

Summary

I am honored to be invited to make a poster presentation at the International Association for Adolescent Health (IAAH) 10th World Congress whose 2013 theme is 'Bridging clinical and public health perspectives to promote adolescent health.'

A growing body of evidence accumulated over the last 20 years highlights a critical need for innovation, education and creative leadership in addressing existing and emerging Adolescent Health issues, as well as, adolescent vulnerability to the health-impairing effects of inequity. My presentation, 'Teaching Adolescent Health Research Course In An Early College High School Curriculum,' offers a proven option on how our institutions can equip adolescents to bridge that gap.

This World Congress, being convened in Istanbul, Turkey, June 11-13, 2013, brings together a worldwide range of health professionals, youths, sociologists, psychologists and teachers along with an engaging schedule of innovative programs designed to enhance each participant's professional growth and development. It opens up an excellent seeding opportunity for BHSEC by a) positioning our institution at the forefront of emerging adolescent health solutions and policy designs; b) enhancing research interest in adolescent health; c) expanding knowledge in current issues in adolescent health; and d) producing related publications, such as research journals.

While the overall aim of my research and work in this area has been to gain new insights, my specific focus is to improve individual and institutional understanding of adolescent health behaviors, general health and well-being.

The primary goals of my presentation are as follows:

- Provide valuable new information acquired in the areas of mental, sexual and reproductive health
- Provide an avenue for collaboration between the BHSEC community and world health bodies
- Provide visibility to BHSEC's health program, and
- Share BHSEC's best practices in health education

To fulfill this commitment, I am requesting \$XX.XXX in funding at the Tier 1 level.

IAAH Organization

The International Association for Adolescent Health is a multidisciplinary, non-government organization with a broad focus on youth health. It was established in 1987 and is committed to the principles of youth empowerment in all aspects of its affairs and supports the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). It is an NGO with “official relations” status at the World Health Organization.

IAAH’s mission is four-fold:

- Foster deeper understanding of the importance of youth health across sectors within every region of the world
- Encourage cooperation and collaboration between youth and adults and between professionals and organizations focused on youth health issues
- Promote and support the development of national associations dedicated to youth health
- Advocate for improved youth health services, training, research, and policy development worldwide and within communities, countries, and regions

IAAH has a governing body made up of an executive committee, a Council and a nominations committee.

- The executive committee consists of the current President - Linda H. Bearinger, PhD, RN, FAAN (2009-2013) - the Immediate Past President, Treasurer, and Secretary.
- The full Council is made up of eight Vice Presidents, each representing one of eight regions of the world, as well as, members at large whose goal is to help increase the skill base of the Council.
- The nominations committee is brought together by the Immediate Past President and nominated from the IAAH membership.

The term of each member of the governing body is for four years and is renewable.

The IAAH 10th World Congress is an innovative event in Global Adolescent Health. It is being convened in conjunction with the 49th Congress of the Turkish Pediatric Association from June 11-13, 2013 at Lutfi Kirdar Convention and Exhibition Center, Istanbul, Turkey, under the banner, "Bridging clinical and public health perspectives to promote adolescent health."

The venue is located in the heart of the city's business and cultural center, with easy access to municipal, domestic and international transportation networks and hotels area. It is 14.3 miles from Atatürk International Airport, a 30 minutes distance by taxi.

The governing committee of this congress is Co-Chaired by Prof Russell Viner (UK) and Dr. JC Suris (Switzerland) and includes IAAH President Linda Bearinger (USA) and Turkish Pediatric Association President and Secretary, Fugen Cullu Cokugras and Mehmet Vural, respectively, and includes a Scientific Committee and an Abstract Review Committee, each consisting of members from many nations around the globe including the USA.

An impressive schedule of programs, inter-disciplinary in nature, is designed to be compelling and engaging for a wide range of professionals, from clinicians, public health practitioners and youth workers through to sociologists, psychologists and teachers, with one of its key elements being youth participation, and symposiums dealing with the major issues affecting adolescents.

The congress will bring together over 1000 participants from a wide range of health disciplines and many countries around the world. Each of the scheduled twelve keynote speakers is a distinguished world class health professional with outstanding global scope and impact. The roster includes Dr. Ellen S. Rome from the US, a magna cum laude Yale graduate, who currently serves as the Head of the Center for Adolescent Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic and a Professor of Pediatrics at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine at Case.

Adolescent Health Impact

Young people 10-24 years of age now number more than 1.8 billion globally, making up 27% of the world's population. Over the last 50 years, global social, economic and political changes have adversely affected young people's health, to the extent that adolescence and young adulthood are no longer the healthiest time of life.

Change is urgently needed, both in policy and public health responses and in clinical services for young people around the world. This 10th International Congress on Adolescent Health provides a unique opportunity to help catalyze change, bringing together clinicians' detailed knowledge of young people's lives with the broader perspectives of public health. In Bridging perspectives from public health and clinical medicine to promote adolescent health, the congress seeks to influence governments, health agencies and founders and clinicians around the world to meet the challenge of improving young people's health

Adolescents 10 to 19 years of age along with young adults (ages 20 to 24) make up 21 percent of US population. It is established that adolescence is a critical transitional period that includes the biological changes of puberty and the need to negotiate key developmental tasks, such as increasing independence and normative experimentation. The behavioral patterns established during these developmental periods help determine young people's current health status and their risk for developing chronic diseases in adulthood. Several important public health and social problems either peak or start during these years. Examples include:

- Violence / Homicide
- Suicide
- Motor vehicle crashes, including those caused by drinking and driving
- Substance use and abuse
- Smoking
- Sexually transmitted infections, including human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)
- Unplanned pregnancies
- Homelessness

Because they are in developmental transition, adolescents are particularly vulnerable to contextual and surrounding influences, such as family, peer group, school, neighborhood, policies, and societal cues, which can serve either to support or challenge their health and well-being. One of my goals is to assist in addressing the positive development of adolescents and facilitate their

adoption of healthy behaviors, which would help to ensure a healthy and productive future adult population

There are a number of effective policies and programs that can address adolescent health issues. However, the financial burdens of preventable health problems in adolescence are large and include the long-term costs of chronic diseases that are a result of behaviors begun during adolescence. For example, the annual adult health-related financial burden of cigarette smoking, which usually starts by age 18, is \$193 billion.

There are, as well, a number emerging Adolescent Health issues, two of which are:

- US adolescent population is becoming more ethnically diverse, with rapid increases in the numbers of Hispanic and Asian American youth. The growing ethnic diversity will require cultural responsiveness to health care needs and sharpened attention to disparate health and academic outcomes, which are correlated with poverty, especially among adolescents from minority racial and ethnic groups.
- Increased focus on the use of positive youth development interventions for preventing adolescent health risk behaviors. Youth development interventions can be briefly defined as the intentional process of providing all youth with the support, relationships, experiences, resources, and opportunities needed to become successful and competent adults. There is growing empirical evidence that well-designed youth development interventions can lead to positive outcomes. Ongoing, rigorous evaluation will determine what works, why it works, and how successful interventions can be applied.

Poster Presentation

Title: Teaching Adolescent Health Research Course in an early college high school curriculum

Description: Present highlights on a data set from New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (referred as epiquery), as well as, curriculum development, which incorporates the use of data on adolescent health and student health research projects. The overall aim is to encourage health research in adolescents (high school age) with topics of their interest and to show how data collected on this population by a city department of Health can be used by a school. The goal is to show that students can help make changes in their own health by engaging in meaningful research and by answering relevant health questions arising from the data collected.

Location/Duration: Istanbul Turkey, June 10 - 16

Reports: A 1-2 page report will be written and shared with the Physical Education faculty in a round table discussion.

Budget:

Budget Item	Cost
Travel (Friday, 7- 16) – airline ticket	XXXXXX
Materials for Presentation	XXXXXX
Lodging (7 days @ 185.00)	XXXXXX
Meals 7 days @ \$40.00	XXXXXX
Transportation – cab	XXXXXX
No substitute will be required	
Funds from other sources	XXXXXX
15% of total (My Contribution)	XXXXXX
Amount Requested	XXXXXXX

References

International Association Adolescent Health 10th World Health Congress

International Association Adolescent Health Organization

World Health Organization