



WONCA Air Health Train the Trainer Program

Call for Applications

We are excited to announce the call for applications for the WONCA Air Health Train the Trainer Program. This is an 18 month pilot program, run by WONCA through the Working Party on the Environment, which aims to increase awareness among family doctors and other primary healthcare practitioners– and in turn their patients - in Lower and Middle Income countries (LMICs) about the health risks of exposure to air pollution, with the goal of reducing the impacts of air pollution on their patients and communities, especially non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as Chronic Respiratory and Cardiovascular Diseases, as well as childhood pneumonia. Exposure to air pollution is a health concern of enormous consequences: The World Health Organisation reports that globally, air pollution is the second leading cause of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), and the leading cause of pneumonia in children, responsible for 7 million deaths annually.

The training program will not require travel; it will include online courses, recorded videos and a live webinar. The educational material will take around seven hours to complete. Within this participants will be provided knowledge and tools to:

- Understand effects of air pollution on health and the role of the healthcare practitioners and its links to climate change
- Assess and counsel patients and provide outreach to communities
- Build capacity among healthcare professionals and the wider public in their communities, countries and regions through teaching and advocacy activities

Besides the webinar, which you need to attend online, you can complete the rest of the training at your own pace and schedule. Once this training is complete, the trainees will become trainers and will then act in their family medicine and other practices and their medical communities

- Act as teacher and mentor, teaching students and residents, as well as other family doctors, GPs and other primary healthcare practitioners, at local and regional meetings regarding Air Pollution and Health and climate change, and the role of primary healthcare practitioners.
- Endeavour to obtain accreditation for these activities.
- Engage in any other activities, either teaching or acting as a champion or advocate, e.g. writing articles, advocating in the medical associations, to build capacity among health care professionals regarding air pollution and health in their countries and regions.
- Educating patients and patient groups about environmental issues and health, and acting as patient advocates whenever appropriate.

Trainers will keep a detailed log of their outreach activities, and will collect evaluations from all their sessions. Trainers will be remunerated for the activities they log.

We have funding to recruit 40 health professionals in this pilot program. Participants will be health professionals from LMICs from each of the appropriate WONCA regions. Half of the participants shall be family doctors and the other half shall be other specialists and health professionals, including respirologists, cardiologists, paediatricians, nurses, community health workers and students.

We also welcome participants from countries that would not be included in LMIC groups: These trainers would fully participate in the training and acts as trainers, but would not be funded, as we dont have funds for this.

To participate in this program, please complete [this application form](#). The deadline for applications is **Monday 18th of February**. If you have any questions regarding the program, please email Alan Abelson: alan.abelsohn@utoronto.ca

This program is run by WONCA with funding from the Pfizer Independent Grants for Learning and Change (IGLC) Program.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Alan Abelson
Program Coordinator