

GRADUATING COHORT 2013 (PART II)

MPH Integrating Experience Project Brief Abstracts

Mher Beglaryan; Barriers to electronic health records deployment in Armenia: A cross-sectional study

Currently health care systems face significant challenges related to the need to harness an increasing flow of information. The main objective of this study is to understand major barriers to successful implementation and widespread adoption of Electronic Health Records (EHR) system from the perspective of physicians in Armenia. Findings suggest that major barriers to EHR implementation in Armenia are clinical concerns at a group level, personal attitudes, perceived ease of use, resistance to change, personal characteristics, and negative perceptions about patient-provider relationships. The study team made several recommendations to overcome the identified barriers.

Lusine Kocharyan; Determinants of Induced Abortion among Reproductive Age (18-44) Women Living in Yerevan Who Have At Least One Child: Proposal

Induced abortion is one of the most common gynecological interventions. About 44 million abortions take place globally each year. Several studies found that abortions are most common among young, unmarried, low-income, and educationally disadvantaged women. Gender selective abortion is a new phenomenon placing pressure on women to produce children of a certain desired sex and to have an abortion if that is not the case. The proposed study aims to identify determinants of abortion among women living in Yerevan who have at least one child and to find associations between socioeconomic characteristics, family structure, life satisfaction score, and repeat abortions.

Aelita Sargsyan; Reproductive Health Problems among Women of Childbearing Age in Alaverdi (Lori marz) and Artik (Shirak marz) Cities: a Cross-sectional Survey

Heavy metals and sulfur dioxide can adversely influence reproductive health of women. The main aim of the study was to find out the prevalence of reproductive health problems, particularly infertility, miscarriages, and abnormal births and check if there was an association between living near the polymetallic smelter (as a proxy measure for being exposed to heavy metals and sulfur dioxide) after controlling for other reproductive health risk factors. A cross-sectional study was conducted with 370 participants (never married women of reproductive age) from the smelter town

Alaverdi and 370 participants from the comparison town Artik. The study showed that living in Alaverdi increased the risk of having induced abortions due to medical indications, stillbirths, and perinatal mortality.



Armine Tumasyan, MPH 2013

Armine Tumasyan; Health Insurance Component of the Social Package: a Qualitative Assessment

Armenia implemented several major health care reforms in the last 20 years. The main reform efforts aimed to establish a balance between hospital and primary care and to make those services accessible to the population. This study aimed to

evaluate the health insurance component of the Social Package program for evidence-based decision and policy making in Armenia exploring attitudes, practices, and experiences in terms of how the health insurance component (HIC) influenced access to healthcare services, out-of-pocket payments, and overall satisfaction of different stakeholder groups with the mandatory and voluntary parts of the HIC of the Social Package.

Armine Vardanyan; Risk Factors and Prevalence of Adolescent Depression in Yerevan, Armenia

Major depression is a widespread serious mental health illness. In 2012, 350 million people suffered from depression worldwide. Adolescents have the highest risk of depression - 20% of them have some type of mental disorder and the most common one is depression. The aim of this study was to measure the prevalence and explore the potential risk factors for depression among adolescents 14-17 years-of-age in Yerevan.

Lilit Vardanyan; Risk Factors Related to Complications of Acute Respiratory Infections among Children under Five Years Old in Yerevan, Armenia: A Case-Control Study Proposal

Acute respiratory infections (ARI) are infections of any part of the respiratory system (from para nasal sinuses to pleural cavity) lasting less than 30 days. ARI is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in children under five years old worldwide. The aim of the proposed study is to determine the risk factors contributing to complications of acute respiratory infections among children under five years old in Yerevan, Armenia. A case-control study design is proposed with children under five years old with present or recent (30 days prior to the day of interview) ARI with and without complications living in Yerevan.



Armine Vardanyan, MPH 2013

Full project reports are available at www.auachsr.com

SHARING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

CONFERENCES

15th World Conference on Tobacco or Health: Towards a Tobacco-free World - Planning Globally, Acting Locally. March 20-24, 2012, Singapore

▲ Movsisyan N., Petrosyan D., Petrosyan V. Monitoring Compliance with Smoke-free Legislation to Advance the FCTC Implementation in Armenia [oral presentation].

▲ Harutyunyan A., Petrosyan D., Movsisyan N., Petrosyan V., Stillman F., Hepp L., Avila-Tang E., Donaldson E. A Clinical Trial to Reduce Secondhand Smoke Exposure in Households with Children in Yerevan, Armenia [oral presentation].

15th European Health Forum Gastein. October 3-6, 2012, Bad Gastein, Austria

▲ Petrosyan V. Access to Health Services in Times of Economic Downturn: the Case of Armenia [oral presentation].



Arusyak Harutyunyan and Ruzanna Grigoryan

34th Annual Meeting of the Society for Medical Decision Making (SMDM): "From Evidence to Decision Making: Role of Behavioral Economics in Medicine." October 17-20, 2012, Phoenix, Arizona, USA

▲ Truzyan N., Petrosyan V., Grigoryan R. How Decisions on Tuberculosis Care Utilization and Place of Work among Migrant Workers from Armenia Impact TB Health Outcomes [poster].

2nd Global Symposium on Health Systems Research, October 31- November 3, 2012, Beijing, China

▲ Petrosyan V. Re-establishing Universal and Comprehensive Health Coverage in former Soviet Union Countries [oral presentation].

5th European Public Health Conference, November 8-11, 2012, Malta

▲ Harutyunyan A., Movsisyan N.K., Petrosyan V., Petrosyan D. Reduced Secondhand Smoke Exposure in Homes, Armenia, 2010 [oral presentation].

▲ Grigoryan R., Petrosyan V., Demirchyan A., Truzyan N., Martirosyan H., Crape B. Evaluation of the Child Health State Certificate Program, Armenia 2011 [moderated poster presentation with brief oral presentation].

▲ Grigoryan R., Truzyan N., Petrosyan V. Tuberculosis among Migrant Workers from Armenia, 2012 [oral presentation].

World Psychiatric Association Thematic Conference "Mental Health and Mental Illness: Focusing on Eurasia" August 29–31, 2013, Yerevan, Armenia

▲ Khachadourian V., Goenjian A., Demirchyan A., Armenian H.K. Posttraumatic stress disorder, alcohol and dignity as determinants of poor short-term memory among the 1988 Armenian earthquake survivors [oral presentation].



Nune Truzyan, Ruzanna Grigoryan and Vahe Khachadourian

13th Health Impact Assessment 2013 International Conference, October 2–4, 2013, Geneva, Switzerland

Khachadourian V., Armenian H.K, Goenjian A., Demirchyan A., Petrosyan V. Determinants of recovery from post-earthquake psychopathology: a 23 years longitudinal study [poster].

▲ Truzyan N., Harutyunyan T., Crape B., Koshkaryan M., Petrosyan V., Grigoryan R. Health impact of family-based one-session training in homes with tuberculosis patients in Armenia, 2013 [poster].

▲ Grigoryan R., Petrosyan V., Truzyan N., Martirosyan H., Crape B., Demirchyan A. Health Impact of the National Child Health State Certificate Program, Armenia [poster].

35th Annual Meeting of the Society for Medical Decision Making (SMDM): "Bench, Bedside and Beyond: Medical Decision Making and Public Policy." October 20-23, 2013, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

▲ Petrosyan V., Martirosyan H., Truzyan N., Crape B. Decision Making in Diabetes Care in Armenia [poster].

LATEST NEWS



AUA SPH Faculty workshop participants

The AUA School of Public Health Held Its Annual Faculty Workshop: The AUA School of Public Health held its annual Faculty Workshop at Boston University School of Public Health on November 2, 2013. The AUA SPH was well represented with faculty from various parts of the US and Armenia. AUA President Dr. Bruce M. Boghosian and President Emeritus of Boston University Dr. Aram Chobanian were in attendance and participated in AUA SPH strategic planning discussions.



Participants of the meeting

A Series of Discussions on Tobacco Control Policy in Armenia: The tobacco control team of the AUA SPH Center for Health Services Research and Development started a discussion series to facilitate tobacco control policy implementation in Armenia that was decelerating in 2009-2013. The CHSR hosted the first meeting on October 11, 2013. The Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Health Suren Krmoyan, Deputy Director of the National Institute of Health Alexander Bazarchyan, Head of the Public Health Unit of the Ministry of Health Lusine Kocharyan, and Health Policy Expert from World Vision Armenia Naira Gharakhanyan joined the representatives of CHSR and the Coalition for Tobacco-free Armenia.



Michael Varadian

September 26, 2013: The AUA School of Public Health hosted Michael S. Varadian, a senior health official from the US, who led an interesting and interactive seminar on National Health Reform in the U.S. or “ObamaCare” - a hot topic as October 1st was the first big start date for the U.S. states for offering expanded enrollment in health insurance on health exchanges, where people can choose the insurance plan they want to get covered for 2014.



Marine Petrosyan and Dana Walrath

June 26, 2013: The AUA School of Public Health organized a bilingual poetry reading “Healing Words” dedicated to the healing power of words. The poetry reading was lead by Dr. Dana Walrath, a medical anthropologist, writer, artist and a Fulbright Scholar in the AUA SPH and Marine Petrossian, a prolific contemporary Armenian poet known for her outspoken literary work and recognized for her accomplishments in Yerevan.

MPH ALUMNI SUCCESSES



Yeva Sahakyan

Yeva Sahakyan, MPH (2011) and her coauthors Lusine Abrahamyan, PhD, MPH (2003), and Michael E. Thompson, MS, DrPH, published the article “Sex differences in long-term outcomes of patients with percutaneous coronary intervention: the Armenian

experience” in September 2013 in the *Healthcare in Low-resources Settings*, an internationally ranked peer-reviewed academic journal.

Lusine Poghosyan, MPH (2003) has been selected as 2013 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholar, a prestigious program that advances careers of talented junior nurse faculty. She is one of just 12 nursing faculty members from across the United States to win this highly competitive grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.



Lusine Poghosyan

To learn more

about the School of Public Health please contact: Phone: (+374 60) 61 25 92, Fax: (+374 60) 61 25 66, or E-mail: mphinfo@aua.am, 40 Marshal Baghramyan Ave., Yerevan 0019, Republic of Armenia www.aua.am, www.auachsr.com