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Umeå University launches global action on building sustainable capacity for health research

From January 11 to 13, researchers and specialists from six countries, Indonesia, Ghana, USA, the Netherlands, Germany and Sweden, will meet in Umeå, Sweden, to begin a three-year collaboration set to enable best approaches to research on social determinants of health in low and middle-income countries (LMICs) of Asia and Africa. The meeting will be hosted by Umeå University's Centre for Global Health Research, which has been selected by the European Commission to lead the two million Euro research project called "INDEPTH Training and Research Centres of Excellence (INTREC)".

The major causes of poor health are rooted in societies around the world. Governments are encouraged to lead global action on the social determinants of health with the aim of achieving health equity. This requires context-specific, timely and relevant evidence on the relationships between health determinants and outcomes which are as yet limited, especially in LMICs. In turn, this demands research on social determinants of health and capacity-building activities to enable such research.

The INTREC coordination action is envisioned to address health inequities in Asian and African LMICs by developing sustainable capacity for research for health and its social determinants, and by facilitating translation of research findings into policy and practice in both regions. INTREC also advocates for gender equity in health research by promoting the role of women scientists.

The meeting will take place at Hotel Björken in Umeå, where the researchers will present their study plans and objectives, led by one of the project leaders Dr. Yulia Blomstedt, researcher at the Umeå Centre for Global Health Research. As the coordinating body of the collaboration, Umeå University will contribute researchers who will be responsible for the training needs assessment, development and provision of research training, as well as creating a website – a global focal point for all interested in social determinants of health, and for the overall project management and dissemination activities.

For more information on the meeting and on this coordination action, call Dr. Johannah Wegerdt, Scientific Project Manager for INTREC, at +46 727 14 66 24, or e-mail Johannah.wegerdt@epiph.umu.se