

Public Health Planning for Hearing Impairment

Short Course 22 - 25th October 2019

Tamaki Campus, The University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand

Background

466 million people in the world have disabling hearing loss, including 34 million children; 80% live in low- and middle- income countries (LMICs). Hearing loss is likely to increase with the exposure to high levels of environmental noise and with an ageing population. Hearing loss and ear disease is estimated to have a high prevalence among Māori and Pasifika communities in New Zealand and in communities in Pacific Island Countries (PICs) where there is a lack of supported national programmes and strategies to prevent and manage hearing loss.

A public health approach is advocated to tackle the growing problem of hearing loss and ear disease. Improving the delivery of services, particularly in underrepresented communities, requires a primary and community health care approach.

The aim of this course is to enable participants to understand the magnitude and causes of hearing impairment and the challenges of providing ear and hearing healthcare to underrepresented communities and in LMICs. The course will familiarise participants with public health approaches to ear and hearing health and show how to develop programmes for prevention and management at the local, district or national level.

Key Facts

- The major preventable causes of hearing impairment in LMICs are middle ear infections, excessive noise, inappropriate use of certain drugs, problems during childbirth and vaccine preventable infections.
- At least half of all hearing impairment is preventable.
- Detecting and responding to hearing impairment in babies and young children is vital for the development of speech and language.
- Properly fitted hearing aids can improve communication in at least 90% of people with hearing impairment.
- In LMICs, fewer than 1 in 40 people who need a hearing aid have one.

Accreditation and Methods of Assessment

There is no formal assessment but at the conclusion of the course a certificate of attendance will be issued.

Target Audience

This course would be worthwhile if you:

- are an E.N.T. surgeon, Otologist, Audiologist, Paediatrician or allied hearing health professional, especially in the communication sciences, health planner or NGO worker.
- are interested in starting, continuing or resuming a career in ear and hearing health in underrepresented communities or LMICs.
- wish to learn about the planning principles involved in establishing public health programmes for ear and hearing health.
- are interested in working together with health workers from LMICs.

Teaching

The course will be led by Professor Andrew Smith and lecturers and experts in the field of hearing and public health who are from, or have lived and working in LMICs. Teaching will be conducted through a mixture of interactive lectures, case studies, discussions and group exercises. A USB flash drive with the course material will be provided.

Aims and Objectives

The key learning objectives are to:

- Train health professionals and health planners to use public health methods to address the challenge of hearing loss in underrepresented communities or PICs considering the shortage of professionals working in the field of hearing in these areas.
- Understand how the principles and practice of public health apply to hearing loss.
- Review the epidemiology of ear disease -particularly otitis media- and hearing loss globally and in LMICs.
- Use a public health approach to explore challenges and solutions in prevention and rehabilitation of hearing loss in underrepresented communities and LMICs.
- Assess the role of Primary Ear and Hearing Care and its training
- Discuss how to raise awareness and mobilise resources for ear and hearing health in LMICs.
- Learn about community-based research on ear and hearing care for underrepresented communities and LMICs.
- Learn how to develop a programme for ear and hearing health in participant's own country or region.

How to Apply

Please register through the EMC website by clicking [here](#):

Course Organisers

Professor Peter Thorne (EMC) and Honorary Professor Andrew Smith (LSHTM)



For specific enquiries or to have an informal chat about the course, please contact:

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Course Fee

The cost of the course is \$240NZD for attendees from New Zealand and Australia. The fee includes all course materials but excludes flights and accommodation. Assistance for participants on a low-income is available – please contact Meagan or Elizabeth.

Visa

Students are responsible for obtaining any visa or other permissions to attend the course. It is important to start the application process for a visa as early as possible since it may take several months. The Registry can provide supporting documents if requested.

Accommodation

A list of hotels and other accommodation located near the School of Population Health or in central Auckland is available on request from the Registry.

Course Organisers:

The Eisdell Moore Centre <https://www.emcentre.ac.nz>

Based in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences at the University of Auckland, the EMC facilitates partnership between scientists (biomedical, clinical and social) with affiliations with scientists and clinicians at The Universities of Otago and Canterbury, Auckland and Canterbury District Health Boards and private practice. The centre is committed to contribute to the improvement of ear health and reduction in hearing loss in Maori, indigenous peoples of New Zealand, and Pacific peoples. The centre has strong ties to community groups to facilitate dissemination of research and promote the prevention and mitigation of hearing and balance impairment in people in New Zealand and the Pacific region.

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) is a world-leading centre for research and postgraduate education in public health, with 4000 students and more than 1300 staff working in over 100 countries. The School is one of the highest-rated research institutions in the UK, and was recently cited as one of the world's top universities for collaborative research.