

**SAMA – Resource Group For Women and Health
Invites
Applications for a Three Day Short Course on**

**Challenges to Access to Medicines:
Patents, Pricing and Drug Research
in India**

**August 16th–18th, 2017
Sanskriti Kendra, Delhi**

About SAMA

Sama is a Delhi based resource group that works in the area of public health and women rights. Sama has been engaged in various issues around access to medicines, intellectual property, ethics in drug research, reproductive technologies and surrogacy, health of marginalized communities (such as adivasis and dalits) and gender based violence through research, advocacy and capacity development.

In the context of access to medicines, over the past six years, Sama has been focusing on a spectrum of ethical issues with regard to drug research in India; on the affordability and accessibility of medicines for which research has been conducted in India; on patents, drugs pricing etc. To strengthen knowledge and understanding on these critical issues relating to access to medicines, Sama has been organizing short courses and workshops for researchers, health activists, NGO representatives, health professionals, ethics committee members and students. The previous capacity building courses were conducted in Bhopal, Delhi and Mumbai.

Taking forward this initiative, Sama is organizing a three day short course on **Challenges to Access to Medicines: Patents, Pricing and Drug Research in Delhi** from **16th to 18th August 2017**. This short course is expected to provide key inputs on some of the most critical issues in the domain of access to medicines in India.

Course Content

The short course will broadly cover the following issues:

Access to Medicines in the framework of Public Health and Human Rights: Focus on the access to medicines as a key component of the right to health; Health as a Human Right

Ethical Issues in the context of Access to Medicines and Drug Research: The significance of ethics in the conduct of health research; the national and international standards and regulations for research involving human participants

Access to Medicines - Connecting with ground realities: The experienced realities of the systems of health delivery / access to medicines; costs to access medicines/healthcare incurred by patients

Access to Medicines and Drug Research: The shift in research and development of medicines from synthetic/chemical to bio-therapeutic products; Technological, intellectual property and regulatory barriers in accessing bio-therapeutic products

Access to Medicines and Drug Pricing: Historical overview of pricing policy for medicines in India; Links between the essential drugs list and the pricing policy; Recent changes in the national pharmaceutical pricing policy in India

Access to Medicines and Patents: Overview of international legal frameworks and national regulations on patents and its impact on access to medicines

Access to Medicines and Trade Agreements: Bilateral, regional and plurilateral trade agreements and their impact on access to medicines. New challenges to access to medicines brought about by trade agreements such as provisions under TRIPS Plus etc

Participants

This interactive short course may be of particular interest to ethics committee members, health professionals, legal professionals, researchers, academicians, students, health activists working in the field of public health, drug research, access to medicines and bioethics. However, the course is open for participation to anyone who may be interested.

The course will be conducted in English.

Date and Venue

Date: 16th - 18th August, 2017

Venue: Sanskriti Kendra, Anandgram, New Delhi

Selection Process

- Participants are required to send in completed application form (attached) **before 17 July, 2017** to the mail id projecta2m.sama@gmail.com. The subject line of the email should mention <Application for Short Course> in the subject
- Selection will be based, especially, on the ability to demonstrate the future application of the course content and the interest, work experience on the content
- Participants are required to stay at the venue for the entire duration (3 days) of the course
- Institutes and organizations may send in a maximum of two applications for participation. Participants will be informed of their selection by email only

Accommodation & Food

Accommodation and food will be organized by Sama from 16th to 18th August, 2017 at the venue in Delhi.

Travel

Participants will have to bear their travel costs and are requested to make their own travel arrangements once they receive confirmation regarding selection of their application from Sama.

Registration Fee

The Registration Fee for the short course is INR 2500 (Rupees Two Thousand Five Hundred only) per participant. Participants who are unable to pay the registration fee should indicate it in the application form. Sama may consider a few waivers for participants, based on the request and the organizational capacity.

Resource Persons

Dr. Amar Jesani is one of the founders of the Forum for Medical Ethics Society (FMES) and is currently the editor of the journal - the Indian Journal of Medical Ethics (IJME). His main areas of work include bio ethics and issues related to drug research, health and human rights.

Dr. Amit Sengupta is the Associate Global Coordinator of the Peoples Health Movement (PHM) and coordinates the editorial group of the Global Health Watch, an alternative World Health Report. He is joint convener of the Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA), also working on the issues related to access to medicines, patents etc.

Ms. Kajal Bharadwaj is an independent lawyer who works on access to medicines, free trade agreements, health and human rights.

Mr. S Srinivasan is the co-founder and managing trustee, LOCOST (Low Cost Standard Therapeutics), a not-for profit company that manufactures and distributes generic medicines at low prices also working on the issues related to drug pricing, clinical trials etc.

Ms. Sarojini Nadimpally is a co-founder of Sama - Resource Group for Women and Health. She is also currently the joint convener of the Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA).

Ms. Veena Johari is a lawyer associated with Courtyard Attorneys, a legal consultancy which focuses on the rights of marginalized and disadvantaged populations. Her work includes public interest work, filing of oppositions against patents and policy relating to clinical trials.

Mr. Vivek Divan is an independent consultant on health, sexuality, law and human rights.

Dr. Yogesh Jain has been primarily involved in primary health care through founding and running a community health programme - Jan Swasthya Sahyog in rural Bilaspur in central India. He has been involved in addressing the issues that determine the health care for the rural poor through careful documentation, observational research studies, developing appropriate health related technology, training and lobbying.