Master Course N°3: Using the law and policymaking to promote cancer prevention and control

Developed and conducted by:

With participation of the World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WHO-WPRO)

Course description:

International, regional and domestic laws, and legal frameworks powerfully influence all aspects of cancer prevention and control – exposure to risk factors, the availability and accessibility of health services, treatments and technologies, the use of health information, the conduct of health research, and the experiences and outcomes of people affected by cancer. Across all of these areas, the effective use of law to promote health is essential. But individuals and organisations working in cancer policy often do not feel confident engaging with the law and policymaking. This course will build the skills, knowledge, and confidence of cancer/health policy professionals to use the law effectively for cancer prevention and control. Using four case studies of cancer policy – obesity; air pollution; regulation of the health workforce; and access to treatment – the course will highlight common themes, challenges, and opportunities, and identify practical steps that can be taken to maximise the chances of success.

Course objectives:

After completion of this course participants will gain:

1. Greater understanding of the role of law as both a powerful enabler of, and possible constraint on, cancer prevention and control
2. Greater confidence in engaging with the law and policy processes related to cancer and health
3. Greater capacity to develop and articulate a persuasive case for policy change
4. Greater confidence in engaging with individuals and organisations from outside traditional health sectors
5. Greater knowledge of where and how to access resources and support to use the law/health policy effectively for cancer prevention and control
6. Strengthened networks of support and collaboration for using the law effectively for cancer prevention and control
7. Greater understanding of the role of law in cancer prevention and control within the broader frameworks of health, trade, investment, human rights, and sustainable development
Target audience:

The course is open to all with an interest in policymaking for cancer control, but would particularly benefit cancer and health policy professionals, cancer advocates, senior managers in cancer agencies with responsibility for public policy, and leaders of cancer societies.

Teaching methods:

The course will consist of 6 webinars and a one-day in-person workshop on 1 October 2018 at the World Cancer Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Course participants will be expected to participate in all 6 webinars and after each webinar, complete a short questionnaire asking for their reflections on key themes and lessons (via UICC eCampus).

The workshop will be an interactive event, including presentations from different countries and resource settings, group discussions and practical exercises aimed at identifying tangible steps that can be taken in different contexts.

Webinars:

There will be 6 webinars of approximately 1 hour each, commencing in June;

- An introductory webinar providing an overview of the course, and discussing the key themes to be explored
- A webinar on each of the 4 focus areas: prevention of overweight and obesity, air pollution, regulation of the health workforce, and access to treatment
- A final webinar which reflects on the key lessons of the previous webinars and prepares participants for the workshop at World Cancer Congress

Assignments:

Participants will be expected to develop a short case study about an area/s covered by the course, in their national or regional context, for presentation and discussion at the workshop. Details will be provided through the webinars.

Course leaders:

Jonathan Liberman, Director, McCabe Centre for Law and Cancer, Australia
Anita George, Senior Legal Policy Advisor, McCabe Centre for Law and Cancer, Australia
Sondra Davoren, Senior Legal Policy Advisor, McCabe Centre for Law and Cancer, Australia
Luke Elich, Technical Officer for Governance and Legislation, Division of Health Systems, WHO Western Pacific Regional Office

Jonathan Liberman

Jonathan Liberman is Director of the McCabe Centre for Law and Cancer. Jonathan is a lawyer with twenty years’ experience in legal and policy research, advice, training and technical support relating to cancer control at both domestic and global levels. Jonathan has participated in numerous international intergovernmental meetings, particularly in relation to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) and the UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (in relation to the availability of controlled medicines for the relief of pain).

Jonathan has published numerous articles and book chapters on the relationships between law and cancer control, and co-edited two books, Public Health and Plain Packaging of Cigarettes: Legal Issues, and Regulating Tobacco, Alcohol and Unhealthy Foods: The Legal Issues.

Jonathan is a Senior Fellow of the Melbourne Law School and a member of the Lancet Oncology Commission on Global Cancer Surgery. He holds degrees in Arts and Law (first class honours) (Monash) and a Master of Public and International Law (Melbourne).
Anita George

Anita George is a senior legal policy advisor at the McCabe Centre for Law and Cancer. Anita's work at the McCabe Centre focuses on the global governance and regulation of cancer and other Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) risk factors, and the interrelationship between NCD prevention, trade and investment law, human rights and sustainable development with a focus on overweight and obesity prevention.

Prior to joining the McCabe Centre, Anita practised as a human rights lawyer, managed three asylum seeker programs at the Australian Red Cross, and worked as a consultant with the health policy section of the OECD in Paris. She has first class honours degrees in Law and Arts (Psychology) from the University of Tasmania. She was awarded a General Sir John Monash Foundation Scholarship to complete a Masters of Public Affairs (Summa Cum Laude) at Sciences Po Paris and also holds a diploma in Law and Strategy in humanitarian action, health, emergency and development from University Paris 8.

Sondra Davoren

Sondra is a senior legal policy advisor and leads the McCabe Centre’s cancer control work, focusing on the role of law in cancer treatment and supportive care, including access to treatment, regulation of health information, rights of people affected by cancer, regulation of health products, services and practitioners, and end of life law and policy. She is a member of the Australian Genetic Non-Discrimination Working Group, and in 2016 was the inaugural recipient of Cancer Council Victoria’s Nigel Gray Scholarship.

Prior to joining the McCabe Centre, Sondra was a legal policy advisor in Cancer Council Victoria’s Prevention Division, specialising in alcohol law and policy. She has previously worked as a legal advisor at the Victorian Legal Services Board and Commissioner, and in multi-party litigation for Irwin Mitchell Solicitors (UK). Sondra has a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand and the University of Sheffield (UK) and is currently undertaking a Masters of Law at the University of Melbourne.

Luke Elich

Mr. Luke Elich is a Technical Officer for Governance and Legislation in the Division of Health Systems at the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office. He is a qualified lawyer (Queensland, Australia) and joined the regional office in 2015 after over 10 years working in the areas of law and health policy development in the Asia Pacific Region. Immediately prior to joining WHO, he was the executive adviser to the Secretary of Health of Papua New Guinea.

His current work focuses on the effective use of law by countries to support their health policy objectives and the advancement of Universal Health Coverage. He is supporting the development of a program of support within WHO that takes a holistic view of law and recognizes that its influence will be maximized when it is integral to evidence based policy work along with other modes of intervention in the health system, and in relation to other determinants of human and institutional knowledge, attitudes and practices.