

**TOWARD INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION ON COMPETENCIES AND  
ACCREDITATION IN HEALTH PROMOTION AND HEALTH EDUCATION:  
THE GALWAY CONSENSUS CONFERENCE**

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### **Background and Research Aims**

Developing a competent health promotion workforce is a key component of capacity building for the future and is critical to delivering on the vision, values and commitments of global health promotion. An international consensus meeting, jointly organised by the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE), the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) and the US Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC), with participation from international leaders in the field, took place at the National University of Ireland Galway, in June 2008. The Galway Consensus Conference began the process of promoting international exchange and understanding concerning core competencies and quality assurance mechanisms necessary for developing workforce capacity across countries and continents.

### **Methods**

The Galway Consensus Conference convened a working group of international leaders in the field that have been prominent in the development of competency-based and accreditation movements in global public health and population health. A Consensus Statement, based on the proceedings of the meeting, was produced which outlines core values and principles, a common definition, and eight domains of core competency that are required to engage in effective health promotion practice. The core domains of competency agreed to at the meeting were: catalysing change, leadership, assessment, planning, implementation, evaluation, advocacy and partnerships.

In 2009 the Galway Consensus Statement, along with eight commissioned background papers and five sets of comments and commentaries from the field, was published in tandem issues of the IUHPE journal, *Global Health Promotion* (Vol. 16, No. 2, June, 2009) and SOPHE's journal *Health Education & Behavior* (Vol. 36, No.3, June 2009).

### **Progress to Date**

Following publication of the Galway Conference Consensus Statement, a global consultation process was undertaken in collaboration with the IUHPE Regional Vice Presidents. Feedback was received from global experts in health promotion from over 187 individuals/organizations in Australia, Africa, Latin America, Canada, US and Europe. Information was also disseminated in India, Sri Lanka and the Eastern Mediterranean Region. The feedback from this process was collated and presented at the IUHPE 20th World Conference in July 2010. A sub-plenary session on the consensus building process was convened and co-chaired by Professor Margaret Barry and Professor John Allegrante, Columbia University New York with leading health promotion panel members from Africa, India, Australia and Latin American regions. A specific consultation was also carried out with health promotion staff in the WHO Regional Offices and a report by Mahmood and Barry was produced in January 2010.

### **Dissemination**

Mahmood M. and Barry, M.M. (2010) *World Health Organisation Regional Offices Consultation on Global Health Promotion Competencies*, HPRC January 2010.

Barry, M.M., Allegrante, J.P., Arroyo, H., Howat, P., Onya, H. and Rao, M. (2010). *Building Consensus on Domains of Core Competencies in Health Promotion*. Sub-plenary presentation at the 20<sup>th</sup> IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion 11-15 July 2010. Geneva, Switzerland.