



GHS2024 Conference Workshops

Day One - Tuesday 18 2024, 1:30pm-3:30pm – Room C4.4

Georgetown University - Localizing FETP: Mainstreaming Social Science into FETP Activities through Rapid Qualitative Methods (RQMs)

The Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) trains “disease detectives” globally and it has been increasingly ‘localised’ as it is integrated into national and subnational health systems. In many countries today, FETP is at the “Frontline” of primary interactions around disease surveillance and community trust and field epidemiologists often have unique local capacities for understanding local languages, politics, environment, and culture. However, the extent to which these capacities are fully realized remains an open question. Whilst there is increasing recognition for the need to develop integrated approaches that bring together epidemiological expertise with an appreciation for social factors across contexts, gaps remain in implementing this in practice. The FETP offers an important opportunity for developing multi-disciplinary curricula that offer trainees the diversified skillsets they require to adopt a truly integrated and contextually relevant approach to surveillance. In this workshop we explore the possibilities and challenges of mainstreaming the social sciences into the Program.

This workshop will introduce the concept of Integrated Outbreak Analytics (IOA). We will lead a participatory discussion forum among FETP stakeholders regarding the challenges and opportunities involved in localizing FETP activities through qualitative inquiry. We will provide health policymakers, public health administrators, surveillance officers, and epidemiologists with information and training on how to use rapid qualitative methods (RQM) to strengthen FETP surveillance. Training will focus on the field-based, rapid analysis of qualitative data and data integration to strengthen FETP analytics.

Objectives:

- To sensitize FETP stakeholders to the benefits and limitations of social science evidence in disease surveillance activities.
- To introduce specific data collection and data analysis methodologies currently piloted in FETP field sites.
- To convene a participatory listening session on FETP stakeholders’ experiences with localizing FETP principles, practices, and procedures for local community-base contexts.

Target Audience:

FETP stakeholders, including researchers, health policy makers, public health administrators, surveillance officers, and epidemiologists, NGOs/CSOs, and community health workers