

College of Health Sciences
List of Accomplishments/"Firsts"

Program

- AUA College of Health Sciences (CHS) introduced the Certificate (in 1995) and Master of Public Health program (in 1997) for the first time in Armenia.
- The CHS is the first Armenian (and NIS) Institution to be accepted into membership of Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) in 2001.
- In 2005, first international MPH students [from Moldova and Mongolia] graduated from the program.
- In 2005, CHS and CHSR hosted 27th annual Conference of the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER). For the first time the conference took place in NIS country and hosted participants not only from the European but also from Mediterranean and African regions (over 50 countries). (see <http://auachsr.com/asper/>)

Center

- First qualitative evaluation (1995) of the first social marketing campaign in Armenia (about breastfeeding promotion).
(Hekimian K. Armenia Communication Campaign to Promote Breastfeeding: A Qualitative Evaluation, Yerevan: American University of Armenia, Center for Health Services Research, November 1995 - January 1996 {funded by Wellstart International})
- First National survey (KAP) on infant nutrition (UNICEF) in 1995-1997.
(Hekimian K. Infant feeding Practices in Armenia, Report on Comparative Study and National Survey, Yerevan, Armenia: American University of Armenia, Center for Health Services Research, June [published in English and Armenian] {funded by UNICEF/Armenia})
- First pilot program for improving prenatal health education - preparation of health education materials, and training modules for nurses and ob/gyns (1997, Jinishian)
(American University of Armenia, Center for Health Services Research. Effectiveness of a Health Education Program For Pregnant Women in Yerevan: Final Report For Jinishian Memorial Program -Armenia: American University of Armenia, Center for Health Services Research, November 1997 {funded by Jinishian Memorial Fund/Armenia})
- First National AIDS Bulletin, written and compiled by CHSR for the Armenian National Center for AIDS Control and Prevention in 1996-1997.
(American University of Armenia, Center for Health Services Research. The 1996-1997 National AIDS Bulletin I. Armenian National Center for AIDS Control And Prevention, Yerevan, Armenia: American University of Armenia, Center for Health Services Research, July 1997)
- First primary health care needs assessment in Nagorno-Kharabagh in 1996-1997.
(Dorian A. The Health Situation in Nagorno-Karabagh: A Comprehensive Review of the Health Sector, Goals, Objectives, Constraints, Government Plans and Policies, and Recommendation 1997-2000, Yerevan: American University of Armenia, Center for Health Services Research, April 1997[published in Armenian and English])
- First national survey of caretakers' knowledge, treatment practices and care-seeking practices for acute respiratory infection and diarrheal disease in children aged 0-5 in Armenia based on WHO protocols in 1996-1997.
(McPherson R. Caretakers Knowledge, Treatment Practices and Care-Seeking Practices for Acute Respiratory Infection and Diarrheal Disease in Children Aged 0-5 in Armenia, Report on National Survey, Yerevan,

Armenia: American University of Armenia, Center for Health Services Research, June 1997 [published in English and Armenian] {funded by UNICEF/Armenia}

- First US student from Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, Maryland) completed doctoral dissertation in Armenia with assistance from AUA in 1998.
(Hekimian, K. (PhD). Breast Feeding in Armenia 1993-1997: Changes in Feeding Patterns and Factors Associated with Feeding Outcomes. Baltimore, MD, USA.)
- First analysis of communication in Armenia (1998) that studied perceptions, attitudes and information sources of various populations concerning health, education and disabled children; communication capacity of non-government organizations; channels of information; communication resources; and evaluation results of previous communication campaigns in Armenia.
(McPherson R, Danielian L. Communication Situation Analysis in Armenia, Yerevan: American University of Armenia, Center for Health Services Research and Center for Policy Analysis, June 1998 {funded by UNICEF/Armenia})
- First comprehensive process and impact evaluation of the implementation of well-child care clinical practice guidelines in Armenia in 1998 through patient record review.
(McPherson R. The Pediatric Primary Care project: Final Evaluation Report, Yerevan: American University of Armenia, Center for Health Services Research, February 1999)
- The Garo Meghriyan Eye Institute for Preventive Ophthalmology (GMEIPO) was established in 1999. It has been the first program applying public health approaches to ophthalmic care in Armenia (see <http://chsr.aua.am/GMEIPO/>). A regional ophthalmic unit (ROU) opened in 2003 in Sevan is the first facility to provide primary and secondary eye care (including surgical care) on the district level in Armenia.
http://chsr.aua.am/publications_reports2005.php
- The qualitative survey of the Regional Ophthalmic Services in Armenia in 1999. GMEIPO conducted 33 in-depth interviews with the ophthalmologists from all regional eye care units outside Yerevan. It was the first survey, trying to explore the eye care services in the regions of the country.
(Khachatryan N. Survey of the Regional Ophthalmological Services in Armenia, Yerevan: American University of Armenia, Center for Health Services Research, Garo Meghriyan Eye Institute, November 1999)
- The book by Av. Donabedian, "An introduction to quality assurance in healthcare," was the first Armenian publication dealing with healthcare quality issues. The book has been published in 2001 both in Armenian and English.
- The first e-learning course "Basics of Health Planning," a free web-based distance-learning course available in 3 languages (Armenian, Russian, and English) in 2002.
(see <http://chsr.aua.am/e-learning/>)
- For the first time in Armenia, AUA Health Clinic in 2002 shifted to a nurse-managed model.
- Quality assurance project was implemented in a hospital for the first time in Armenia in the scope of AUA/Nork Marash Medical Center project (2001-2005) to comply with the requirements of accreditation division of the Joint Commission for Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), including the conduct of a mock JCAHO accreditation survey.
(Abrahamyan L, Demirchyan A, Thompson ME, Hovaguimian H. *Determinants of morbidity & intensive care unit stay after coronary surgery*. Asian Cardiovascular & Thoracic Annals 2006 April; 14(2): 114 – 118. See other reports about the project at http://www.auachsr.com/publications_reports2005.php)

- Rapid Assessment of Cataract Surgical Services (RACSS), the first population based survey of cataract blindness in persons of 50 years of age and older in Armenia in 2003.
(Najaryan O, Khachatryan N, Thompson ME, Petrosyan V. *Strengthening Regional Ophthalmic Services in Gegharkunik Marz: Needs Assessment*. Final Report to Lions Clubs International Foundation. Yerevan, Armenia: Center for Health Services Research and Development, Garo Meghriyan Eye Institute for Preventive Ophthalmology, February 2004. http://chsr.aua.am/publications_reports2004.php)
- The Armenian version of the SF-36 questionnaire, an internationally recognized and most frequently used instrument for measuring health related quality of life, was developed and officially approved as a pre-publication version by the IQOLA Project SF-36® Health Survey (Translations available through QualityMetric Incorporated).
(http://www.qualitymetric.com/cgi-bin/lic-survey-langs-recalls-matrix.cgi?survey_id=1)
(Oksuzyan A, Demirchyan A, Thompson M. Validation Study of the Patient Follow-Up Questionnaire and the Official Pre-Publication SF-36, Armenian Version at Nork Marash Medical Center. Yerevan, Armenia: American University of Armenia Center for Health Services Research and Development, Nork Marash Medical Center, 2003.
http://www.auachsr.com/PDF/2003/VALIDATION_NMMC_Report/Validation_Study_Report_ENG.pdf)
- First time in Armenia, a Coalition for Tobacco Free Armenia was established in 2004; unites 24 NGOs committed to the idea of tobacco control in Yerevan and marzes. This was done within the OSI funded tobacco control policy development project, implemented by the AUA with its partners, the Armenian Public Health Association and Armenian Public Health Union (together forming the Armenian Public Health Alliance).
- AUA with its partners, the Armenian Public Health Association and Armenian Public Health Union (together forming the Armenian Public Health Alliance) developed a comprehensive informational package for Armenian policy and decision makers called "Contemporary issues on tobacco control in Armenia." The info pack that examined health, social and economic aspects of the situation in Armenia and suggested appropriate solutions in the light of international experience, was a critical reference at the Parliamentary hearings on tobacco control in November 2004.
- In 2005, GMEIPO delivered "Introduction to Public Health Ophthalmology" course, which was done for the first time not only in Armenia but also in the Former Soviet Union region.
(Najaryan O, Khachatryan N, Thompson ME, Petrosyan V. *Human resource development and capacity building for prevention of blindness in Gegharkunik and Tavush marzes of Armenia*. Report to Jinishian Memorial Foundation. American University of Armenia, Center for Health Services Research and Development, Garo Meghriyan Eye Institute for Preventive Ophthalmology, April 2005, Yerevan, Armenia.
- The first distance-learning course on "Human Participant Protections: Education for Research Teams" was developed in three languages: Armenian, Russian, and English and implemented in 2005. Its aim is to provide interested researchers basic knowledge on human subjects' protection.
(see <http://chsr.aua.am/irb/>)