F4.3: Strategies for developing the Asian Women’s Health Research Network (ASIA-WH) in Taiwan

Author List:
Presenting Author: Hsiu-Min Tsai
Additional Author: Hsiu-Hung Wang, Ching-Min Chen, Mei-Sang Yang, Meei-Ling Gau, Lee-Ing Tsao, Eun-Ok Im

Presenting Author: Hsiu-Min Tsai
Address: Wunhua 1st Road, Gueishan Township
Taoyuan TA
Taiwan
Ph: 886-3-2118999
Fax:
Email: hmtsai@gw.cgit.edu.tw
Institution: Chang Gung Institute of Technology

Additional Author: Hsiu-Hung Wang
Address: Kaohsiung Medical University, 100,Shih-Chuan 1st Road
Kaohsiung TA
Taiwan
Ph: 886-7-312-1101
Fax:
Email: hhwang@kmu.edu.tw
Institution: Kaohsiung Medical University

Additional Author: Ching-Min Chen
Address: Taipei Medical University, 250 Wu-Xin Street
Taipei TA
Taiwan
Ph: 886-2-2736
Fax:
Email: chingmin@tmu.edu.tw
Institution: Taipei Medical University

Additional Author: Mei-Sang Yang
Address: Kaohsiung Medical University, 00,Shih-Chuan 1st Road
Kaohsiung TA
Taiwan
Ph: 886-7-312-1101
Fax:
Abstract:

Introduction: To establish an international network for researchers working on Asian women’s health, efforts have recently been made in Taiwan. In the current literature, virtually no guidance is given for developing an international collaborative research network. Thus, researchers in Taiwan needed to experiment several strategies to develop the Asian Women’s Health Research
Network. The purpose of this presentation is to present major strategies used in developing the international organization in Taiwan and provide directions for developing a future collaborative organization among researchers across the countries.

Method(s): Four major strategies were adopted and used to solicit agreement and participation of potential members in the area of women’s health (please see the below for the strategies). The strategies were developed based on discussions among core members in Taiwan who had experience in developing an organization in Taiwan. During the process, memos on issues in using each strategy were written and later analyzed.

Results: First, the concept of “empowerment” was used to recruit Taiwanese researchers to participate in the collaborative team at its initial stage. Mutual trust among core members was established first to clarify any possible uncertainty and confusion and to promote partnership. Second, multiple communication methods were used to facilitate communication among the members. The members communicated each other through emails in order to discuss meeting schedules, progresses made, and any emerging questions. Communication through phone calls was also made to clarify unclear issues and motivate potential members to participate in the meetings. Face-to-face meetings were made to obtain commitment and agreement among the core members as well. Third, throughout the development process, documentation was carefully made with clear agenda, which was essential to motivate participation of the members and to achieve goals of each meeting. Written documents of the meetings were effective in making consistent progress in the development process. Finally, a gatekeeper was critical for continuous networking among core members from each country and for searching resources and funding for the organization from private agencies and governmental institutions.

Discussion & Conclusions: These strategies could be successfully used in future development of an international collaborative organization in Taiwan, yet may need to be further examined and carefully used in other countries.

Abstract History:
This abstract has not been presented or accepted for presentation in whole or in part at the SNRS or other scientific meeting.

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eim@mail.utexas.edu