Cancer Epidemiology Education in Special Populations (CEESP) 2 R25 CA112383

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Program’s Objective

Develop an educational program to prepare MPH and PhD students in public health in the field of cancer epidemiology in special populations (international and minority settings)
Specific Aims

Recruit and select 50 students in 5 years

Develop and maintain a core curriculum for field research with a follow up after the field experience

Maintain and increase the pool of mentors

Program’s Components

Students’ research proposal: Topic, mentors, educational objectives, training skills, career opportunities

Summer research internship field experience

Specialized course work

Post-internship follow up

Evaluation and dissemination
Progress of the Program

Students recruitment (83+ in 8 years)

Enrollment and evaluation

Summer research sites (focused and increased)

Post-internship follow up (publications and tracking)

Courses

Epidemiology
Biostatistics
Field Methods for Epidemiology in Developing Countries

Cancer Epidemiology
Cancer Prevention and Control
Translational cancer research

Funding

Travel and living expenses and a stipend
Trainees

**International sites:** Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Ghana, Uganda, Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Niger, India, Mexico.

**Domestic:** Minority populations in Michigan, California, Texas, Oregon, Washington D.C., and Nebraska.

What We Learned

Early preparation is essential

Existing off-site infrastructure and off-campus mentorship are crucial

The summer epidemiology course is helpful for new collaborators and infrastructures

Preparation of students is essential

Self motivation
What We Learned (Continued)

Language of the local country is a plus.

Motivation of students to pursue advanced degrees, special population research or practice, is important.

Experience of previous students motivates new students.

Referral and support of faculty is helpful.

Enormous time needed for mentorship.

Profile of Alumni

- 60% in PhD, post-doc, MD/PhD, cancer, international, or minority cancer education or jobs.
- 25% ethnic minorities and 15% males.
- Limited interest in cancer.
- Funding for cancer research and job opportunities in special populations facilitate careers in cancer in special populations.
Evaluation

- Short-term
  - Completing the field work, coming back with data, publication, jobs or degrees in cancer in special population

- Long-term
  - Jobs or post-docs/faculty memberships in cancer in special populations

Dissemination

- Internship sites
- Connections with the local collaborators
- Data and field resources
- Dissemination of international data to U.S. sites
- Small and major Universities and cancer centers