

Health & Humanitarian Supply Chain Management

May 2016 Professional Certificate Program Summary

In May 2016, the Center for Health and Humanitarian Systems (CHHS) completed its fifth professional certificate program in Health & Humanitarian Supply Chain Management. The 2016 class was comprised of a diverse group of practitioners with extensive experience in the global health and humanitarian sectors, who are currently based in 20 different countries and have worked in over 80+ countries throughout their careers.

The 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. It is offered in a 6-day format (2 days per course), enabling participants 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. Course topics focus on logistics and supply-chain management related to a broad range of activities including preparing, responding to, and recovering from natural and man-made disasters, as well as ongoing challenges such as famine, infectious diseases, and public health problems.

Participants learned critical skills in disaster response planning and forecasting as well as tools for strategic and tactical decision making. Wendi McAfee, Program Coordinator for the Neglected Tropical Diseases Support Center at the Task Force for Global Health reflected: *“The Systems Dynamics framework was incredibly well presented, and has given me not only a new career interest, but also a tool with which to analyze and understand complex problems, including both the problems faced by humanitarian organizations and the problems they create.”*

Likewise, Sanne Wijnhorst, Procurement Specialist for Oxfam Novib (Netherlands) wrote: *“the course really enlightened me in many aspects of the humanitarian supply chain process. The forecasting and decision making tools will provide me with a lot of opportunities to optimize both processes and supply chains.”* Rachel Gordon-Roberts, Logistics Coordinator, Emergency and Humanitarian Assistance from CARE USA also remarked on the relevance of the decision support tools in helping her to *“make use of inventory analysis, using a more mathematical approach while planning and building strategies.”*

The diversity of participants, in terms of geographic areas, skill sets, and experiences created a unique opportunity for new ways of *“forming partnerships (formal or informal) for collaboration in the future,”* described Dianne Lourenco, Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant at Village Reach in Mozambique. Daniel Ngongo, Assistant Logistics Officer with the Management Science for Health (MSH/USAID) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), emphasized the value of group interactions and knowledge sharing: *“The diverse cohort provides examples and perspectives to support and complete the topics covered in lectures; conversations outside lectures during breaks and lunch were a great way for us to learn from each other and absorb. Working in groups on class projects/games was a great way to learn as well.”* Others also praised the atmosphere of collaboration and future connections facilitated by the course. Matt Cohen-Price from Solaflect Energy commented: *“[Participants’] experiences put the teachings into a realistic perspective; they are smart, accomplished, dedicated friends whom I can call on or collaborate with in the future.”*

CHHS is fortunate to provide a limited number of scholarships that were made available through the generosity of The UPS Foundation, Andrea L. Laliberte, Pete Quinones, and Richard E. and Charlene O. Zalesky. 2016 scholarship recipients represented organizations such as CARE (USA), Management Science for Health (MSH/USAID), Médecins sans Frontières (MSF Kenya), OXFAM (DRC), Save the Children (Pakistan), as well as United Nations agencies such as UNICEF (Ecuador) and the UN World Food Programme (WFP Nepal).

Other participants included representatives from ministries of health (e.g., Nigeria), non-governmental organizations (e.g., Partners in Health, Save the Children, Village Reach), industry (Chemonics, LMI, private medical practice), and United Nations agencies (e.g., World Health Organization, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti).

2016 course instruction was led by CHHS Co-Directors and Georgia Tech faculty, Drs. Pinar Keskinocak and Julie Swann, as well as CHHS co-founder and faculty at Northeastern University, Dr. Özlem Ergun. Guest speakers included Ms. Sheereen Brown, Business Analyst at The Task Force for Global Health; Dr. John Bartholdi, Georgia Tech faculty member and supply chain expert; and Dr. Paulo Gonçalves, Academic Director of the Master of Advanced Studies in Humanitarian Logistics and Management (MASHLM) at the University of Lugano, Switzerland.

For more information about the scholarships, please visit: <http://hhls.scl.gatech.edu> or to sponsor students for scholarships in 2016, please contact Meghan Smithgall at msmithgall@isye.gatech.edu.

For information about the courses, visit: <https://hhscenter.gatech.edu/professional-education>.



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

2016 Participant Countries Represented



20 different participant nationalities (shown above)
Participants have lived or worked in over 80 countries



Participants map locations for Malaria Resource Allocation simulation (Clockwise from top left) Sidahmed Ali (UNHCR Sudan), Dr. Usman Adamu (Nigerian National Primary Health Care Development Agency), Matt Cohen-Price (Solaflect Energy), and Bukola Bakare (North Dakota State Institute of Logistics and Transportation)



Participants discuss strategy for Big Depot Inventory game (L-R) Marta Wnorowska (MSF Kenya), Jalaa Abdalrahman (WHO Sudan), Daniel Ngongo (MSH/USAID DRC)



Dr. Pinar Keskinocak discusses Malaria resource allocation strategy (L-R) Rachel Gordon-Roberts (CARE USA) and Wendy Prosser (Village Reach)