INSTRUCTOR NAME: Flemming Konradsen

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION
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COURSE DESCRIPTION (3-4 Sentences)
The course will be in a mini-course format during the following dates/times:
February 11, 13 & 14, 2015
  Wednesday, 2/11: 6:00-9:00pm
  Friday, 2/13: 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
  Saturday, 2/14: 9am-5pm

Students will learn critical aspects of managing research projects in resource-limited environments. Key topics covered include: local permits and ethical clearances, international transport of biological and environmental material, formalizing partnerships, introducing a project to relevant stakeholders, administrative management, recruitment of staff and terms and conditions for staff, staff security, quality assurance systems, and data sharing/authorships among partners. Learning will take place through role plays, student presentations, instructor case presentations, and group problem solving exercises. One hypothetical project will be used as a case throughout the module.

EVALUATION
The course will have a satisfactory/unsatisfactory grading basis. Students will receive qualitative feedback from the instructor throughout the course.

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE
The RSPH requires that all material submitted by a student in fulfilling his or her academic course of study must be the original work of the student.
LEARNING OBJECTIVES OR COMPETENCIES OF THE COURSE

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify factors of importance for the successful initiation of research projects in an international and cross-cultural context;
2. Critically assess the factors of importance for the management of research projects in an international and cross-cultural context;
3. Discuss the best way to ensure proper transfer and dissemination of research findings among partners.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES OR COMPETENCIES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OR PROGRAM TO WHICH THE COURSE CONTRIBUTES

This course will help students develop and strengthen skills in the following among the ASPH March 2007 MPH Core Competencies (www.asph.org/userfiles/WordFormat-DomainsandCompetenciesOnly.doc):

Communication and Informatics:
F. 4. Apply theory and strategy-based communication principles across different settings and audiences.
F. 5. Apply legal and ethical principles to the use of information technology and resources in public health settings.
F. 7. Demonstrate effective written and oral skills for communicating with different audiences in the context of professional public health activities.

Diversity and Culture
G. 2. Explain how professional ethics and practices relate to equity and accountability in diverse community settings.

Leadership:
H. 3. Articulate an achievable mission, set of core values, and vision.
H. 4. Engage in dialogue and learning from others to advance public health goals.
H. 5. Demonstrate team building, negotiation, and conflict management skills.
H. 6. Demonstrate transparency, integrity, and honesty in all actions.
H. 9. Develop strategies to motivate others for collaborative problem solving, decision-making, and evaluation.

Professionalism:
J. 5. Promote high standards of personal and organizational integrity, compassion, honesty and respect for all people.
J. 7. Analyze the potential impacts of legal and regulatory environments on the conduct of ethical public health research and practice.
J. 8. Distinguish between population and individual ethical considerations in relation to the benefits, costs, and burdens of public health programs.
J. 10. Appreciate the importance of working collaboratively with diverse communities and constituencies (e.g. researchers, practitioners, agencies and organizations).

Program Planning:
K. 2. Describe the tasks necessary to assure that program implementation occurs as intended.
K. 8. Prepare a program budget with justification.
Initiation and Management of Research Projects under Constrained Conditions (EH 590R)
GCR P53

Wednesday, Feb. 11 - 6:00 - 9:00pm (GCR P53)

Introduction to program, participants and facilitator

What is successful research project management?

Landmines in research project management (brain storming among participants)

Background to the Case: The Zoomba Health Research Project

Introducing the project (Zoomba) to community, local authorities and relevant partners, how to identification of key partners and best approach for building partnerships (work in groups)

How to introduce “your” project (Zoomba). Project Coordinators introduces project to District Medical Officer of the Zoomba District (role play)
Initiation and Management of Research Projects under Constrained Conditions (EH 590R)

GCR P53

Friday, Feb. 13 - 3:00 am - 6:00pm (GCR P53)

Formalizing Partnerships - Memorandum of understanding - why and what to include? (group work and plenum discussion)

Permits - the case of xx country and xx institution (identifying the need for permits in the Zoomba case and in general. Discussion in plenum based upon examples)

Coordination among stakeholders (plenum discussion)

Administrative and financial management considerations. Identify the administrative and financial management tasks to be dealt with on a routine basis in the Zoomba project including reporting requirements, auditing etc. Discuss how to draft a budget for a project. Also, briefly discuss the support staff and infrastructure needs (group work)

Principals of project reporting structures
Recruitment of staff and terms and conditions for staff.

Discuss the recruitment process and the issues to be considered as part of contract discussion with new staff (group discussion).

Project Coordinator discusses terms and conditions with Junior Researcher and Driver to be hired by the Zoomba project (group preparation followed by role play).

Staff Security.

Identify security issues related to project staff and briefly discuss the preparedness plans (plenum)

Discuss responds to 3-5 security situation reports from the field (plenum)

General discussion of data management and quality assurance (plenum)

Downsizing Project Manager discussing contract with Chief Entomologist (role play)

Project close

Course “evaluation”