



Research Topic for Summer Internship 2016

4. Maternal and Child Health Research

Improving child health outcomes require better functioning health systems. The identification of barriers and bottlenecks and their timely removal or reduction are pre-requisites for implementing effective public health intervention. Curatio International Foundation carried out a study in five Central, Eastern European and Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Serbia and Uzbekistan) to evaluate UNICEF-supported Maternal and Child Health programs and interventions over the 12-year period (2000-2012). The study assesses how successful UNICEF was in delivering evidence-based interventions and how the interventions addressed health system bottlenecks to achieve better child health outcomes. The study employed a mixed method approach such as desk review, secondary analyses of quantitative data from public and national databases on under-5 child morbidity and mortality and in-depth interviews with stakeholders in researched countries.

Intern(s) will be expected to contribute to a scientific paper development based on the study materials (comprehensive country reports and background materials), published literature and additional quantitative data analyses. Thorough desk research of published literature was undertaken during the study implementation, however intern may be requested to do an additional literature search.

Interns are expected to have **scientific paper writing skills**, and **literature review skills/experience**. Basic quantitative data analysis skills will be encouraged.

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 a negative impact on internship evaluation, if accepted in our program