

## **Global Research Nurses:**

### **A report for the Burdett Trust for Nursing**

Trudie Lang, University of Oxford was awarded a grant in September 2011 to support and facilitate the work and professional development of research nurses across the globe. Research nurses form a vital part of research in developing countries, but their dedication and role within trials is often under-recognised, and there is little training available for this role. Global Research Nurses aims to provide a dedicated support network for research nurses in developing countries, giving them access to discussion with other research nurses and experts across the globe, training and learning opportunities, and reliable information – all of which is free and open access.

Global Health Trials (an online facility to support clinical research in developing countries) was launched in May 2010, and has moved from strength to strength, with over 2000 active members from a range of roles within clinical trials, including investigators, nurses, statisticians, data managers and so on. Recognising the universal gap in specific information and training for research nurses, the Global Health Trials group were very keen to set up a specific area for nurses to aid in fulfilling this need. Global Research Nurses will provide an online professional network, resources and training as well as workshops and other regional capacity development activities.

### **Needs Analysis**

Upon being awarded the grant from the Burdett Trust for Nursing, the group began by conducting a needs analysis through two avenues: firstly, through setting up a discussion online and inviting research staff to make suggestions about the needs of research nurses and how a website could help to professionalise the career roles of nurses and aid in training, and secondly through attending a week-long series of focus groups and discussions with the Medical Research Council in the Gambia to establish the same set of needs. Conducting the online poll initially allowed responses from across the globe and general ideas: the subsequent focus groups with different staff at an established research facility enabled the team to further analyse the specific requirements.

The needs analysis established that the areas lacking for research nurses are:

- Professional recognition for skills and knowledge (even in areas where the nurses were the sole medical staff)
- Training and support for current work
- Ongoing training and support to enhance skills and capacity for future work
- Funding for training
- Technology and technical developments, time and motivation for career improvement, etc.

The group then had further focus groups alongside Global Health Trials' web developersto consider how these needs could be met through a web platform, with the following results:

- Professional Community for sharing problems and solutions
- Easy access to high-quality resources and training, including free eLearning courses
- A way of helping to track continued professional development, thus improving motivation.
- A place to find events and opportunities (e.g. training opportunities locally).

### Dedicated Project Coordinator

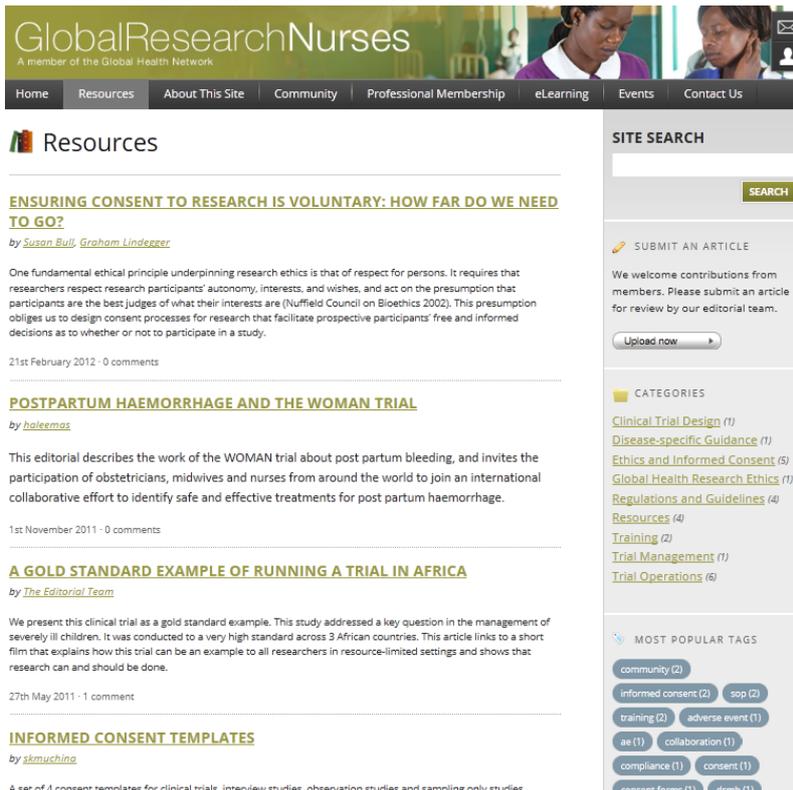
Nicola McHugh, a very experienced research nurse who has worked in developing countries across the globe, was awarded the role of project coordinator for Global Research Nurses and will be responsible for building the community of practice, organising workshops, organising technical developments and building eLearning courses and training opportunities. Currently working St Helena at a nursing school she initiated, Nicola begins work with the Global Health Network team in June 2012. In the meanwhile, the website build is being completed in preparation for her start.

### Website Build

Following the completion of the technical specifications in November 2011, the website build began, with several phases including design and approvals, build and updates on a staging site, and finally move to secured live site and final technical updates, prior to the launch to the community of research nurses. At present (June 2012), the final glitches are being amended on a secured live site (unavailable to the general public) ready for launch. Here follow some examples of areas of the site:



Fig 1: Home page image



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## Resources

**ENSURING CONSENT TO RESEARCH IS VOLUNTARY: HOW FAR DO WE NEED TO GO?**  
by Susan Bull, Graham Lindegeer  
21st February 2012 - 0 comments

**POSTPARTUM HAEMORRHAGE AND THE WOMAN TRIAL**  
by haleemas  
1st November 2011 - 0 comments

**A GOLD STANDARD EXAMPLE OF RUNNING A TRIAL IN AFRICA**  
by The Editorial Team  
27th May 2011 - 1 comment

**INFORMED CONSENT TEMPLATES**  
by skmichina  
A set of 4 consent templates for clinical trials, interview studies, observation studies and sampling only studies.

**SITE SEARCH**

SUBMIT AN ARTICLE

We welcome contributions from members. Please submit an article for review by our editorial team.

Upload now

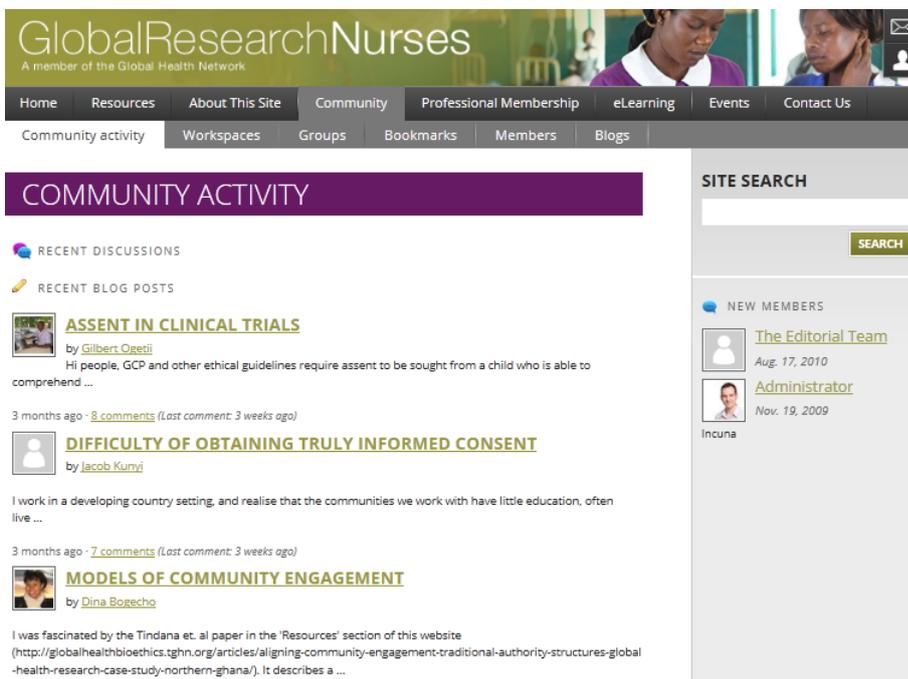
**CATEGORIES**

- Clinical Trial Design (1)
- Disease-specific Guidance (1)
- Ethics and Informed Consent (5)
- Global Health Research Ethics (1)
- Regulations and Guidelines (4)
- Resources (4)
- Training (2)
- Trial Management (1)
- Trial Operations (6)

**MOST POPULAR TAGS**

- community (2)
- informed consent (2)
- sop (2)
- training (2)
- adverse event (1)
- ae (1)
- collaboration (1)
- compliance (1)
- consent (1)
- consent forms (1)
- gcp (1)

Fig 2: Free and open-access reliable resource articles, templates and information, with scope for the addition of indefinite numbers of further resources



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Community activity Workspaces Groups Bookmarks Members Blogs

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

**RECENT DISCUSSIONS**

**RECENT BLOG POSTS**

**ASSENT IN CLINICAL TRIALS**  
by Gilbert Oetji  
Hi people, GCP and other ethical guidelines require assent to be sought from a child who is able to comprehend ...  
3 months ago - 8 comments (Last comment: 3 weeks ago)

**DIFFICULTY OF OBTAINING TRULY INFORMED CONSENT**  
by Jacob Kuryi  
I work in a developing country setting, and realise that the communities we work with have little education, often live ...  
3 months ago - 7 comments (Last comment: 3 weeks ago)

**MODELS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**  
by Dina Bogecho  
I was fascinated by the Tindana et. al paper in the 'Resources' section of this website (http://globalhealthbioethics.tghn.org/articles/aligning-community-engagement-traditional-authority-structures-global-health-research-case-study-northern-ghana/). It describes a ...

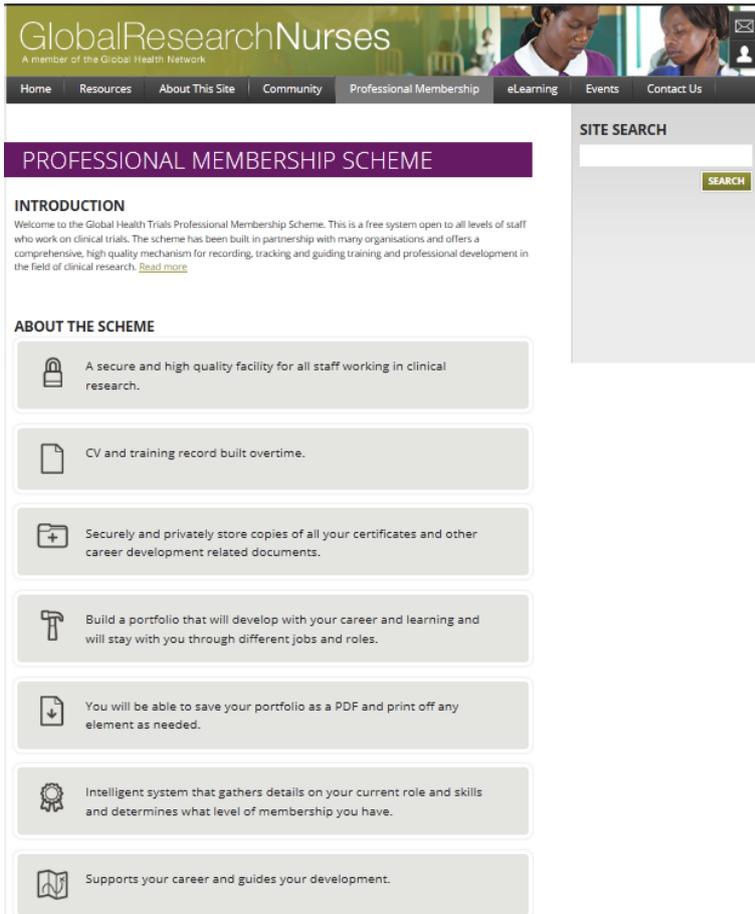
**SITE SEARCH**

SEARCH

**NEW MEMBERS**

- The Editorial Team  
Aug. 17, 2010
- Administrator  
Nov. 19, 2009
- Incuna

Fig 3: Community area with open access discussions, an area for working together collaboratively on documents, sharing links, and sharing experiences through blogs.



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## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP SCHEME

### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Global Health Trials Professional Membership Scheme. This is a free system open to all levels of staff who work on clinical trials. The scheme has been built in partnership with many organisations and offers a comprehensive, high quality mechanism for recording, tracking and guiding training and professional development in the field of clinical research. [Read more](#)

### ABOUT THE SCHEME

- A secure and high quality facility for all staff working in clinical research.
- CV and training record built overtime.
- Securely and privately store copies of all your certificates and other career development related documents.
- Build a portfolio that will develop with your career and learning and will stay with you through different jobs and roles.
- You will be able to save your portfolio as a PDF and print off any element as needed.
- Intelligent system that gathers details on your current role and skills and determines what level of membership you have.
- Supports your career and guides your development.

**SITE SEARCH**

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Fig 4: Professional Membership Scheme adapted specifically for research nurses, for tracking and recording continued professional development and training.



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eLearning Short Courses Other eLearning Links eLearning Resources Library

## eLearning

### Welcome to the Global Research Nurses e-Learning Centre

The aim of this area of the Global Research Nurses website is to provide research nurses with 'how-to' training on designing, planning, operationalising and reporting clinical studies. We deliberately say 'study' rather than 'trial' as these courses apply to most types of clinical research studies – including clinical trials.

The e-Learning Centre has four separate sections:

- e-Learning Short Courses**

Our e-learning short courses are designed to cover every step, process, and issue that needs to be understood in order to conduct a high quality clinical study. These courses should take about 45 minutes to complete and a certificate is issued on completion. Every course is written to be globally applicable, so for all diseases and all regions. They are also highly pragmatic and adaptable. Each course is carefully researched to provide up to date and high quality material that is peer reviewed and regularly reviewed and updated.

These courses are built through the support and partnership of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the World-Wide Antimalarial Resistance Network ([www.wwarn.org](http://www.wwarn.org)) and The East African Consortium for Clinical Research ([www.eaccr.org](http://www.eaccr.org)).
- e-Seminars**

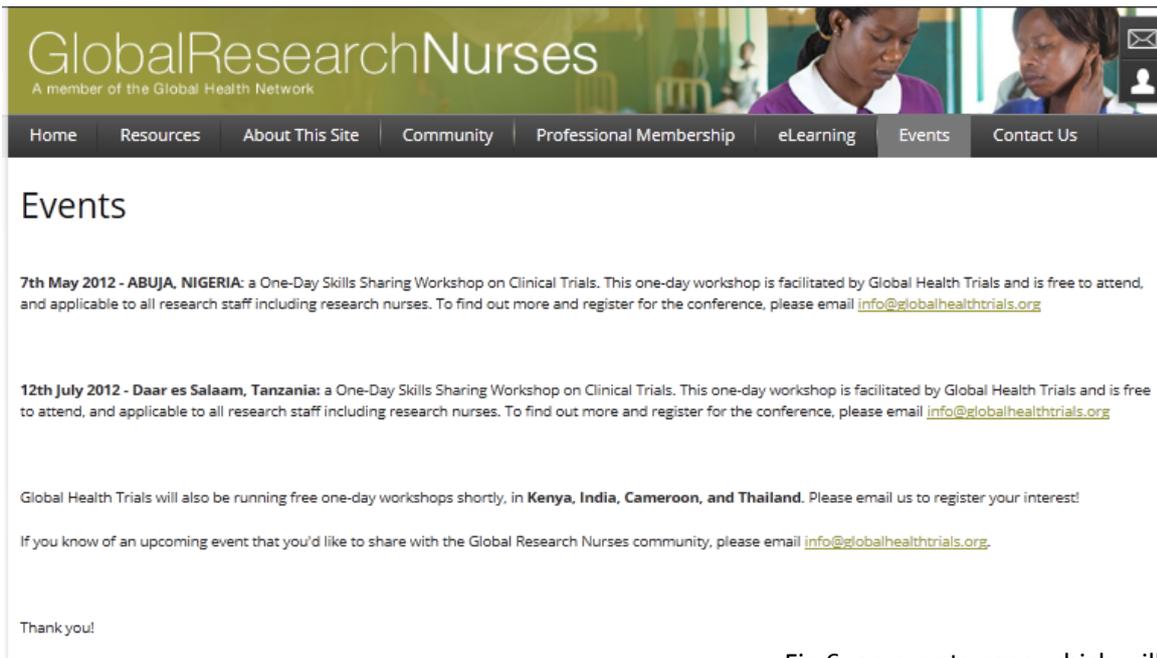
This section contains a series of e-seminars on topics related to conducting clinical trials in the field of Global Health. They are MP3 (audio) and MP4 (video) files. You will need a media player to play them. If you do not have a media player installed try [Quicktime](#), which is free and runs on PCs and Macs.
- Other e-Learning Links**

Under this section you will find links to e-learning resources, provided by other organisations, that are available online either free or at low cost. We recommend these resources as they help to support and enhance clinical research. Although many are disease specific their content is often adaptable.

Please tell us if you know of any free online courses or of access to training materials that are available and are not listed here: [info@globalhealthtrials.org](mailto:info@globalhealthtrials.org)
- Resources Library**

All of the resources provided in the e-learning short courses are provided in the Resources Library. The resources include documents, guidelines, templates, etc.

Fig 5: eLearning centre with a range of short, certified eLearning courses on a range of areas within clinical research, all globally applicable. The centre also includes links to other reliable eLearning centres on external websites, and a resource library.



The screenshot shows the 'Global Research Nurses' website. The header includes the site name and 'A member of the Global Health Network'. A navigation menu contains links for Home, Resources, About This Site, Community, Professional Membership, eLearning, Events, and Contact Us. The 'Events' section is active, displaying two upcoming workshops: one in Abuja, Nigeria (May 7th) and one in Daar es Salaam, Tanzania (July 12th). Both are one-day skills sharing workshops on clinical trials, free to attend, and applicable to all research staff. Contact information for registration is provided for both. A note mentions future workshops in Kenya, India, Cameroon, and Thailand. A footer says 'Thank you!'.

Fig 6: an events page which will later be specific to each region, showing upcoming events in global health.

## Launch

The launch of the open-access live site to the research nurse community is planned for Nicola's arrival in early July 2012. A promotional plan will be put in place, to ensure that press releases are in various relevant publications, both online and on paper, and the Global Health Network's existing membership base and links with groups such as HIFA2015 (Health Information For All by 2015) will be utilised to inform the Global Research Nurse community of this new resource.

The formal launch of the site is planned for Global Research Nurses in Malawi in September.