Implementation Research on HIV/AIDS

About the course: In the frame of Fogarty HIV Research Training Grant Strategic Training Partnership to End AIDS in Georgia, Partnership for Research and Action for Health (PRAH) in collaboration with Ivane Javakhishvili, Tbilisi State University (TSU), the State University of New York Downstate Health Sciences University (SUNY DHSU), New York University (NYU) School of Global Public Health, NYU Silver School of Social Work, and the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute (NYSDOH-AI), designed an innovative course to advance knowledge how evidence-based interventions (EBI) in HIV prevention and care can be spread and integrated into practice.

This course introduces foundational elements of Dissemination & Implementation (D&I) science and teaches the essential skills required to apply D&I methods effectively to overcome barriers to dissemination, implementation, sustainability, and spread of evidence-based healthcare and public health programs and policies.

The course uses case studies to provide examples of how these methods can be applied in real-world settings, with a particular focus on HIV/AIDS. Students will review how to develop a practical approach to designing HIV prevention and care interventions and understand the continuum from implementation to evaluation through an implementation science lens. This course will introduce important aspects of HIV/AIDS implementation research by discussing the following modules:

Introduction and Overview of the Field of D&I	Explains the key challenges and factors affecting the translation of research to practice; summarizes why D&I is important; and defines D&I
Measurement Issues and Evaluation Approaches	Lists examples of D&I outcomes; describes an evaluation framework for translation of research findings and how you would apply it
Implementation strategies and strategy selection	Defines implementation strategies; describes how they differ from EBI; selects strategies that address specific barriers to implementation
Implementation Theories and Frameworks	Reviews theories or frameworks that inform D&I research; describes how to apply it in understanding barriers/facilitators of implementation
Participatory processes in implementation	Defines Community-based Participatory Research (CBPR); describes benefits and use of CBPR principles for improving implementation
Fidelity and Adaptation	Defines fidelity, internal and external validity; identifies factors that influence implementation fidelity; describes a framework for measuring adaptation
Study Design and Implementation	Lists ways of conceptualizing the stages and phases of implementation research and evaluation; describes what to consider when selecting a study design (e.g., mixed method study design)
Implementation and De-implementation in Healthcare	Describes two organizational and outer setting factors that can facilitate or impede D&I; defines de- implementation; describes a strategy for improving implementation of EBIs
Sustainability and Scale up	Defines sustainability and scale up in the context of D&I; explains factors that influence sustainability; describes a framework for understanding sustainability; describes an approach for scaling EBI

Dates: 8 October – 10 December, 2024.

Venue: online

Participants: This course is open for TSU doctoral students, as well as selected trainees, who are primarily physicians and public health practitioners with particular interest in HIV implementation research.

Key dates:

Application due date for this course is within 1.5 months of posting this announcement on August 1ˢᵗ, 2024.

Application should be submitted online no later than September 10ᵗʰ, 2024, through the PRAH web site.

Application requirements:

- **Motivation Letter**
- **Work and research experience**
- **Prior academic performance**
- **TOEFL/IELTS scores**
- **Personal interview** (if invited).

For an application to be considered complete, all the application materials listed in this section must be submitted by the applicant through the PRAH submission portal.

Applicants must complete all required registrations before the application due date (see key dates above). Submissions received after the deadline will not be processed for review.

Please apply to the course online via

www.prah.ge - "application to the short courses"

We encourage you to review all the instructions listed below before beginning the application:

Motivation Letter

A motivation letter is a personal document detailing your professional skills and reasons for applying for this training course.

> **!** Upload the PDF version of your ML to the https://prah.ge/ submission portal with the following file name:
> **Applicant Name and Surname_ML**

Resume or curriculum vitae

The applicant is requested to upload his/her CV to the PRAH submission portal. You are encouraged to use the EU standard format for creating you CV, more information can be found here: https://europa.eu/europass/en

> **!** Upload the PDF version of your CV to the https://prah.ge/ submission portal with the following file name:
> **Applicant Name and Surname_CV**

Official diplomas and transcripts

Applicants are requested to submit the copies of their Diplomas from **EVERY** post-secondary institution attended.

> **!** Upload the copy (or several copies as appropriate) of your Diploma(s) and transcripts to the https://prah.ge/ submission portal with the following file name:
> **Applicant Name and Surname_Diploma & Transripts_Institution (or Program) Name**

English language proficiency

All applicants whose native language is not English and who did not receive the equivalent of a bachelor's degree at an institution where English is the primary language of instruction should submit the proof of English language proficiency.

The standard requirement of English language proficiency for the applicant: Within the past 5 years, minimum score of ether TOEFL iBT – 79-100, or IELTS – 6.5-7.0, or Duolingo English exam – 105-120.

Applicants can waive the English Language Proficiency requirement if they submit transcripts showing they successfully completed at least two full-time semesters within a 10-year time frame from time of application and maintained at least a B average at a college or university in the United States or EU country (for questions regarding English Language Proficiency waivers, please email: tzurashvili@prah.ge; partnership@prah.ge;).

> **!** As applicable, upload the PDF version of unofficial scoring paper from the English test taking institution to the https://prah.ge/ submission portal with the following file name:
> **Applicant Name and Surname_English Test Scores** OR, in case you meet the exemption, tick the relevant box.

Technical support
If you experience technical difficulties at any time while using the PRAH online application, please contact the project coordinator, Tamar Zurashvili at tzurashvili@prah.ge; partnership@prah.ge

Application review criteria

We will use the following criteria for selecting the course participants:

- **Work and research experience** – an applicant's CV showing relevant work and research experience in HIV/HCV/STI, TB or NCD prevention and care.
- **Prior academic performance** – diploma of master/ doctoral level training in public health, including the completion of relevant courses in Epidemiology/ Biostatistics/ Social and Behavioral Science/ Qualitative Research Methods/ Monitoring & Evaluation of Public Health Programs.
- **English level proficiency** – as stated above.

Admission decisions
Once an admission decision has been made, you will receive a formal email from PRAH administration.