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FACULTEIT GENEESKUNDE EN FARMACIE

Doctoraat in de Medische Wetenschappen

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UITNODIGING

Voor de openbare verdediging van het
doctoraatsproefschrift van

Peter DELOBELLE

dinsdag 17 mei 2011

U wordt vriendelijk uitgenodigd op de openbare verdediging van het proefschrift van

Peter DELOBELLE

'Towards a health promoting hospital in rural South Africa: Evidence-based framework for a sustainable public health intervention'

Op **dinsdag 17 mei** om **17 uur** in auditorium **P. Brouwer** van de Faculteit Geneeskunde & Farmacie Laarbeeklaan 103, 1090 Brussel

Situering van het proefschrift

In the last decades, health promotion and disease prevention have gained increased attention in health systems worldwide in a bid to reverse the tide of rising health care costs in a context of demographic and epidemiological changes. In South Africa, health education and promotion play an important role in view of the massive HIV/AIDS epidemic, which has a profound impact on the public health sector already weakened by a severe human resources crisis.

The research informing this thesis was conducted in partnership with the University of Limpopo and involved assessment of job satisfaction and intent to turnover of Primary Health Care (PHC) nurses in a poor and rural area, as well as the HIV/AIDS knowledge, attitudes and behaviour of PHC and hospital nurses. Results stressed the importance of human resource management in health worker retention and indicated a need for accelerated HIV/AIDS training and improved infection control. A community household survey indicated fear of stigma and discrimination related to HIV testing, associated with low uptake of HIV/AIDS services. Results pointed to the need for appropriate health promotion and education, especially with regard to HIV/AIDS, taking into account the broad social determinants of health seeking behaviour.

The evidence base was translated in the proposal to transform a local district hospital into a Health Promoting Hospital (HPH), guided by a model for the systematic planning and evaluation of health promotion and education programs. The project was selected as a case study to illustrate the use of evidence for informing a comprehensive health promotion intervention by the WHO/IUHPE Global Programme on Health Promotion Effectiveness.

Curriculum Vitae

After graduating as a Medical Doctor at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium in 1992, Peter Delobelle started his career as a general practitioner and medical journalist. He later worked for several years in a public hospital, but decided to join Doctors Without Borders (MSF) after obtaining a certificate in Tropical Medicine at the Institute for Tropical Medicine in Antwerp. He was sent on several assignments to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Colombia and Afghanistan where he was responsible for supervising rural Primary Health Care clinics, surveillance of infectious diseases, monitoring of nutritional status and health needs assessment among internally displaced population groups.

In 2004 he was recruited by the Department of Public Health, Vrije Universiteit Brussel to coordinate a VLIR sponsored interdisciplinary North/South partnership program related to the care and referral of HIV/AIDS patients between levels of care in a rural area of the Limpopo Province, South Africa where he worked closely with the Nursing Department, Department of Family Medicine & Primary Care, Department of Community Health and Health Promotion Unit of the then University of the North. After his return to Belgium, he continued to visit South Africa where he initiated and monitored the transformation of a district hospital into a Health Promoting Hospital (HPH).

Peter is an active member of the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE) and remains involved in interuniversity partnership programs with the South, including South Africa.