

Hana Taha, PhD



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DOCTORAL DEGREE

PhD thesis defended on 6 September 2013 at the Department of Public Health Sciences, Global Health Division, Health Systems and Policy Research group, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden. Title: Voices of fear and safety: Women's ambivalence towards breast cancer and breast health practices in Jordan. Main Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Rolf Wahlström. Co-supervisors: Prof. Raeda Al Qutob, University of Jordan. Assoc. Prof. Lennarth Nyström, Umeå University, Ass Prof. Vanja Berggren, Karolinska Institutet. Opponent: Professor em. Ella Danielsson, Göteborgs University, Institute of Health and Care Sciences.

My doctoral research was the first research collaboration between Karolinska Institutet and the King Hussein Cancer Foundation in Jordan. It was funded by the Swedish Research Council and the King Hussein Cancer Foundation. The thesis included a comprising evaluation of the effectiveness of the breast health awareness interventions in Jordan, and explored women's and men's views on breast cancer and screening in general. It employed quantitative and qualitative research methods in a sociological perspective to explore the barriers that lead to the late stage of diagnosis of breast cancer among women in Jordan. The outcomes of this doctoral research were used by the decision makers in Jordan to carefully design breast health interventions that addressed the barriers and effectively motivated Jordanian women to seek early detection for breast cancer.

POSTDOC APPOINTMENTS

Faculty of Medicine, Lund University, Lund, Sweden **Sept 2015- Present**
Visiting lecturer, Health in an Interdisciplinary Perspective research group.

Karolinska Institutet, Department of Medical Epidemiology **Sep 2013- June 2014**
Postdoctoral fellow, breast cancer research group

OTHER COURSES AND DEGREES

Diploma from the Swedish School of Global Health 2012-2013

Master in Global Health, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden, June 2009

Master in Health Services Management, Jordan University, June 1991

Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy, Jordan University, June 1987

CURRENT POSITION

University of Jordan, Faculty of Medicine, Family and Community Medicine Dep.

Assistant Professor

Feb 2015- Present

- Teaching courses in Biostatistics, Public Health, Global Health and Research Methods to medical students. Supervising master students' research work and teaching them how to write and publish scientific manuscripts.
- Conducting public health interventions assessment and implementation research that addresses priority public health problems in Jordan.
- Applying for local and International research grants. Currently, I have research funding for three ongoing research projects from the King Hussein Cancer Foundation, the University of Jordan and Suzan G Komen.

PRIOR POSITIONS

King Hussein Cancer Foundation, Jordan

Head of Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Dep

Apr 2009- Feb 2015

- Develop and implement the monitoring and evaluation plan including following the progress towards the key performance indicators for the program.
- Assess the effectiveness of the program's breast health awareness interventions.
- Design and implement research to assess the determinants of breast health seeking behavior among Jordanian women.
- Work in tandem with the screening operations to change the breast health seeking behavior of women in Jordan towards the national screening recommendations.
- Plan, design, conduct, report and publish the findings of scientific research studies.

Health Systems Strengthening Program, USAID, Jordan Aug 2006- Nov 2007
Management Task Manager

- Responsible for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation of the program interventions to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of Jordan MoH service delivery management systems.
- Development of guidelines, tools and training courses in operational planning and supportive supervision based on local health priorities, with a particular focus on outcome indicators, data-driven planning and decision-making.
- Development of a supportive supervision system and implementation of clinical guidelines at the primary health care level.

Free Lancer, Public Health Consultant, Abu Dhabi

Nov 2000- April 2006

- Conducted training courses in public health, strategic planning, team-building, health programs management, monitoring and evaluation.
- Conducted assessment, problem and opportunity analysis of the health services sector. Conducted Middle East market analysis for international pharmaceutical companies.

AWARDS AND MERITS

- King Hussein Cancer Foundation Competence award in breast cancer research.

- Geneva Health Forum 2012 research abstract award.
- Founding member and CEO of Jordan Women's Health Alliance 2014-2015.
- Member in Jordan ministry of health strategic planning team 2008-2012.
- Members in the team for the PHC accreditation standards in Jordan 2006-2007.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Multi-cultural, Multi-lingual (Arabic, English, Swedish).

CURRENT SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY AND COLLABORATIONS

- Research project in collaboration with Lund University that aims to explore medical students' and faculty perceptions and experiences related to learning, teaching and interaction within the educational environment in Jordan.
- Research project in collaboration with Harvard University that aims to explore women and health care providers' knowledge about breast cancer and screening examinations in Jordan.
- Research Project in collaboration with Lund University that aims to assess the knowledge, attitudes and practices related to colorectal cancer screening in Jordan.
- Research project in collaboration with the Jordan University Hospital to assess antibiotics resistance among the patients attending the family medicine department.

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

1. Alkhaldi SM, Khatatbeh MM, Berggren VE, **Taha HA**: Knowledge and Attitudes Toward Mandatory Premarital Screening Among University Students in North Jordan. *Hemoglobin* 2016, **28**:1-7. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26821551>
2. **Taha H**, Jaghbeer MA, Shteivi M, Alkhadi S, Berggren V: Knowledge and Perceptions about Colorectal Cancer in Jordan. *Asian Pac J Cancer Prev* 2015, **16**, 8479-86. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26745105>
3. **Taha H**, Halabi Y, Berggren V, Jaouni S, Nyström L, Al-Qutob R, Wahlström R: Educational intervention to improve breast health knowledge among women in Jordan. *Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention* 2010, **11**(5):1167-1173. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21198258>
4. **Taha H**, Al-Qutob R, Nyström L, Wahlström R, Berggren V: "Voices of fear and safety" women's ambivalence towards breast cancer and breast health: a qualitative study from Jordan. *BMC Women's Health* 2012, **12**:21. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22834874>
5. **Taha H**, Al-Qutob R, Nyström L, Wahlström R, Berggren V: Would a man smell a rose then throw it away?" Jordanian men's perspectives on women's breast cancer and breast health. *BMC Women's Health* 2013, **13**:41 doi:10.1186/1472-6874-13-41. <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6874/13/41/abstract>
6. **Taha H**, Nyström L, Al-Qutob R, Berggren V, Esmaily H, Wahlström R: Home visits to improve breast health knowledge and screening practices in a less privileged area in Jordan. *BMC Public Health* 2014, **14**:428 doi:10.1186/1471-2458-14-428 <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/clipboard>

LIST OF SCIENTIFIC REPORTS SUBMITTED

- Pre and post assessment reports of Jordan's national breast health campaigns for the years 2011-2014.
- Assessment report of the Jordan Breast Cancer helpline data for the years 2011-2014.
- Assessment report of the effectiveness of Jordan's breast cancer program lectures for the years 2011-2014.
- Assessment report of the effectiveness of Jordan's breast cancer program home visits interventions in less privileged areas for the years 2011-2014.
- National guidelines and tools for operational planning and supportive supervision at the primary health care level in Jordan 2007.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONGRESSES

Invited speaker and member of the scientific committee

Taha H et al: **women and health care providers' knowledge about breast cancer and screening examination.** *In proceedings of the first Breast Cancer in the Arab World Conference. Amman, Jordan 22-24 March 2015*

Taha H et al: **Home visits to improve breast health knowledge and screening practices in a less privileged area in Jordan.** *In proceedings of the Second International Conference on Global Public Health 2014 Negombo, Sri Lanka 3 rd - 4 th July*

Taha H et al: **"Would a man smell a rose then throw it away?" Jordanian men's perspectives on women's breast cancer and breast health:** *In proceedings of the International Conference on Global Public Health: Colombo; 3-4 December, 2012.*

Oral presentations of own accepted abstracts

Taha H: **A Bottom-Up Model for Strengthening Breast Cancer Early Detection Services in Jordan.** *In proceedings of the Geneva Health Forum: Geneva; 18-20 April, 2012.*

Taha H, Al-Qutob R, Nyström L, Wahlström R, Berggren V: **"Voices of fear and safety" women's ambivalence towards breast cancer and breast health: a qualitative study from Jordan.** *In proceedings of the Geneva Health Forum: Geneva; 18-20 April, 2012.*

Taha H, Al-Qutob R, Nyström L, Wahlström R, Berggren V: **"Her health is a priority" Jordanian Men's perceptions about breast cancer and their role in women's screening decisions.** *In proceedings of the 1st Arab World Public Health Conference: Dubai; 4- 6, April 2013.*

RESEARCH FUNDING OBTAINED IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS

As a co-applicant: From the Swedish Research Council MENA Links grant 500, 000 SEK in 2010. As the main applicant: From American Near East Refugees Aid 100, 000 USD in 2011, The Czech Embassy in Amman 32,000 USD in 2011, Suzan G Komen 5000 USD in 2014, from the University of Jordan scientific research committee 8000 USD in 2015 and 23000 USD from the King Hussein Cancer Foundation in 2015.

EVALUATION OF OTHERS' WORK

- Referee for BMJ open journal and Journal of Behavioral Health.
- Advisor and reviewer of PHC facilities accreditation standards in Jordan.

SUBJECT AREA COMPETENCE AND CURRENT TEACHING ACTIVITY

I am passionate about public health research and I enjoy unconventional interactive small groups tutoring that inspires my students. I teach courses in Biostatistics, Global Health, Public Health Research Methods to second and third year's medical students. I also supervise master students' research work and teaching them how to write and publish scientific manuscripts.

ACTIVITIES INVOLVING LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITY

- Member in Jordan's Policy and Economic Development Forum.
- Advisor for the King Hussein Cancer Foundation with regard to vision and the strategy development for the provision of health education and outreach at the national level.
- International Doctoral Students Representative, Karolinska Institutet 2011-2013.

SCIENTIFIC MERITS

- Hands on experience in monitoring and evaluation, designing and conducting scientific research; including measurements of different exposures and outcomes.
- Methodological and interdisciplinary research experience in public health research using various quantitative and qualitative methods.
- I am one of the leading trainers in the Jordan Breast Cancer Program. I also participated in teaching cancer epidemiology to MPH students in Karolinska Institutet and was an active member in Journal clubs and research seminars of the health systems and policy research group.
- Competence in application of statistical techniques including: Protocol design/research planning, Questionnaire development, Database management and Data analysis of large, complex datasets using SPSS and Stata.
- Experience in conducting health systems implementation research and evaluation studies to assess the effectiveness of health promotion campaigns and public health educational interventions in improving knowledge attitudes and practices.
- Experience in moderating focus groups, conducting in-depth interviews and using qualitative latent content analysis technique to analyze narrative data.
- Strong ability and interest in capacity building, teaching, training and mentoring using innovative pedagogic techniques.
- Success record in using innovative methodological research and having interdisciplinary research collaborations with Karolinska Institutet, Harvard University, Lund University, Umea University and Jordan University.