



U21 Health Sciences

U21 Health Sciences UN MDG Interest Group Declaration
September 17, 2008

Whereas universities, with their stewardship role, have the privilege and duty to generate and disseminate knowledge in health to help achieve the ideal of appropriate access of Health for All; and

Whereas social responsibility and accountability is a fundamental value of universities in their service to both local and global communities to which they belong; and

Whereas the Millennium Development Goals embody the human development aspirations of all member states of United Nations, and set important targets for all global and local actors to collaborate and achieve;

The U21 Health Sciences UN MDG interest group (“The Group”) seeks to contribute to the attainment of the UN MDG goals and targets through education, knowledge translation, research, and partnership in relevant disciplines with communities, governments, and organizations.

The Group proposes to work collaboratively on the following strategy for the year from September 2008 to September 2009:

1. Develop the essential “UN MDG Introduction” course content to:
 - a. Ensure interprofessional input into course content and case studies
 - b. Engage international advisory groups to provide necessary input and advice
 - c. Identify curriculum gaps and potential faculty and partners to address needs
 - d. Develop lectures and learning objects with set objectives
 - e. Enhance access and utilization of the web course using an open courseware strategy
2. Pilot the course in different institutions/schools:
 - a. Invite U21 Health sciences schools interested in piloting the course over the next year to propose approaches and strategies, fostering flexibility and creativity in this pilot process
 - b. Encourage sharing and connections between schools and students to pilot the course
 - c. Report the successes and lessons learned, and collate this information into a report for the September 2009 annual meeting in Korea
3. Establish an overall evaluation framework of this UN MDG initiative, and initiate development of priority assessment and evaluation tools that contribute to this framework:
 - a. Develop a multi-level (individual, community, academic institution, policy alignment) logic model evaluation framework to map progress and demonstrate outcomes
 - b. Develop a community assessment tool in collaboration with World Family Organization and a student assessment tool with AIFOMD for trial this year
 - c. Chart benchmarking of progress of course development so as to demonstrate progress of engagement, development, and implementation

4. Improve communication to stimulate cross fertilization, recognition, and collaboration
 - a. In collaboration with students, develop a coordinated student engagement and communication strategy and report the experience
 - b. Using the www.mdg4health.org portal, devise an inventory of UN MDG related health education courses and experiences. The Group will use this to promote U21 Health Sciences members' efforts in UN MDG education, and encourage inter-professional students to participate in the pilots
 - c. Link the www.mdg4health.org portal to the global Studies Web site of U21
 - d. Work with the U21 Secretary General in ensuring that our efforts fit into the U21 wide communication strategy on UN MDG
 - e. Seek endorsement of the U21 UN MDG Working Group (Brady working group) on our proposed strategy, and furthermore recommend to this group to: a) form a U21 wide UN MDG communication strategy, b) support the working group's intention to set up an inventory of UN MDG projects in the U21 network; and c) consider organizing a U21-wide global health/UN MDG conference in 2008-2009.

5. Further advancement of this strategy will be formulated based on the results of this year's activities.

The U21 Health Sciences UN MDG interest group recommends that:

- U21 Health Sciences endorses this declaration
- U21 Health Sciences Executive considers and determines an application for seed funding upon submission of a business case, and
- The U21 Health Sciences UN MDG interest group works with the U21 Presidents' UN MDG group towards securing appropriate resources to animate this strategy over the next year and beyond.