



Global launch of Medical Peace Work

Physicians, medical students and health workers around the world can now improve their skills on violence prevention and peace-building by linking up to the new *Medical Peace Work* course, launched in Tromsø (Norway), New Delhi (India), Berlin (Germany), Mexico City (Mexico), Amsterdam (The Netherlands) and London (UK) in March 2008.

The course is the world's first of its kind and it applies the latest e-learning technology in offering seven separate but interlinked modules, available free of charge to physicians, health workers and students globally.

"All you need to undertake this course is a computer with an internet connection, which means you can access it from anywhere in the world,"

says Michael Rowson, a senior teaching fellow at UCL's Institute of Child Health and editor of the *Medical Peace Work* textbook. "A CD-ROM with an off-line version of the course is also available. We hope to make this course as internationally accessible as possible".

With EU-funding, eleven partners from Norway, Germany, Slovenia, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom have worked for two years to develop the course, coordinated by Centre for International Health at the University of Tromsø.

"We wanted to design a course that is technologically innovative and user-friendly," says Project Manager Dr. Klaus Melf at the University of Tromsø. "The peace capacity of the health sector is simply too big to fit into a regular, old-fashioned lecture hall."

The Medical Peace Work e-learning course consists of seven modules:

Module 1:
Peace, conflict and health professionals

Module 2:
Medicine, health and human rights

Module 3:
War, weapons and strategies of violent conflict

Module 4:
Structural violence and the underlying causes of violent conflict

Module 5:
Peace-health interventions in armed conflict

Module 6:
Refugee and migration challenges

Module 7:
Inter-personal and self-directed violence

For more information about Medical Peace Work, please visit our website:
<http://www.medicalpeacework.org>

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