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The Global Educational Toxicology Uniting Project (GETUP): Mobile app use for toxicovigilance and education

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More than one million deaths around the world occur annually because of suicide with a significant amount of these attributable to deliberate self-poisoning. In addition to the lack of antidotes and equipment, resource poor areas may also lack specialist personnel and training to manage the poisoned patient.

Despite the need, there is a lack of formal toxicology training programs around the world. These countries may also lack poisons information services over the phone, access to individuals trained in medical toxicology or trained staff to acutely ill patients.

The Global Educational Toxicology Uniting Project (GETUP), supported by the American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT), was established to help overcome these barriers (www.acmt.net/GETUP.html). The aim of GETUP was to help identify centres without access to poisons information and toxicology services and link them to those that did have access or resources. This was initially undertaken through case based discussion via video conferencing. However, it was also apparent that there was a knowledge gap in the basics of poisoning pathophysiology, risk assessment as well as management.

An asynchronous online curriculum may be an ideal way to reach health professionals managing poisoned patients who do not have access to live toxicology teaching. Previously, an online toxicology course increased medical knowledge and changed practice in over 100 participants in 33 countries (1). Part of the feedback from the course was to provide ongoing resources/references for clinical care.

Mobile applications are readily available to clinicians and are an ideal resource at the bedside. The utility for these mobile apps as an educational resource and as a toxicovigilance tool to monitor poisoned patients presenting to different regions will be discussed.

References: 1. Wong A, Vohra R, Dawson AH, Stolbach A. Impact of online toxicology training for health professionals: The Global Educational Toxicology Uniting Project (GETUP). *Clin Tox* 2017. 55(9):981-985.