

Malnutrition eLearning Newsletter

March 2016



Welcome to the 8th Newsletter

The Malnutrition eLearning course, developed by the University of Southampton and the International Malnutrition Task Force (IMTF), is a freely available course to train health workers across the world in the management of Severe and Acute Malnutrition (SAM) in infants and children. The course is available at:

www.som.soton.ac.uk/learn/test/nutrition.

The aim of this course:-

Despite progress across the world, childhood malnutrition continues to be a major issue in many countries, with children suffering from stunting, other developmental issues, low tolerance to disease and death. For many professional groups working globally in this field, training opportunities are often unavailable.

The Malnutrition eLearning has been developed to meet this gap and designed to provide standardised training for doctors, nurses, nutritionists and other health professionals. The course has now been used by over 12,000 people across the world.

The course can be completed in modules and takes about 8 hours to complete with a certificate of completion available to download once finished.

NEEP Malnutrition eLearning Evaluation [Ethics ID:12872] Update

1,449, from 77 countries, participated in the Phase 1 study:- Ghana (897), Nigeria (72), Guatemala (59), India (52), Ethiopia (29). Among the participants 516 were health professionals, 58 educators and 794 health science students.

Over 80% respondents said that the course helped improve their knowledge 'much' and 'very much' in the classification of malnutrition, indicators to use and assessment, and over 70% in treatment options, WHO 10 steps and inpatient therapeutic care. Furthermore, 70% ~ 80% of respondents said that their confidence improved in performing these tasks, with 62% being able to apply their knowledge in clinical practice (Note: Most of the participants who weren't able to apply were students who didn't have a work placement at a clinic.) The data from the Phase 1 study are being analysed. But the initial results show that the course is effective in training health professionals and students of the treatment and management of childhood malnutrition.

We thank all the participants for sharing their experience with and opinions about the course with us. Thank you very much!

MeLE continue....

We are continuing with Phase 2 of this evaluation research with health professionals and students who haven't taken the course yet to investigate the effectiveness of malnutrition eLearning over a period of time in supporting training of health professionals in the management of malnutrition, the application of acquired knowledge in clinical practice, leading to health outcomes.

If you are interested in taking the Malnutrition eLearning, please consider taking part in this study. And pass the invitation to other health professionals and students who may benefit from the course.

Win an iPad Mini! As a thank you for participating in our research, we will enter eligible participants into a draw for a fabulous **iPad Mini** that will take place at the end of the study (entry to which is subject to the participation of the whole study).

For more information see:

www.som.soton.ac.uk/learn/test/nutrition/mele/about/default.asp#phase2.

Dr Sunhea Choi, Chief Investigator, and Trevor Pickup, Co-investigator, travelled to Guatemala and El Salvador to meet with Professor Michele Valle Monroy, Central America PI, and her team, and to Ghana Dr Reginald Annan and his team. Whilst there they observed the data collection and supported educators workshops.

MeLE is part of Nutrition Embedding Evaluation Programmes (NEEP), funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) UK and managed by PATH. The research is led by the University of Southampton in partnership with KNUST in Ghana and Rafael Landivar University in Guatemala.

Recent Highlights:-

- Over 2400 new users enrolled on the Malnutrition eLearning Course in 2015. Many are from Bangladesh, Colombia and India.
- The Brighton & Sussex Medical School students enrolled on the course as part of their Student Selected Unit in Global Health.
- New users also enrolled from Makerere University (Uganda) and PGIM in Sri Lanka.

New User and Feedback:-

Bijoy Chandra Sarker works for UNICEF in Bangladesh as a District Nutrition Support Officer (DNSO). He shared his experience with the course. Visit our website to read about his work and how the course has helped him:-



<https://www.som.soton.ac.uk/learn/test/nutrition/news/>

We are always interested to hear your experience with the Malnutrition eLearning Course. To share your news and experience, please contact Sally Hickman by email S.A.Hickman@soton.ac.uk. We would love to hear from you!

Community:-

The **World Food Programme** is a humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. To view their Hunger Map 2015 visit:

<https://www.wfp.org/content/hunger-map-2015>.

The map shows which countries currently effected by undernourishment.

Some interesting facts from their website:-

- 759 million people in the world do not have enough food to lead a healthy active life. That's about one in nine people on earth.
- Poor nutrition causes nearly half (45%) of deaths in under five
- One out of 6 children (roughly 100 million) in developing countries is underweight.
- One in 4 of the world's children are stunted.
- 66 million primary school-age children attend classes hungry across the developing world, with 23 million in Africa alone.

CMAM Forum (<http://www.cmamforum.org>) was created in 2012 in response to increasing demand from practitioners and experts in the management of acute malnutrition to centralise on-going efforts worldwide to tackle the problem of acute malnutrition. The website is in French and Arabic as well as English, and includes a huge number of resources for professions working in this area.

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- LinkedIn: uk.linkedin.com/in/trevorpickup/