



International Union for Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine

HEALTH TECHNOLOGY AND TRAINING TASK GROUP (HTTTG)

International Union of Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine (IUPESM)

Proposal: To establish a model of interaction whereby the HTTTG can ascertain the health technology and training needs in a given country, determine the appropriate technology and training to satisfy those needs, and then obtain funds from international organisations to allow this to happen.

Sponsors: HTTTG has the full support of the International Organisations for Medical Physics (IOMP) and the International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering (IFMBE). The International Union of Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine (IUPESM) is the umbrella organisation for medical physics and biomedical engineering.

Methods: There are four aspects to this proposal.

- 1 The first step is to ask urban and rural health workers to set their priorities so as to improve medical care for the majority, rather than expensive high technology for the few. For example, palliative treatment is indicated for late presenting patients with advanced cancer, and the therapeutic and imaging requirements can be quite different to that for curative therapy. This means that equipment and staff training needs may be quite different to the western model. Another example might relate to building on existing traditional medicine networks at the village level, rather than superimposing new and competing western-type networks. Health workers need to prepare a working paper on their perceived needs in their country, with assigned priorities, which could be the basis for ongoing discussion and action by the HTTTG.
- 2 The second step is for HTTTG to consider the best solutions for these needs, based on sound review of all available technologies, and make recommendations.
- 3 The third step is implement appropriate training programs matched to the required equipment.
- 4 Funds must then be obtained from international sponsors.

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Chair HTTTG
President IOMP
25/10/06