

VIDEOCONFERENCING FOR GLOBAL TOXICOLOGY EDUCATION: ACMT'S GETUP INITIATIVE

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As a consequence of limited direct access to poison control centers and clinical expertise regarding the diagnosis and management of acutely poisoned patients, it may be difficult for treating clinicians in developing countries to receive education in medical toxicology. Conferences and academic travel to broaden education can also be costly, and this has been identified as a barrier to medical professionals' enhanced education. Overcoming these barriers to medical toxicology education is essential to improving the management of poisoned patients worldwide.

The Global Educational Toxicology Uniting Project (GETUP) is aimed at connecting clinicians in countries with established clinical toxicology services to clinicians in countries without clinical toxicologists around the globe¹. Videoconferencing allows sharing and discussion of clinical cases between conferencing sites and can be recorded for further dissemination. Cases discussed may be unique to geography or common to other locations but with different management challenges depending on local resources.

GETUP has the ability to provide training and support to areas where education in clinical toxicology may have seemed unachievable in the past unless educators or trainees travelled. The addition of an online curriculum combined with videoconferencing can further meet these needs. In the long term, our aim is that GETUP will improve health care provider knowledge, influence patient management through education and build long- term relationships between health services to improve the management of poisoned patients.