Proposal for an online IRM training course

The IRM “MOOC”

February 9th 2017
Rational

• The GPIRM is the authoritative resource for Insecticide Resistance Management (IRM) in malaria vectors

• However, IRM is an applied science, and there is a need to translate theory into practice

• How to reach the target audience with the material in the GPIRM they need to undertake effective IRM?
Rational

• **Who are the target audience?**

  • All those who can have an impact on the outcome of a vector control programme
    • Those involved with IRS and net distribution, and their supervisors
    • Those taking the decisions on which VC interventions to undertake
    • Those involved with the logistics of undertaking a campaign
    • Those involved in financing VC programmes
    • Those undertaking susceptibility monitoring and reporting
    • The students who will be undertaking these roles in the future
    • Many others
Rational

- The target audience is:
  - Geographically dispersed
  - Have different roles and functions
  - Have different backgrounds and experience of VC

- But, all are linked by the desire to use vector control as a tool to defeat vector borne disease
Proposal

• Online education is rapidly expanding

• The phenomena of MOOCs is transforming educational delivery
  • A MOOC, Massive Open Online Course, is an online course aimed at unlimited participation and open access via the internet
  • They provide educational opportunities to learners not enrolled in formal educational programmes

• It has been estimated that in 2016 58 million students studied a MOOC
  • With ca. 7,000 online courses offered by 700 universities and institutions

Proposal

- MOOCs have been successfully used to deliver public health related material
Proposal

• It is proposed to create an IRM MOOC based on the principles outlined in the GPIRM

• The MOOC will be open to anyone to undertake and will be delivered free to the participant

• It is expected that the course will take between 10 and 12 hours to complete over a three or four week period, and will be delivered using an engaging multi-media approach, including video, audio and text, and will facilitate online interaction between participants

• After studying the course the participant will have:
  • an understanding of what insecticide resistance is and its impact on vector control
  • the theory and practice of applied IRM and the importance of undertaking IRM in the context of a wider Integrated Vector Management (IVM) approach
Proposal

• It is hoped that the course will be produced in association with the leading experts and institutions in the field, and endorsed by the wider VCWG community – but not exclusively associated with any one institute and not “sponsored” by an industrial partner
• Target to launched at the VCWG meeting in early 2018.
• It is anticipated that delivery of the MOOC will be on the FutureLearn platform
• Once produced, the course can be delivered multiple times, incorporating updates as required.
Status

• Concept developed at RBM VCWG meeting in Feb 2016

• Contacted MOOC platform providers
  • An IRM MOOC would meet requirements for major platform providers

• Spoken with several Public Health educational establishments
  • Positive feedback and willingness to support the initiative
  • Encouraging feedback from existing MOOC providers

• Surveyed the wider VCWG community
  • Limited response to an online survey, however, very positive feedback
  • A number of people volunteered to support initiative
  • Believed that target audience would have access to the technology required to participate in the course
What has been learnt

• To produce the MOOC will probably take more time and effort than you think...

• The most effective way to produce a quality MOOC is to have a fulltime coordinator/director

• There is already some material available that can be relatively easily modified to form part of the MOOC

• The ability for course participants to share and discuss their experiences through a moderated course based forum is a highly valuable element of the MOOC
What next?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify the core team who will oversee the course production and delivery. Identify a steering team to ensure the scientific/technical and educational integrity of the course. (Lead educationalist)</td>
<td>Q1 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identify resources required to produce and deliver course</td>
<td>Q2 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seek funding</td>
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<td>Generate syllabus and structure of course</td>
<td>Q2 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appoint coordinator/producer to manage production of course</td>
<td>Q2 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Produce course</td>
<td>Q3 – 4 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review and sign off</td>
<td>Q4 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deliver course</td>
<td>Q1 2018</td>
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What is required

• Willingness of key institutions to support and endorse the MOOC
  • Institutions from the Northern and Southern hemisphere, academic and non-academic

• Availability of funding
  • Identify sources of funding
  • Expedite funding to meet challenging timelines

• Address any legal and intellectual property issues that may arise
  • Copywrite and ownership of material, etc.

• Buy-in from key institutions to promote participation in the MOOC by the target audience
Summary

- High quality engaging online course teaching the principles of applied IRM, in the context of IVM, as outlined in the GPIRM
- Free to the participant
- Participation actively promoted to target audience, but open to anyone
- Increase knowledge, and facilitate best practice application, of IRM in all vector control programmes
- Particularly relevant as novel VC interventions become available
Thank you for your attention

I hope you will hear more about this initiative throughout the year