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CIF Summer Internship Program 2018

The summer internship program is now open! 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. Challenges and Solutions in Pharmaceutical sector in Georgia
2. HIV Prevention and Risk Behaviour among Key Populations (MSMs)
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 April 23, 2018. Notification about selection will be sent within 10 days after the deadline. Please follow our Twitter account with the hashtag **#internshipatCIF** to be updated about the selection process.

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

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

Research Topics for Summer Internship 2018

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

1. Challenges and Solutions in Pharmaceutical sector in Georgia

In Georgia over, past years prices for pharmaceuticals have been growing and the rising costs, placing significant financial burden on households' budget been an important focus of public debate. For 2014-2016 pharmaceuticals consumed 40-50% of the Total Health Expenditure,

which is highest share in Europe and in the World. In comparison in most European countries this number is not more than 20%.

The problem of the growing drug prices is further compounded by shrinking number of market players accelerating market consolidation and affording dominant market power to big players and finally, the pharmaceutical market is not transparent and critical market information is not available in the public domain.

Curatio International Foundation (CIF) has been long involved in pharmaceutical market monitoring and informing public with the drug price and affordability surveys conducted in five rounds in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2015-16. These surveys were the main source of information that contributed to evidence-based discussions around current trends and processes in pharmaceutical market in the country.

Consecutive wave of the study is planned in 2018. The study will investigate 1) medicine prices and physical availability for pre-selected list of medicines; 2) Identify causative factors of noncompetitive and nontransparent pharma sector in the country; and 3) will use the evidence to advocate for competitive and transparent pharma sector in the country through engaging with policy-makers and CSO involvement in public debates.

Students interested in pharmaceutical field with good literature review and writing skills are invited to participate in the internship program. Intern is expected to develop a literature review on causative factors of non-competitive and non-transparent pharmaceutical sector, lessons learned, success stories or failures from other countries on the way to address challenges in the sector.

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. HIV Prevention and Risk Behaviour among Key Populations (MSMs)

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 400 MSM (2015) in two 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 manuscript in high impact peer reviewed journal. The paper will focus on predictors of HIV-associated sexual behaviour among MSM population in Georgia, such as socio-demographic factors, test seeking, drug consumption, type and number of partners, stigma, program reach, etc. The research will provide recommendations on HIV prevention gaps in the country.

2018 Summer term interns are expected to undertake thorough review of published literature 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.

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