Internship Program 2017-18

The winter internship program is now open! Master and PhD students from around the world are invited to apply and use the possibility to develop advanced research skills, meet leading experts in the field and become a co-author of a scientific paper. We offer three research directions:

1. HIV prevention and risk behaviour among key populations
2. Integration of Mental Health Services in General Primary Care
3. Measurement of the Quality of Care

If you are interested in any of the research topics and would like to find out more about working with our research team please submit your resume, motivation letter indicating the selected research topic and recommendation letter from the university or the working place.

**Deadline for application is October 19, 2017.** Notification about selection will be sent within 10 days after the deadline.

CIF attracts interns, who are interested to have the first-hand experience in the real-life setting and to contribute to the research projects implemented by the organization.

For any further queries, please contact Internship Program Coordinator Maia Uchaneishvili at [internship@curatio.com](mailto:internship@curatio.com)

Check the call online: <http://curatiofoundation.org/internship-announcement/>

## Research Topics for Winter Internship 2017-18

For the Winter Internship Program Curatio International Foundation (CIF) offers the following research topics:

### 1. HIV Prevention and Risk Behaviour among Key Populations

CIF conducted several rounds of Bio-Behavioral Surveillance (BBS) surveys among key populations such as people who inject drugs (PWID), female sex workers (FSW), men who have sex with men (MSM) and prisoners in various cities of Georgia. The objective of the BBS is to measure prevalence of HIV and other diseases among various risk populations, provide

measurements of key HIV risk behaviors, evaluate outcomes of national response – preventive interventions and generate evidence for advocacy and policy-making.

Latest BBS investigated 2050 PWID (2017) and 400 MSM (2015) in major cities of Georgia.

The datasets, study tools and study reports of the previous studies are available in English. The study reports could be downloaded from CIF website. Based on the available data CIF intends to produce scientific manuscripts in high impact peer reviewed journals.

CIF researchers in collaboration with interns from John Hopkins University and George Washington University are currently working on two manuscripts:

- 1) Effectiveness of preventive interventions among PWID in reducing HIV risk behaviour. A cross-sectional data from RDS-derived sample of PWIDs in seven cities in Georgia is analyzed to determine the extent of services utilized by PWIDs and how the service utilization (full or partial) is associated with engagement in HIV risk behavior. The identification of service utilization will additionally provide insight into gaps in program reach.
- 2) Predictors of HIV-associated sexual behaviour among MSM population in Georgia. A cross-sectional data from RDS-derived sample of MSM from two cities in Georgia is analysed to determine factors (such as socio-demographic factors, test seeking, drug consumption, type and number of partners, stigma, program reach, etc.) associated with HIV risk behaviour. The research will provide recommendations on HIV prevention gaps in the country.

Statistical analysis has been accomplished for both papers. 2018 Winter term interns are expected to contribute to further development of the papers, by reviewing the literature that will feed introduction and discussion sections for the manuscripts. More specifically interns should undertake thorough review of published literature on one of the topic mentioned above. The review should cover peer reviewed publication as well as grey literature such as study reports, etc. In addition, interns are expected to develop introduction section for the paper and contribute to its discussion section in close collaboration with CIF researchers. Interns will be named as co-authors on the manuscripts when prepared and depending on the quality of their output.

Students interested in HIV and behavioral issues with good literature review and writing skills will strongly benefit from participating in this program.

Interns are expected to have following capabilities/experience:

- Literature review skills/experience. Ability to undertake a comprehensive, systematic search, critical evaluation of publications, thorough analytical and summative literature review skills, covering methodological issues and topic related, ability to develop a clear and coherent structure with accurate citations.
- Manuscript, report writing skills/experience. Sharing of the reports or other documents developed by intern to proof their writing skills would be helpful.

Applicants interested in this research topic, however, not having proficiency in the skills, are strongly encouraged to upgrade their theoretical knowledge and practical skills prior to the internship term by enrolling in respective courses in their schools. Applicants will be expected to adequately reflect this weakness in their application/motivation letter and describe how they intend to advance their knowledge and skills prior to undertaking internship. Failure to do so will have negative impact on internship evaluation, if accepted in our program.

## 2. Mental Health integration in Primary Health Care

Mental Health (MH) presents a serious burden to population health worldwide. Despite high prevalence of mental disorders primary health care (PHC) services currently largely overlook mental health issues in many countries including Georgia. Lack of political support, inadequate management, overburdened health services and, resistance from policy-makers and health workers have hampered integration of MH and PHC services. However, in different countries there are examples of coordinated care that connect behavioral and physical health have led to promising approaches of integration and collaboration.

Interns interested in MH topic and with good literature review skills are invited to participate in this internship program. Interns will be expected to contribute to the Literature Review on MH integration in PHC, that should describe the following topics: different integrated models that represent ways of integrating or coordinating care across a continuum, from minimal collaboration to partial integration to full integration; Role of integrated team members; PHC providers' role, skills and competencies in detection, diagnostics, referral, management and follow-up of MH disorders; Coordination with other sectors; Pros and cons of MH integration into PHC; integration of MH care in universal health coverage (UHC) schemes; Experience and lessons learned from various countries including from countries with advance economies and low and middle income countries.

Interns are expected to have Literature review skills/experience, specifically ability to undertake a comprehensive, systematic search, critical evaluation of publications, thorough analytical and summative literature review skills, covering methodological issues and topic related, ability to develop a clear and coherent structure with accurate citations. The review should cover peer reviewed publication as well as Grey Literature (study reports, case studies, web pages of Ministries of Health and National Public Health Institutions, state programs and strategies, manuals, conference proceedings, etc.).

Based on the literature review findings Interns are expected to contribute to the development of an evidence review on this topic and co-author it. Evidence Review will be published on the organization web page and will be shared to the wider audience.

## 3. Measurements of the Quality of Care

Measuring quality of health care is recognized as a significant stimulus to quality improvement in healthcare. Comparing and benchmarking individual or organizational performance can help identify differences or gaps in performance and lead to behavior change and improved patient outcomes.

During last decades much progress has been made in the science of quality measurement. The evidence base has allowed for the development of numerous quality indicators, which have been tested for reliability, validity, ease of use, and usefulness for improving quality. Traditional approaches measure structure of the setting in which care is provided, actual process of care, and/or by assessing what the outcomes of care are achieved. Latest approaches incorporate also perspectives of patients themselves and their caretakers.

Interns are expected to undertake thorough Literature Review on methods for quality of care assessment that incorporates latest developments in the science of quality measurement.

The review should include: 1) different approaches to assessing quality of health in different health systems 2) criteria that should guide indicator selection; 3) suggested indicators for different levels of care that insure feasibility and international benchmarking; 4) barriers to adoption and use of methods as well as solutions to overcome those barriers. 5) Instruments that are standardized and validated.

Interns are expected to have Literature review skills/experience, specifically ability to undertake a comprehensive, systematic search, critical evaluation of publications, thorough analytical and summative literature review skills, covering methodological issues and topic related, ability to develop a clear and coherent structure with accurate citations. The review should cover peer reviewed publication as well as Grey Literature (study reports, manuals, conference proceedings, etc.)

Applicants interested in above mentioned research topics, however, not having proficiency in the skills, are strongly encouraged to upgrade their theoretical knowledge and practical skills prior to the internship term by enrolling in respective courses in their schools. Applicants will be expected to adequately reflect this weakness in their application/motivation letter and describe how they intend to advance their knowledge and skills prior to undertaking internship. Failure to do so will have a negative impact on internship evaluation, if accepted in our program.

For more information please visit our Internship page: <http://curatiofoundation.org/about-internship/> or contact Internship Program Coordinator [Maia Uchaneishvili](mailto:Maia.Uchaneishvili@curatio.com), [internship@curatio.com](mailto:internship@curatio.com)