

Report of the survey results

“Educational / training activities in INAHTA agencies”

by Egon Jonsson, Julia Chamova

In September 2000, the Education Committee of the International Society for Technology Assessment in Health Care (ISTAHC) requested the Secretariat of INAHTA (the International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment) to survey INAHTA agencies in order to examine current educational/training activities within INAHTA.

The intent was to collect information on HTA/HTA-related training activities offered within the INAHTA agencies. The survey was coordinated with the working group on education of the ECAHI/ECHTA (European Collaboration for Health Technology Assessment) project.

The survey was developed in late September 2000 and sent to all INAHTA Members (34 institutions). Twenty-nine agencies (85% response rate) responded to the survey (deadline for response – October 30, 2000).

Results

- Seventy-nine percent (23 institutions) indicated that they have training/educational activities within the institution. Seven percent specified that they have specific training on the job only.
- Majority (83%) collaborate in their training activities with other educational institutions (please see attached the detailed description of the survey results).
- Health technology assessment (71%), literature searching (66%), systematic literature reviews (62.5%), and evidence based medicine(50%) were among the most frequent areas where agencies provide education.
- Seminars were indicated as the most frequent (76%) type of training activities. Workshops, intensive courses and fellowships at the agency were offered by 60%, 44% and 36% of the respondents respectively.
- Majority (75%) indicated that they organize training activities/courses more than twice a year (depending on the demand, type of educational activity, and mandate of the agency).
- About half of the respondents indicated that training activities are organized ad hoc.
- The duration of a training course varies widely among the agencies, depending on the subject and type of training provided. Most frequent duration of a course was 1 to 3 days.

- Majority of the respondents indicated that they provide training to the newly employed or current staff members.
- Training to the people outside the agency provided on a regular basis by 48%, training offered sometimes by 36%; 12% indicated that they never offer training to anyone outside the agency.
When indicated, physicians (36%), students (28%), and health care administrators (20%) were provided with training most frequently.
- Only 28% provide some kind of certification for their educational activities.
- Majority (68%) finances their educational activity from their budget. Fees (32%) and grants from the government (20%) were other most frequent financial sources for training activities.
- Sixty percent indicated that they provide training to international trainees (including internships and fellowships). Ninety-four answered positively to hosting international fellows/interns provided that this internship is financially supported.

Survey results

“Educational / training activities in INAHTA agencies”

(85% response rate, 29 agencies)

1. Do you have any training/educational activities at your agency?

Yes 79% (23 institutions)*
No 14% (4 institutions)
Specific training on the job only 7% (2 institutions)

The rest of the survey (except for questions 11 and 12) is completed only by the agencies which answered positively to Question No. 1:

2. Do you collaborate in your training/educational activities with other educational institutions? (24 institutions answered)

Yes 83%
No 17%

3. In which areas do you provide training? (24 institutions answered)

Health technology assessment:	71%	Literature searching:	66%
Healthcare policy and planning:	29%	Systematic literature reviews:	62.5%
Evidence based medicine:	50%	Health Economics / Economic analysis:	37.5%
Epidemiology:	21%	Statistics:	0%
All of the above:	8%		

4. What type of training do you provide? (25 institutions answered)

Seminars	76%
Workshops	60%
Intensive courses	44%
Distance education	4%
Fellowships at the agency	36%

*Note: This report should be referenced as follows:
Survey results "Educational / training activities in INAHTA agencies"; INAHTA Secretariat, 2000. www.inahta.org*

5. How often do you organize training activities/courses? (24 institutions answered)

Once a year	8%
Twice a year	17%
More than twice a year (please specify):	75%

6. Are training activities organized ad hoc or a part of your agency's responsibilities?

(23 institutions answered)

Ad hoc	48%
Agency's responsibility	39%
Both:	13%

7. Is training in HTA offered for

a) newly employed staff (23 institutions answered):

Yes, regular	43%
Yes, sometimes	43%
No, infrequently	14%
No, never	0%

b) current staff (25 institutions answered):

Yes, regular	32%
Yes, sometimes	48%
No, infrequently	20%
No, never	0%

c) people outside the agency? (25 institutions answered)

Yes, regular	48%
Yes, sometimes	36%
No, infrequently	4%
No, never	12%

If yes, please specify their occupation (eg, students, healthcare administrators, physicians, etc):

Physicians	36%	Students	28%
Healthcare administrators	20%	Project group members	8%
Any healthcare worker	8%	Physicians developing Guidelines	8%
Nurses	8%	Scientists (pharmacologists, etc)	8%
Residents and young doctors	4%	Public policy workers	4%
Epidemiologists	4%	Consultants	4%
Sociologists	4%	Industry	4%
Politicians	4%	Librarians	4%
Teachers at medical faculties	4%		

*Note: This report should be referenced as follows:
Survey results "Educational / training activities in INAHTA agencies"; INAHTA Secretariat, 2000. www.inahta.org*

8. Does your educational activities provide certification? (25 institutions answered)

Yes 28%
No 72%

**9. Please indicate financial sources for your agency's training/educational activities:
(25 institutions answered)**

Fees	32%
Our own budget	68%
Grants from industry	4%
Grants from government	20%

Other (please specify):

- Secondments;
- People in the fellowship and scholars program are paid by the agency, sometimes they are at the agency for 1-2 months and paid by the academic institution;
- Healthcare centers budgets
- The 1-day starter course is free of charge
- Panamerican Health Organization
- Medical Society and Medical Association
- Hospitals and university
- Our contract with Dept of Health
- Currently investigating fee-based course underwritten by government funding
- Grants from other governmental institutions

Questions 11 and 12 were not included in the initial survey and were asked via e-mail after initial survey's distribution.

10. Do you provide training to international trainees (including internships or fellowships) at your agency? (15 institutions answered)

Yes 60%
No 40%

11. Would your agency be willing to host international fellows/interns provided that this internship is financially supported? (16 institutions answered)

Yes 94%*
No 6%

* Comments:

"As long as they were of sufficiently high ability to be able to contribute to our work as well as benefit from the attachment" (3 comments)

"Questions of salary, space, lodging, etc. need of course be discussed more closely but basically we are happy to have interns here"

"We do not have any formal training but we would maybe use these persons as assistants and offer an opportunity to learn on the job"

*Note: This report should be referenced as follows:
Survey results “Educational / training activities in INAHTA agencies”; INAHTA Secretariat, 2000. www.inahta.org*

“In principle we are interested, but we (would) need more clear specifications, as this depends on:

- background of the students
- the number of students
- the dates proposed
- the length of the course and depth of studies.”