- How long have you been training in regards to the Research4Life Programmes? What are your focus countries?

Since June 2006, I've conducted Research4Life training with a majority of them focusing on HINARI. The location is dependent on which organization has organized a workshop. These often are sponsored by WHO regional offices or ITOCA and are collaborative efforts with the Librarians Without Borders®/Medical Library Association (LWB). Consequently, I’ve conducted training in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and South Pacific, English speaking countries in the Americas and Eastern Europe plus at several international meetings.

- What has been some of the benefits you have seen directly from your training.

Some of the benefits are just observing the participants gain the skills to utilize the R4L resources. I’ve seen researchers and physicians find a valuable article and proceed to read it completely instead of completing the assignments. Residents have spent hours using the evidence-based medicine resources as they are obtaining invaluable information for use upon returning to the hospital’s wards.

After a national workshop, there is increased usage of R4L programs by the institutions represented. We also see an increase in registrations.

- How has the training translated to capacity building for your institutions?

As Gracian mentioned in the June newsletter, the goal of the train-the-trainer mode is to give the participants the skills so that they can use the R4L materials and also instruct others when they return to their institutions. Besides the specific usage skills, we also teach marketing /promotion strategies and ask the participants to apply them at their institutions. In future workshops, we plan to discuss specific outcomes that will be surveyed at six and twelve months.

Since 2008, we also have conducted training for individuals from developed countries whose institutions have linkages in R4L eligible institutions. Besides approximately 10 workshops, participants have developed 2 training modules and a series of HINARI training videos.

- How has the training continued? (i.e. Train the trainer) In the past 5+ years, LWB has conducted 50+ workshops in 23 countries with an average attendance of 25 people. As previously mentioned, many of these are in conjunction with ITOCA or sponsored by WHO regional offices. To reach individuals who are unable to attend formal workshops, we have developed online Short Courses for HINARI, AGORA and OARE. These courses are available on the ITOCA and MLA Moodle servers.

Via group email messages, I also communicate with participants from workshops for the past two years. These messages keep them informed about new R4L developments and new/updated training material.

- How many institutes do you normally train in a year timespan, and what counties/cities have you done in the last six months? LWB has conducted 6 workshops in the last 6 months in Ethiopia (4), Belize and Namibia. The normal rate is 4 or 5 training sites per year with 8 to 10 workshops.