

Professional Certificate Program Summary - May 2015

Health & Humanitarian Supply Chain Management, Georgia Tech

In May 2015, the Center for Health and Humanitarian Systems (HHS) successfully completed its fourth professional certificate program in Health & Humanitarian Supply Chain Management. An outstanding group of participants who have lived and worked in 42 different countries brought extensive experience to the program reflected in engaged class discussions. The participants' admirable passion for their work motivated them to seek systematic approaches towards improving the efficiency and effectiveness of their organizations, positively impacting the beneficiaries they serve. The course topics focused on logistics and supply-chain management related to a broad range of activities including preparing, responding to, and recovery from natural and man-made disasters, as well as ongoing humanitarian crises due to war, famine, infectious diseases, and chronic health problems.

A limited number of scholarships were made available through the generosity of The UPS Foundation, Andrea L. Laliberte, Pete Quinones, and Richard E. and Charlene O. Zalesky. Scholarship recipients represented organizations such as Family Health International (FHI 360), Last Mile Health, MSF (Doctors Without Borders), Save the Children, USAID and World Vision in addition to United Nations agencies such as UNICEF, UNHCR and the UN World Food Programme. Other participants included representatives from national ministries of health in their countries, non-governmental organizations such as Catholic Relief Services, MedShare, and Partners in Health, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Many participants highlighted the importance and relevance of the practical applications studied in the course to their careers and how they plan to incorporate the new skills and knowledge. Mohammad Waseem Anjum, Associate Supply Officer at the UNHCR in Sudan, reflected: *"I have attended many humanitarian logistics trainings but this one was the best one. Most of the trainings discuss the procedures, and challenges to humanitarian logistics management, and provide some general decisions and tools... This training distinguishes by providing the mathematical, statistical, technical and tactical tools which can help the supply chain managers to take well calculated decisions... which will [help me to] improve the performance of the team I will be working with, leading towards the better response to our beneficiaries and all other stake holders."* Dr. Mahmud Mustafa, Director Logistics and Health Commodities at the National Primary Health Care Development Agency in Nigeria, added that he plans to *"provide guidance to [his] team on evidence-based decision making and application/use of tools learnt here to review and make quality decisions,"* an aim others echoed for areas such as hospital supply procurement, distribution center locations, inventory stocking, and emergency response plans.

Each participant highly valued the diverse group of experiences and the opportunities to network with and learn from others in the program. Dr. Mustafa commented: *"I will use the contacts made possible here to seek expert advice in solving logistics problems that may arise"*

and also foster collaboration with Georgia Tech on researching problems and finding solutions for them.” Amanda Paniagua, Shipments Manager at MedShare International agreed: *“I learned so much just from hearing other students share their experiences from the field in class.”* Kevin Horrocks In-Kind Logistics Manager at World Vision USA also observed that field practitioners often focus solely on their own experience, but by *“hearing experience in the field from other organizations,”* practitioners are better able to *“put all of this training into context and to break down the ‘blindness’... to create a more rounded perspective of the material.”*

Participants praised the quality of instruction, the blended learning format, and valuable group work. Sonia Aranda, Head of Procurement at UNICEF’s Country Office in Mexico noted: *“The high level of knowledge, professionalism, and commitment shown by faculty and experts are inspiring full of practical advice and insights.”* MPH Candidate at the Rollins School of Public Health in Global Epidemiology, Daniella Figueroa-Downing, agreed: *“I chose this certificate course as a supplement to my MPH degree, and I think it fit wonderfully. The instructors were knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and very supportive.”* The Head of Office for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Nigeria, Dawn Minott, also emphasized the importance of the high-quality instruction: *“I was initially enrolled in another course then the GaTech course came to my attention and dropping that course to enroll with GaTech was the set decision for my capacity needs. The instructors are knowledgeable and the course material was extensive. The teaching methodologies were well targeted for adult learning and the active engagement of participation to share from their experiences made the course richer and a worthwhile venture.”*

The certificate program consists of three courses: Pre-planning Strategy for Health and Humanitarian Organizations; Tactical Decision Making in Public Health and Humanitarian Response; Systems Operations in Health and Humanitarian Response. Topics include distribution network design, strategies for managing inventory and uncertainty, resource allocation, and systems dynamics. The certificate program is offered in a 6-day format (2 days per course), which enables individuals traveling from outside of Atlanta and abroad the opportunity to earn a certificate in less than a week. The blended delivery format includes pre-course reading assignments, in-class lectures, discussion, interactive games and group work.

The 2015 courses were led by HHS Center Co-Directors, Drs. Özlem Ergun, Pinar Keskinocak and Julie Swann. Guest speakers included Georgia Tech faculty member and supply chain expert Dr. John Bartholdi; Rollins Professor and chair of the Hubert Department of Global Health at Emory University, Dr. Carlos Del Rio; Medical Officer assigned to the Emergency Response and Recovery Branch (ERRB) at the Center for Global Health of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Dr. Mark Anderson; and Academic Director of the Master of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Logistics and Management (MASHLM) at the University of Lugano, Switzerland, Paulo Gonçalves.

For more information about the scholarships or to sponsor students for scholarships in 2016, please visit: <http://hhls.scl.gatech.edu>.

For more information about the courses, visit:
<http://www.scl.gatech.edu/professional-education/HHL/>
Email: hhscenter@isye.gatech.edu



**Georgia Tech Professional Certificate Program in
Health & Humanitarian Supply Chain Management**

2015 Participant Countries Represented

