

International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

Funding Opportunities and Mentorship Program for Tobacco Control Researchers



IDRC

- Mission: *Empowerment through Knowledge*
- Headquarters: Ottawa, Canada
- 6 Regional Offices, including one for Latin America and the Caribbean region (LACRO)
 - 160 ongoing research activities in LAC region
 - Investment in LAC region (2004–2007): CA\$54 million (includes partnerships with other donors)

IDRC

Program Areas

**Innovation, Policy
and Science**

**Environment and
Natural Resource
Management**

**Info & Communication
Technologies for
Development**

**Social and
Economic Policy**

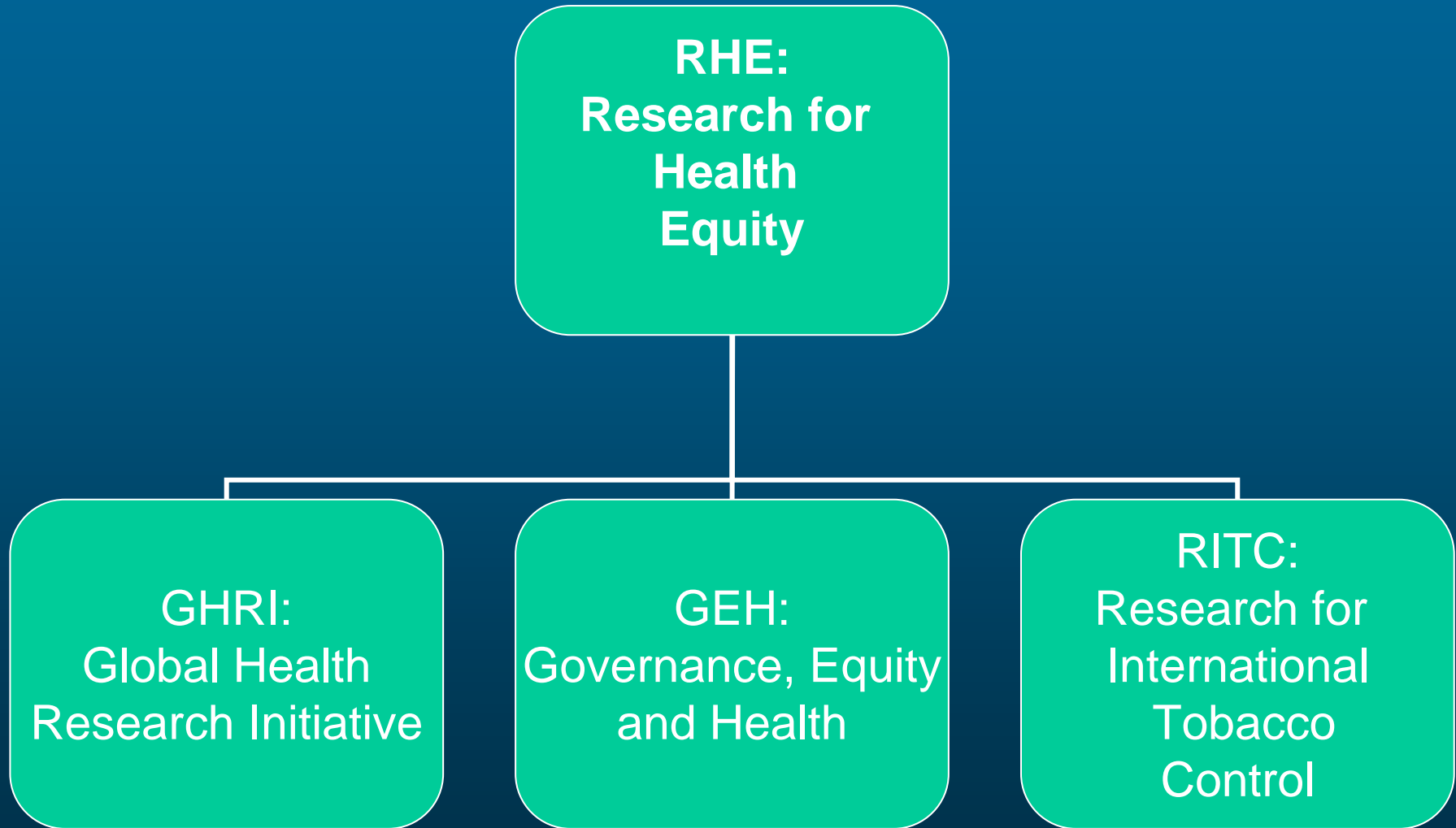
Corporate Projects

**Middle East
Special Initiatives**

**Private Sector
Development**

**Research for
Health Equity**

3 Programs within RHE



Canada's Global Health Research Initiative:

A Partnership in Response to the Challenges of Global Health



Canadian
International
Development
Agency

Agence
canadienne de
développement
international

IDRC



CRDI



CIHR IRSC



Health
Canada Santé
Canada

GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH INITIATIVE
INITIATIVE EN SANTÉ MONDIALE

GHRI – Partnership

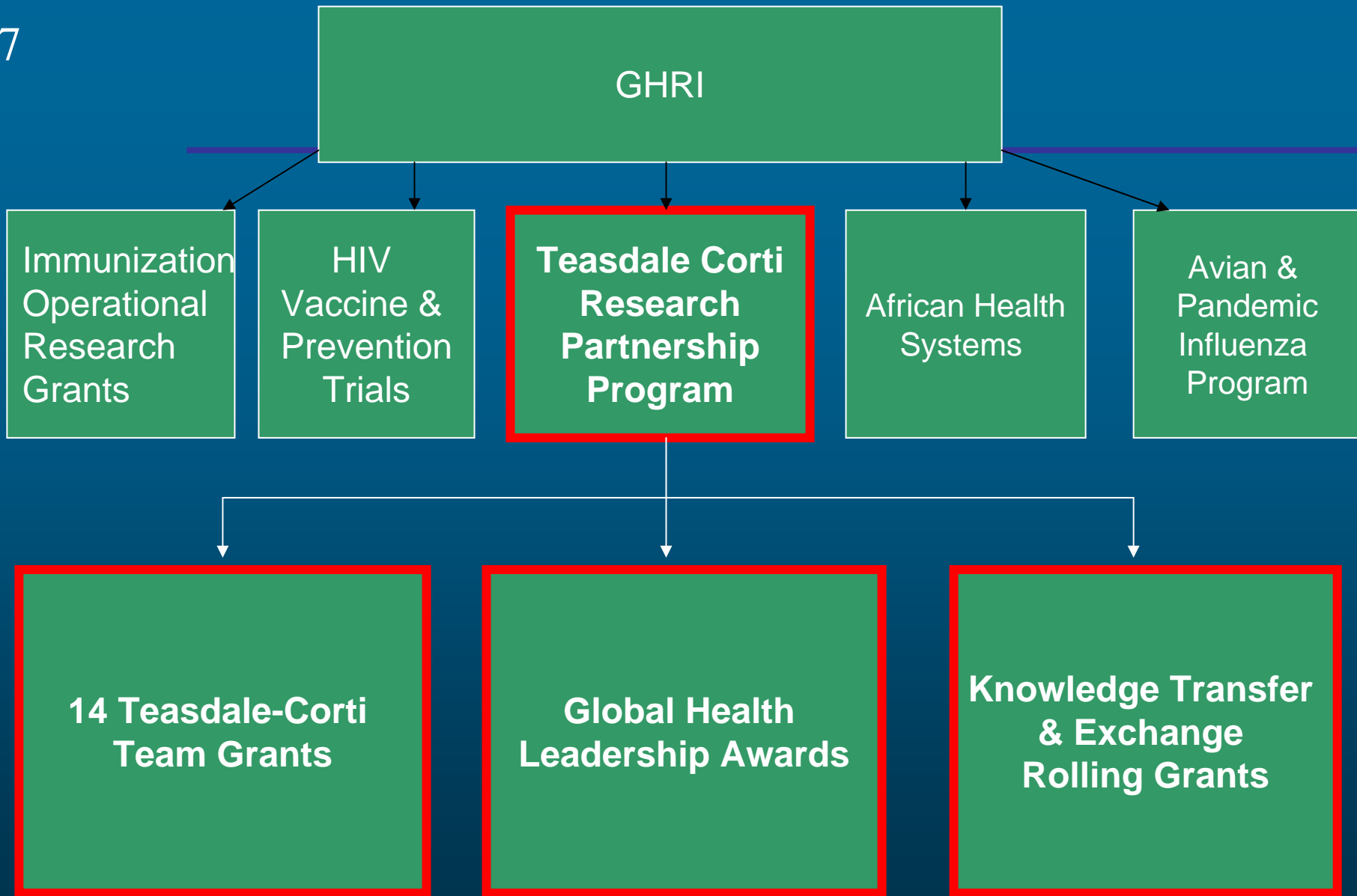
CIDA

CIHR

**Health
Canada**

IDRC

- Strengthening global health research
- Informing policy for health, development and research
- Sharing information between partners
- Fostering excellence



Latin American Locations of Teasdale-Corti Team Grants



- Honduras
- Mexico
- Chile
- Brazil
- Guatemala and Peru

Global Health Leadership Awards in Latin America



Vilma Espinoza, Honduras - Strengthening Capacities in Research Ethics in Honduras

Diego Ivan Lucumi Cuesta, Colombia - Bridging the gap between evidence and action: Capacity building and advocacy project to face the chronic disease epidemic in Colombia

Fadya Orozco, Ecuador - Social control, human rights and governance: A health promotion approach to the reduction of health risks associated with pesticide use in Carchi, Ecuador

Andres Pichon Rivière, Argentina - Improving Equity and Efficiency of Health Systems in Latin America

Tomas Pantoja, Chile - Producing and using evidence in Latin America health policymaking

Raul Mejia, Argentina – Argentine Tobacco Control Research Program

Knowledge Transfer & Exchange

Rolling Grants

- This program is currently under development;
- Envisaged as small (\$50,000) grants available only to research users currently working with a funded GHRI project;
- Objective of program is to strengthen research users role in knowledge transfer and exchange.

Governance, Equity and Health

Making research matter for health equity



GEH: Research *on* and *for* development challenges

- Systematic health and social disparities: **health equity** within and across countries
- **Governance**: **how** power is exercised, how decisions are taken, how citizens have their say; research as public space and accountability
- Health policy and health **systems**: forests and trees
- **Context** matters

Governance, Equity and Health

- Strengthening Health Systems
- Promoting Civic Engagement
- Making Research Matter

GEH Phase II: Entrypoints

- **GOVERNANCE** of plural health systems, emphasis on stewardship role of the state and active civic engagement
- **HEALTH SYSTEMS**: tools and evidence to *integrate interventions* and support equitable and effective *systems* performance
- **FINANCING** approaches for effective, efficient, equitable and sustainable public health services

Making Research Matter

- Promoting the skills of researchers to influence donor funding
- Enhancing the abilities of decision-makers to incorporate and appreciate the role of research in the policy process.
- Strengthening the knowledge brokering and uptake capacities of national and regional institutions (eg Ministries of Health and Finance and dedicated KT bodies).
- Producing, supporting, facilitating direct dissemination, translation, synthesis and management of health systems research and knowledge.

Research for International Tobacco Control (RITC)

Tobacco - a Development Issue



Funding Streams for 2008-10

- **Core Themes** – primary focus on:
 - Health Policy and Systems Interventions for Tobacco Control
 - Tobacco Farming: Health Livelihoods, Economics and Environment
- Other thematic areas:
 - Globalization, Trade and Tobacco
 - Poverty and Tobacco
 - Alternative Forms of Tobacco Use

www.idrc.ca/tobacco/ev-83333-201-1-Do_Topic.html

Funding Streams for 2008-10

- **Support for Implementing the FCTC:**
 - Competitive grants – small and medium
 - Rapid response mechanism
- **Special Initiatives:**
 - Exploration on gendered aspects of tobacco use and production
 - Africa Tobacco Situational Analysis

Mentorship Program for Tobacco Control Researchers

- Launched as a pilot program in 2006
- 7 trainees identified: 3 from LAC
- Responded to expressed need of tobacco control researchers in low/middle-income countries
- Funded by IDRC and Health Canada
- Developed in close partnership with the Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research and with input from our mentorship trainees

Mentorship trainees' input

- All of them have worked in some type of mentor capacity, but all want to improve their mentorship ability
- They need support and resources to be effective mentors to new researchers
- All want to be engaged in action-oriented mentorship training
- New mentors are not always sure of the best way to guide and represent the interests of their mentees.

Mentorship for Tobacco Control: Perspectives from LAC

- Anecdotal evidence from LAC suggests that the idea of a « role model » is familiar, but the broad concept of mentoring is not.
- Mentorship is generally not practiced. When it does happen, it is mostly by chance rather than through a formal process.
- Tendency to perpetuate an apprenticeship model of training for health professionals rather than formal mentoring to build research capacity.

Mentorship for Tobacco Control: Perspectives from LAC

- Health research typically given low priority within the health system in LAC countries.
- In the absence of a research culture and lack of obvious career paths in research generally, or tobacco control specifically, it is difficult to find and encourage potential mentees.
- While many professional, national and regional health research organizations exist, their efforts are uncoordinated.

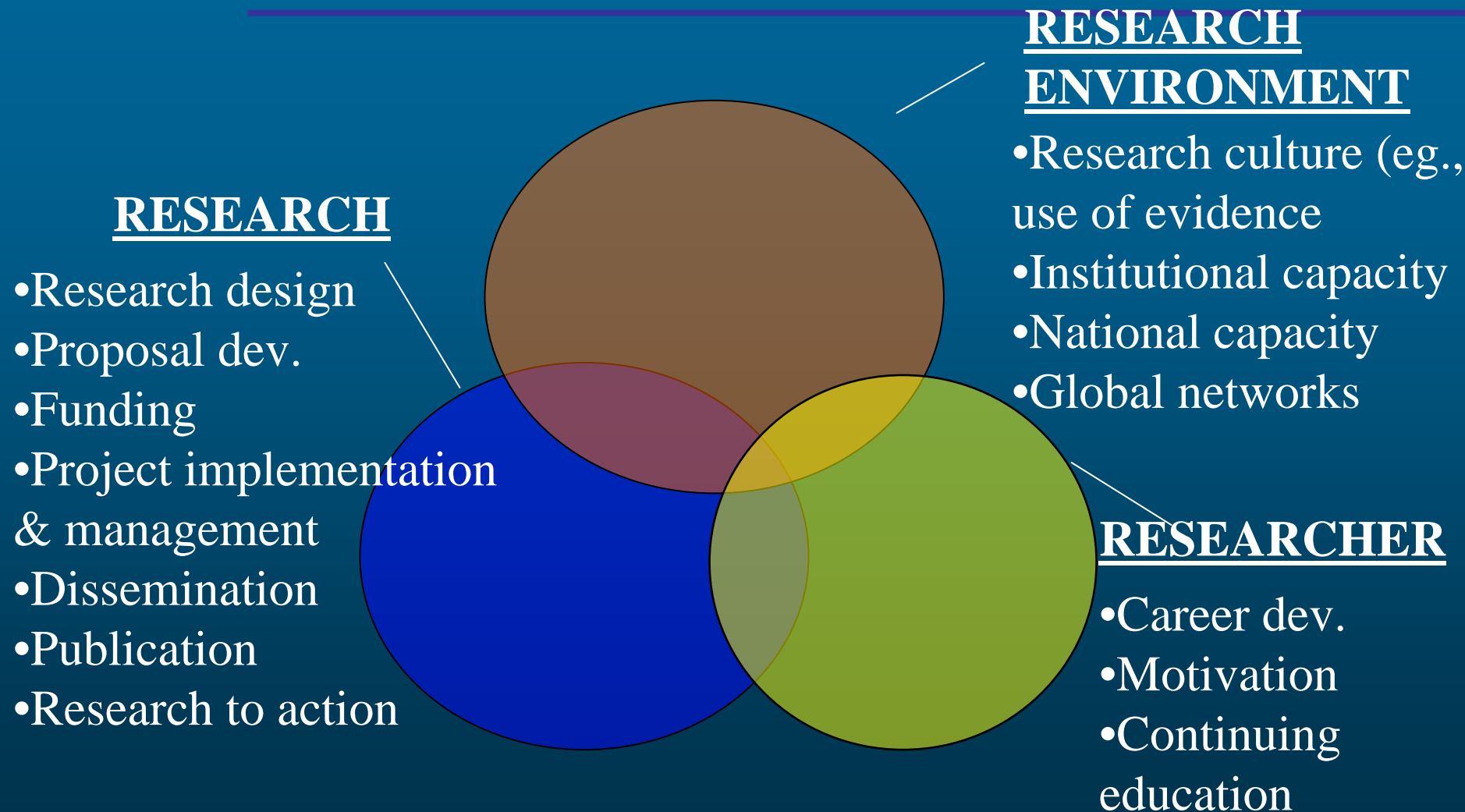
Mentorship for Tobacco Control: Perspectives from LAC

- Mentors in Guatemala, Argentina, and Trinidad are confronted by environments in which research is not seen as valuable:
 - Young Argentine physicians are expected to work in clinical settings without pay and without dedicated time for research.
 - Tobacco control research in Guatemala is almost non-existent and finding a pool of potential researchers is a challenge
 - Trinidad is taking steps to coordinate its research efforts but tobacco control remains a low priority

Pilot Mentorship Program for Tobacco Control Researchers

- Aims:
 - To enhance the capacity of a selected group of RITC-supported researchers to be tobacco control champions in their respective countries and regions, and
 - through their role as mentors, to inspire a younger generation of potential researchers to become involved in tobacco control

Elements of Mentorship Capacity



Key Components of the Program

- 2 Mentorship Training Workshops in Niagara Falls and Buenos Aires to enhance understanding of elements of effective mentoring
- Development of Personal Mentorship Improvement Plans
- Mentorship/research grants allocated and implemented
- Development of Research-To-Action Plans
- Leadership Institute in Trinidad (March 2008)

Mentors' perspectives on this experience

- Gained a reinforced recognition of mentorship as a viable strategy for building the tobacco control research community in their countries and institutions
- Strengthened their existing capacities to make successful mentorships happen: as better communicators, negotiators and facilitators of learning
- All expected to continue as mentors, and intended to try to institutionalize the arrangement in some way in their home institutions

Mentees' perspectives on this experience

- They now see themselves as potential future leaders in health research:
 - *“The program has been critical to my own development as a health professional, since I lacked formal experience in research – such training was not offered in medical school.”*
- Gained enhanced knowledge, skills and self-confidence as researchers:
 - *“It helped me accomplish my mid-term objective of combining good clinical training with specialized tools for research.”*

Mentees' perspectives on this experience

- Starting to build their own networks of research contacts
- Strengthened their commitment to pursuing careers in research generally, and tobacco control specifically:
 - *“I am clear now that I want to do work in tobacco control; to continue to be involved in research, but also to do more in terms of policy because that is more relevant to solving the health-related problems in the country.”*

For more information:

<http://www.idrc.ca/ritc>

www.idrc.ca/ghri

www.idrc.ca/geh

