



UNIVERSITY of the  
WESTERN CAPE

## COLLABORATION REPORT BETWEEN PROFESSOR NICOLETTE ROMAN – UWC and PROFESSOR MATTHEW TAYLOR - UMSL

This document serves to report on the recent project visit of Professor Nicolette Roman, based at UWC, to Professor Matthew Taylor based at UMSL. The project was approved in 2015 and was titled, an *exploration of the roles of culture identification on hookah and other drug use among Coloured South Africans*. The objectives of the visit were to analyse the data, develop potential models to test and construct a few publications. The time period of the visit was 16 – 30 July 2016 (2 weeks). This report is structured in two parts (1) project goals and (2) other successes of the visit.

### Project goals

When I left Cape Town, 14 July, the data collection had just completed and was being entered. Hence, the data set was only sent by Wednesday, 20 July. While waiting for the data, I constructed four conceptual papers, one of which I started to write with collaborative input by Professor Taylor. This paper, *Reducing the use of the hookah: A review of what may be required*, was submitted on 28 July 2016 to Bulletin of the World Health Organisation. This paper is a review of Tobacco Control and prevention and intervention approaches required to reduce hookah pipe use and highlights the threats to achieving the SDG of health.

Once we received the data set, we cleaned it and created the variables to be tested. We then explored the potential for different models focusing on the effects of (1) family culture, (2) peer culture and (3) race/culture on (a) substance use, (b) hookah use, (3) e-cigarettes and (4) cigarette use. We then decided to focus on planning for paper 2, which is paper 1 for the project, focusing on the role of family culture (family attitudes, family functioning and family use) on (a) substance use, (b) hookah use, (3) e-cigarettes and (4) cigarette use based on a sample of 400 participants. This paper should be submitted by end September. We also realized that there are potentially three additional review studies which we should conduct in order to build for the next phase for



intervention. We had subsequent meetings with additional colleagues who provided key input on possible strategies for intervention.

In terms of the project goals, we successfully achieved them and the submission of the article was a bonus. In addition to focusing on the project goals, there were also additional successes.

### **Other successes**

These two weeks provided me with TIME and OPPORTUNITY! My South African co-authors and I were able to successfully submit three articles to journals. I constructed and completed my online teaching module on google sites, reviewed articles for four journals; created and completed my teaching notes and powerpoint presentation for the block week class which occurs upon my immediate return and collected all my data (articles) for our review articles on the role of the family in hookah use. I also had the privilege of participating in Professor Taylor's supervision sessions; the opportunity to create new partnerships between colleagues at UWC in the Departments of Occupational Therapy (OT), Psychology and the CFS (Child and Family Studies) programme and UMSL colleagues in Early Childhood Development, Gerontology, Neuroscience and Child Protection; and shared in the retirement celebrations of a renowned colleague at UMSL. These potentially new partnerships would enable younger colleagues, at UWC, to engage in and strengthen the partnership with UMSL. In addition, although the partnerships would focus on research, we also identified potential opportunities for internationalization of teaching and learning modules in CFS.

*In summary*, I would describe this two week visit as hugely successful with many achievements and future potential to strengthen the partnership. Professor Matthew Taylor and I have a seven-year partnership and he has once again been the most amazingly perfect host ensuring that I did not need for anything. He ensured that I was collected at the airport, arranged my accommodation, took me to purchase food, arranged for the collection of my check and drove me where I needed to be. I think the success of this partnership and meeting the goals of the visit could be due to both of us having an invested interest in and passion for the work we do as well as being flexible and accommodating of different perspectives and cultures. A huge help was having



access to the university resources such as the databases in order to implement our reviews.

This visit has once again highlighted the wonderful opportunities and subsequent value this exchange provides. These could be understood as follows:

- The valuable and complimentary strengths of both partners in implementing the project, providing depth and breadth to the project.
- The value of the more resourced partner in providing the necessary access to resources which may not necessarily be available to a strained resourced university.
- The value of respect [for diversity], responsibility, accountability and flexibility of both partners in ensuring the success of the project and strengthening relationships.
- The value of providing opportunities for both partners to exchange and to have different cultural experiences.

I have always been interested in the partnership and will continue to do so. Based on the current project, we would like to extend and include additional partners in order to implement strategies to reduce hookah use in the family. We have also discussed future relations in terms of PhD co-supervision. With the potential of new partners with and at UWC, we are considering internationalizing a module or two but these aspects will be considered during the visits between colleagues. The main focus, subsequent to this visit, is to disseminate the data, which will increase university outputs.

This visit has been hugely beneficial and definitely should be an experience for both parties. This may not always be possible given the challenge of funding but I think this should be a requirement.

Thank you once again for the opportunity.  
Professor Nicolette V Roman

