

FAIMER PROJECT SUMMARY	
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TITLE OF PROJECT	Development of an integrated Curriculum for basic medical sciences
OVERALL GOAL	<p>Improve students performance in neuroscience courses</p> <p>Improve the competence of clinical students in neurological postings</p> <p>Improve the teachers competence and satisfaction in the teaching of neuroscience</p> <p>Improve the quality of patient care</p>
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES <i>Please list in point form</i> <i>Highlight changes made</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a comprehensive curriculum which integrates the basic medical science neuroscience courses • Improve the efficiency of the teachers of neuroscience courses by reducing teaching time from 60 to 30 hours • To improve the students understanding of the neurosciences • To introduce a multi-disciplinary approach to the teaching of the neurosciences thus promoting a multi-disciplinary approach to planning and teaching • To increase the number of medical graduates entering the neuroscience based programs • To improve the knowledge of the faculty teaching the neuroscience courses
METHODS <i>Please list in point form</i> <i>Highlight changes made</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs assessment and problems identification • Evaluation of students performance in the neuroscience courses over a five year period • Evaluation of students and faculty satisfaction with the current traditional method of teaching the courses • Discuss and publish results • Build a core group- clarify goals, build group trust, link up to network and social capital • Collate and discuss and harmonise lecture topics • Assess students and faculty perceptions • Brief the authority on findings • Review and develop lecture topics and curriculum • Identify the timetabling issues and solutions • Present curriculum for approval and adoption • Limited local implementation • Evaluate for quality assurance • Wider context evaluation
EVALUATION PLANS <i>Please list in point form</i> <i>Highlight changes made</i>	<p>Level of the performance of the students passing the neurosciences</p> <p>Number of clinical graduates entering the neuroscience-based medical specialty</p> <p>Demonstration of clinical competence by students and graduates in neurological medicine</p> <p>Number of faculty participating in the program</p> <p>Level students and faculty satisfaction with the new system number of institution adopting the new curriculum</p>
* PROGRESS MADE <i>Please list in point form</i> <i>What have you done?</i> <i>What needs doing?</i> <i>Are you on schedule?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadening of the core group to reflect wider perspectives • Assessed staff and students perceptions of the current content and teaching methods • Introduction of PBL sessions in the curriculum to fill the saved time • Awareness- raising on some deficiencies of the current method • Development of a horizontally integrated neuroscience curriculum • Limited implementation of the curriculum • Wider support from involving sister universities • Presentation of curriculum for approvals
* CHALLENGES FACED <i>Please list in point form</i> <i>Problems encountered</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong criticisms of the draft curriculum...build a consensus • Tasking questions on PBL (instructors and logistical issues)... had to suspend this aspect • Funding for meetings of the core group

<p><i>Strategies used</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor academic and other records in the university • Difficulties agreeing on dates for meeting in which all can be present. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Time tabling of the topics as a continuum ... a serious issue. ▪ Teachers dropping of on some topics and losing the sequence that makes for comprehension
<p>* LESSONS LEARNED <i>Please list in point form</i> <i>Advice for others</i> <i>Personal learning</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The power of evidence based arguments • The need and use of a strong social capital • Good settings for meetings engender seriousness from attendees • Money is a strong motivation for faculty to do extra work
<p>* FEEDFORWARD <i>Please list in point form</i> <i>Help needed</i> <i>Information needed</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How may one fast track the contributions of group members in an activity like this? • How to sustain interest of core group members.... proposal for a joint authorship of a neuroscience textbook...is this valid?

*** These sections to be completed after project commences at closure of Session I**