

Rita Yusuf

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Education

New York University, New York, New York

2004 Ph.D Environmental Health Sciences (Molecular Toxicology/Carcinogenesis) “*Oxidative and Estrogen Receptor-Mediated Events in the Transformation of Human Breast Epithelial Cells MCF-10A*”
Thesis Advisor: Krystyna Frenkel, Ph.D

Columbia College of Columbia University, New York, New York

1990 A.B. Biology

Stuyvesant High School, New York, New York

1986 H.S. Diploma National Honor Society inductee
Member of Arista

Employment Experience

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), Bashundhara, Dhaka School of Life Sciences

Professor, August 2016- Present

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), Bashundhara, Dhaka School of Life Sciences

Associate Professor, January 2011- Present

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), Bashundhara, Dhaka School of Environmental Science and Management

Assistant Professor, October 2006- January 2011

New York University School of Medicine (NYU), New York, New York Department of Dermatology

Assistant Research Scientist, October 2004- May 2006

Academic Appointments

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), Bashundhara, Dhaka School of Life Sciences

Dean, July 9, 2012- Present

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), Bashundhara, Dhaka Centre for Health, Population and Development

Associate Director, February, 2010- Present

University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont

College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Department of Nursing
Adjunct Associate Professor, October, 2010- October, 2011

Research Experience

New York University School of Medicine, New York, New York Departments of Environmental Medicine and Dermatology

- Maintained cultures of a variety of different cell lines.
- Designed and carried out experiments leading to the neoplastic transformation of human breast epithelial cells.
- Developed a model of nutrition for human mammary cells wherein neoplastic transformation of cells could be studied.
- Performed agar-methocel based transformation assays on MCF-10A cells.
- Treated cell cultures with carcinogenic as well as chemopreventive agents.
- Performed cytotoxicity studies of known and putative carcinogen-treated cells.
- Assessed oxidized DNA base 8-OHdG levels in normal vs. cancerous cultured human mammary cells.
- Measured intracellular peroxide levels in normal vs. cancerous cultured human mammary cells.
- Carried out isolation and enzymatic digestion of DNA from cultured cells.
- Performed high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) analyses on hydrolyzates of DNA samples isolated from the cell lines MCF-7 and MCF-10A.
- Investigated effects of carcinogenic and chemopreventive treatments on transcription factor NF- κ B and AP-1 DNA binding in human mammary cells.
- Carried out spectrophotometric cellular/nuclear protein determination.
- Modified and performed chemiluminescence-based electrophoretic mobility shift assays (EMSAs).
- Performed western immunoblotting assays.
- Implemented pathway specific gene expression arrays.

Independent University, Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh Center for Health, Population and Development School of Life Sciences

- Epidemiological Study Design & Methods
- Biological Sample Collection in Field
- Cold Chain Transfer of Samples
- Environmental Sample Collection in Field
- Development of Field Laboratory & Related Techniques
- Questionnaire Creation
- Survey Administration & Supervision
- Anthropometric Measurements

Honors/Awards

- National Research Service Award (U.S. National Institutes of Health; traineeship in Environmental Carcinogenesis) 1995-1996

- Columbia College Scholarship 1986
- CBS Foundation College Scholarship 1986
- Empire State College Scholarship 1986
- National Honor Society Inductee 1986

Research

- SLS Study: Nutritional and Environmental Stress in Ready Made Garment Workers In Dhaka
Principal Investigator (August, 2015 – present)
-Measurement of environmental contaminants and nutrients in RMG workers in Dhaka as part of a study examining general health and work/environmental stress
- MIPH/CHPD Study: Work-Related Stress Among Ready Made Garment Workers In Dhaka
Co-PI (May, 2011 – Present)
Principal Investigators: Adrian Loerbroks, Ph.D (Assistant Professor, University of Heidelberg & Christian Struempell, Ph.D (Assistant Professor, University of Heidelberg)
- Measurement of work-related stress using both questionnaire and biomarker analysis within RMG workers in Dhaka as part of a global study assessing the notion of stress as a Western concept
- CHPD Study: Perception of Vitamin D Nutritional Needs Among Female Ready-Made Garment Workers in a Factory In Gulshan, Dhaka
Principal Investigator (January, 2010 – Present)
Co-PI: O. Khan, MD, MHS (Clinical Assistant Professor and Attending Physician, Department of Family Medicine, University of Vermont)
- Examination of the knowledge among female RMG workers in Gulshan, Dhaka regarding the risks of developing Vitamin D deficiency, its overall health effects, and mitigation strategies
- Water Microbiology
Co- Principal Investigator (July, 2009 – present)
Co- PI: Warish Ahmed, Ph.D (Water Microbiologist, Dept. of Natural Resources and Water, Qld., Australia)
- Microbiological quality of bottled water in Dhaka, Bangladesh, determined by real-time PCR and conventional culture methods
- Prevalence of enteric viruses and bacteria in surface waters of Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Evaluation of the host-specificity of enterococci surface protein (*esp*) and *Bacteroides* HF183 markers in environmental waters in Dhaka, Bangladesh and their application to quantify sewage pollution
- Prospective Urban and Rural Epidemiological Study (PURE),
Co- Principal Investigator (October, 2006 – present)
- Global epidemiological study examining the environmental and genetic risk factors for cardiovascular and other chronic diseases

- CHPD/CWCH Study: Barriers to Breastfeeding Study
Principal Investigator (February, 2009 – December, 2010)
Co-PIs: M. Omar Rahman, MD, MPH, DSc (Vice Chancellor, Independent University, Bangladesh), K. Talukder, MD (Director, The Centre for Woman and Child Health) & O. Khan, MD, MHS (Clinical Assistant Professor and Attending Physician, Department of Family Medicine, University of Vermont)
 - Examination of the socioeconomic and cultural constraints to initiating and sustaining first-hour and exclusive breastfeeding practices within mothers who receive care at The Centre for Woman and Child Health (CWCH), a clinic on the outskirts of Dhaka.
- Cochrane Collaboration for Evidence-Based Medicine,
Country Co-coordinator (October, 2006 – 2010)
- Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research,
Invited Member (June, 2007 – June, 2008)
South Asia Subgroup on Building Effective and Sustainable Health Research Partnerships

Administrative Responsibilities

- University Syndicate
Member (July, 2013 – March, 2014)
- Deans and Department Heads Committee, IUB
Member (June, 2012 – present)
- Academic Council, IUB
Member (May, 2011 – present)
- University Management Committee, IUB
Member (May, 2011 – present)
- CHPD International Research Initiatives (Center for Health, Population and Development, IUB)
Supervisor (March, 2008 – Present)
 - Responsibilities include designing and submitting proposals for possible collaborative research projects with international universities/organizations as well as serving as a liaison for further discussions/meetings
 - Current and future collaborators include: Stanford School of Medicine, Concordia College, University of Vermont, The Hollings Center for International Dialogue
- Center for Health, Population and Development Seminar Series
Coordinator (October, 2008 – Present)
- International Student Research Programs and Projects (Center for Health, Population and Development, IUB)

Coordinator (June, 2007 – present)

- Design/cataloging of faculty research interests for university website
 - Design and supervision of syllabi and programs for students from abroad (Smith College, University of Vermont Graduate and Nursing Schools, etc.)
- Curriculum Development (Environmental Science and Management, IUB)
Member (February, 2007 – September, 2008)
 - Involved in the curriculum development and feasibility assessment for the formation of a new undergraduate study track in “Environmental Policy and Management”
 - Departmental Journal Club Series (Environmental Science and Management, IUB)
Initiator and coordinator (March, 2007 – October, 2009)
 - Establishment of the University’s new School of Life Sciences: Creation of the Departments of Biochemistry and Microbiology; Undergraduate and Graduate Curriculum Development; Construction of State of the Art Biological Laboratory at IUB (School of Life Sciences, IUB)
Supervisor (October, 2006 – June 2013)
 - Supervising the creation of teaching curricula and laboratory facilities for undergraduate and graduate programs in Biochemistry, Microbiology, and Biotechnology

Publications

A. Mente, M. O’Donnell, S. Rangarajan, G.R. Dagenais, S.A. Lear, M. McQueen, R. Diaz, A. Avezum, P. Lopez-Jaramillo, F. Lanas, W. Li, Y. Lu, S. Yi, L. Rensheng, R. Iqbal, P. Mony, **R. Yusuf**, K. Yusoff, A. Szuba, A. Oguz, A. Rosengren, A. Bahonar, A. Yusufali, A.E. Schutte, J. Chifamba, J.F.E. Mann, S.S. Anand, K. Teo, S. Yusuf. Associations of urinary sodium excretion with cardiovascular events in individuals with and without hypertension: a pooled analysis of data from four studies. *The Lancet* (*doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(16)30467-6*), 2016 (Impact Factor 45.22)

P. Raina, N. Sohel, M. Oremus, H. Shannon, P. Mony, R. Kumar, W. Li, Y. Wang, K. Yusoff, **R. Yusuf**, R. Iqbal, A. Szuba, A. Oguz, A. Rosengren, A. Kruger, J. Chifamba, N. Mohammadifard, E.A. Darwish, G. Dagenais, R. Diaz, A. Avezum, P. Lopez-Jaramillo, P. Seron, S. Rangarajan, K. Teo & S. Yusuf. Assessing Global Risk Factors for Non-fatal Injuries from Road Traffic Accidents and Falls in Adults 35-70 in 17 Countries: A Cross-Sectional Analysis of the Prospective Rural and Urban Epidemiological (PURE) Study. *Injury Prevention* 22: 92-98, 2016 (Impact Factor 1.89)

A. Rosengren, K. Teo, S. Rangarajan, C. Cabali, I. Khumalo, V.R. Kutty, R. Gupta, **R. Yusuf**, R. Iqbal, I. N. Hassim, Y. Altuntas, R. Kelishadi, R. Diaz, A. Avezum, J. Chifamba, K. Zatonska, W. Li, L. Xiaoyang, P. Lopez-Jaramillo, A. Yusufali, P. Seron, S. Lear, and S. Yusuf. Psychosocial factors and obesity in 17 high-, middle- and low-income countries: The Prospective Rural and Urban Epidemiologic (PURE) study. *International Journal of Obesity* 39: 1217-1223, 2015 (Impact Factor 5.386)

M. Steinisch, **R. Yusuf**, J. Li, T. Stalder, J.A. Bosch, O. Rahman, J.E. Fischer & A. Loerbroks. Work Stress and Hair Cortisol Levels Among Workers in a Bangladeshi Ready-Made Garment Factory – Results From a Cross-Sectional Study. *Psychoneuroendocrinology* 50: 20 -27, 2014 (5-Year ISI Impact Factor 6.090)

R. Gupta, S. Islam, P. Mony, V. R. Kutty, V. Mohan, R. Kumar, J.S. Thakur, V. K. Shankar, D. Mohan, K. Vijayakumar, O. Rahman, **R. Yusuf**, R. Iqbal, M. Shahid, I. Mohan, S. Rangarajan, K. Teo and S. Yusuf. Socioeconomic factors and use of secondary preventive therapies for cardiovascular diseases in South Asia: The PURE study. *European Journal of Preventive Cardiology* 22 (10): 1-11, 2014 (Impact Factor 3.90)

A. Mente, M.J. O'Donnell, S. Rangarajan, M.J. McQueen, P. Poirier, A. Wielgosz, H. Morrison, W. Li, X. Wang, C. Di, P. Mony, A. Devanath, A. Rosengren, A. Oguz, K. Zatonska, A.H. Yusufali, P. Lopez-Jaramillo, A. Avezum, N. Ismail, F. Lanas, T. Puoane, R. Diaz, R. Kelishadi, R. Iqbal, **R. Yusuf**, J. Chifamba, R. Khatib, K. Teo and S. Yusuf, for the PURE Investigators. Association of Urinary Sodium and Potassium Excretion with Blood Pressure. *The New England Journal of Medicine* 371(7): 612 – 623, 2014 (Impact Factor 54.42)

M. O'Donnell, A. Mente, S. Rangarajan, M.J. McQueen, X. Wang, L. Liu, H. Yan, S.F. Lee, P. Mony, A. Devanath, A. Rosengren, P. Lopez-Jaramillo, R. Diaz, A. Avezum, F. Lanas, K. Yusoff, R. Iqbal, R. Ilow, N. Mohammadifard, S. Gulec, A.H. Yusufali, L. Kruger, **R. Yusuf**, J. Chifamba, C. Kabali, G. Dagenais, S. A. Lear, K. Teo and S. Yusuf, for the PURE Investigators. Urinary Sodium and Potassium Excretion, Mortality, and Cardiovascular Events. *The New England Journal of Medicine* 371(7): 601 – 611, 2014 (Impact Factor 54.42)

C.K. Chow, **R. Yusuf**, R. Kelishadi. Prevention and control of hypertension in different countries – author reply. *The Journal of the American Medical Association* 311(4): 419 -420, 2014 (Impact Factor 30)

S. Lear, K. Teo, D. Gasevic, X. Zhang, P.P. Poirier, S. Rangarajan, P. Seron, R. Kelishadi, A.M. Tamil, A. Kruger, R. Iqbal, H. Swidan, D. Gomez-Arbelaez, **R. Yusuf**, J. Chifamba, V.R. Kutty, K. Karsidag, R. Kumar, L. Wei, A. Szuba, A. Avezum, R. Diaz, S.S. Anand, A. Rosengren & S. Yusuf. The association of common household devices with obesity and diabetes in high-, middle-, and low-income countries. Early Release: *The Canadian Medical Association Journal*. 186 (4): 1-9 (Impact factor 6.47).

M. Duong, S. Islam, S. Rangarajan, K. Teo, P. M. O'Byrne, H.J. Schünemann, E. Igumbor, J. Chifamba, L. Liu, W. Li, T. Ismail, K. Shankar, M. Shahid, K. Vijayakumar, **R. Yusuf**, K. Zatonska, A. Oguz, A. Rosengren, H. Heidari, W. Almahmeed, R. Diaz, G. Oliveira, P. Lopez-Jaramillo, P. Seron, K. Killian & S. Yusuf. Global differences in lung function by region (PURE): an international, community-based prospective study. *The Lancet Respiratory Medicine* 1: 599 – 609, 2013

M. Steinisch, **R. Yusuf**, J. Li, O. Rahman, H.M. Ashraf, C. Strumpell, J.E. Fischer & A. Loerbroks. Work Stress: Its Components and its Association with Self-Reported Health Outcomes in a Garment Factory in Bangladesh – Results From a Cross-Sectional Study. *Health & Place* 24: 123 - 130, 2013 (5-year ISI Impact Factor 3.007)

C.K. Chow, K.K. Teo, S. Rangarajan, S. Islam, R. Gupta, A. Avezum, A. Bahonar, J. Chifamba, G. Dagenais, R. Diaz, K. Kazmi, F. Lanas, L. Wei, P. Lopez-Jaramillo, L. Fanghong, N.H. Ismail, T. Puoane, A. Rosengren, A Szuba, A. Temizhan, A Wielgosz, **R. Yusuf**, A. Yusufali, M. McKee, L. Liu, P. Mony & S. Yusuf. Prevalence, awareness, treatment and control of hypertension in rural and urban communities in high-, middle-, and low- income countries. *The Journal of the American Medical Association* 310 (9): 959 - 968, 2013 (Impact Factor 30)

W. Ahmed, **R. Yusuf**, I. Hasan, W. Ashraf, A. Goonetilleke, S. Toze & T. Gardner. Fecal Indicators and Bacterial Pathogens in Bottled Water From Dhaka, Bangladesh. *The Brazilian Journal of Microbiology* 44 (1): 97 - 103, 2013 (Impact Factor 0.9)

R. Yusuf and K. Frenkel. Morphologic Transformation of Human Breast Epithelial Cells MCF-10A: Dependence on an Oxidative Microenvironment and Estrogen/Epidermal Growth Factor Receptors. *Cancer Cell International* 10 (1):30; doi: 10.1186/1475-2867-10-30, 2010; (Impact Factor 2.77). **A BioMed Central “highly accessed” manuscript.**

W. Ahmed, **R. Yusuf**, I. Hasan, D. Powell, A. Goonetilleke, & T. Gardner. Quantitative PCR Assay of Sewage-Associated *Bacteroides* Markers to Assess Sewage Pollution in an Urban Lake in Dhaka, Bangladesh. *Canadian Journal of Microbiology* 56 (10): 838 – 845, 2010 (5-Year ISI Impact Factor 1.502).

C. Yang, J. Wu, R. Zhang, P. Zhang, J. Eckard, **R. Yusuf**, X. Huang, T.G. Rossman and K. Frenkel. Caffeic acid phenethyl ester (CAPE) prevents transformation of human cells by arsenite (As) and suppresses growth of As-transformed cells. *Toxicology* 213: 81-96, 2005 (5-Year ISI Impact Factor 3.469).

Books

Yusuf R, Oxidative and Estrogen Receptor-Mediated Events in the Transformation of Human Breast Epithelial Cells MCF-10A, New York University, Graduate School of Arts and Science, 2004

Conference Papers and Presentations

Steinisch M, **Yusuf R**, Li J, Stalder T, Bosch JA, Rahman O, Fischer JE, Loerbroks A. Work stress and hair cortisol levels among workers in a Bangladeshi ready-made garment factory. The German Society for Psychosomatic Medicine Annual Meeting, Berlin, Germany, March 2014.

Steinisch M, **Yusuf R**, Stalder T, Li J, Rahman O, Fischer JE, Loerbroks A. Psychosocial work conditions and hair cortisol levels among workers in a Bangladeshi ready-made garment factory, oral presentation at The German Society for Epidemiology Meeting, Leipzig, Germany, June 2013.

Steinisch M, **Yusuf R**, Li J, Rahman O, Ashraf HM, Strümpell C, Fischer JE, Loerbroks A. Work stress in a garment factory in Bangladesh – identifying components and their associations with health. Poster presentation at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Psychosomatic Association, Miami, USA, March 2013.

Steinisch M, **Yusuf R**, Li J, Rahman O, Ashraf HM, Strümpell C, Fischer JE, Loerbroks A. Arbeitsstress in einer Textilfabrik in Bangladesch – Charakterisierung von Komponenten und deren Zusammenhang mit berichteter Gesundheit [Work stress in a textile factor in Bangladesh – characterization of components and their relationship with self-reported health]. Poster presentation at the German Congress for Psychosomatic Medicine and Psychotherapy, Heidelberg, Germany, March 2013.

Steinisch M, **Yusuf R**, Loerbroks A. Stress and health in Asia: epidemiological perspectives. Oral presentation at workshop “The Culture of Stress” Excellence Cluster Asia and Europe, Heidelberg, Germany, May 2012.

Steinisch M., **Yusuf R.**, Li J., Rahman O., Ashraf M.H., Strümpell C., Fischer J.E., Loerbroks A. Work Stress in a Ready-Made Garment Factory in Dhaka, Bangladesh – Its Measurement and Associations with Self-Rated Health and Physical Complaints. Oral presentation at the The European Public Health Conference 5th Annual Meeting, St. Julian’s, Malta, November 2012.

Steinisch M., **Yusuf R.**, Li J, Rahman O., Ashraf M.H., Strümpell C., Fischer J.E., Loerbroks A. Arbeitsstress – Charakterisierung und Zusammenhang mit berichteter Gesundheit und körperlichen Beschwerden in einer Textilfabrik in Dhaka, Bangladesch. [Work Stress - Characterization and Association with Self-Reported Health and Physical Complaints in a RMG Factory in Dhaka, Bangladesh]. Oral Presentation and Poster at The German Society of Medical Psychology (DGMP) Annual Meeting, Heidelberg, Germany, September 2012. **Awarded Top Poster Prize for Study Design, Originality, Comprehensibility and Clinical and Practical Relevance**

Yusuf R., Rahman, O., Talukder, K., & Frederick, N. Community-Level Education and Guidance Needed to Enhance First Hour and Exclusive Breastfeeding Adherence Within a Peri-urban Community in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Oral presentation at The American Public Health Association 138th Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 2010

Maltby, H. J., Rahman, O., & **Yusuf R**. Discovering indigenous food practices of Bangladeshi families through photovoice. Oral presentation at The American Public Health Association 137th Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, November 2009

Maltby, H. J., Rahman, O., & **Yusuf R**. International Service-Learning: Bangladesh and Vermont Working Together. The Third International Symposium on Service-Learning, Greece, November 2009.

Yusuf R, Shearer D, Weisz J and Frenkel K. 17 β -Estradiol-promoted morphologic transformation of MCF-10A cells: roles of oxidative stress and estrogen receptor. Proceedings of the American Association of Cancer Research 44, 2nd ed.: 683, 2003.

Yusuf R and Frenkel K. Oxidative stress-induced modulation of estrogen signaling pathway gene expression in human breast epithelial cells MCF-10A. Proceedings of the American Association of Cancer Research 43: 865, 2002.

Yang CF, Zhang R, Zhang J, Eckard J, **Yusuf R**, Rossman T and Frenkel K. Critical role of inflammatory cytokines in the inhibition of arsenic-induced cell transformation by caffeic acid phenethyl ester (CAPE). Proceedings of the American Association of Cancer Research 43: 1034, 2002

Yang CF, Zhang R, Eckard J, **Yusuf R**, Rossman T and Frenkel K. Caffeic acid phenethyl ester (CAPE) induces cell growth arrest and apoptosis in arsenic-transformed human osteoblast-like (HOS) cells, but not in non-transformed HOS cells. Proceedings of the American Association of Cancer Research 43: 1034, 2002.

Yusuf R and Frenkel K. 17β -Estradiol (E2)-induced transformation of human mammary (MCF-10A) cells: roles of epidermal growth factor (EGF) and interleukin (IL)- 1α . Proceedings of the American Association of Cancer Research 42: 893, 2001.

Yusuf R and Frenkel K. Oxidative stress-mediated transformation of MCF-10A human mammary cells: roles of hydrocortisone (HC), 17β -estradiol (E2), and 7,12-dimethylbenz[a]anthracene (DMBA). Free Radical Biology and Medicine 31: 427, 2001.

Frenkel K and **Yusuf R**. CAPE, a propolis product, is cytotoxic to tumor cells by acting on mitochondria. Proceedings of Pre-Congress Internet Conference: 242-244, May 8-Dec. 31, 2000

Huang X, **Yusuf R**, Shah R and Frenkel K. Pro-oxidant effects of 7, 12-dimethylbenz[a]anthracene (DMBA) on human breast epithelial cells. Proceedings of the American Association of Cancer Research 39: 372, 1998.

Other Conferences and Workshops

The Bangladesh Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology National Conference on Biochemistry, Industry, and Sustainable Economy – Dhaka, Bangladesh (Mar 21, 2015); Invited speaker

The Prospective Urban and Rural Epidemiological Study (PURE) Annual Global Investigators' Meeting – Lisbon, Portugal (Aug 4 - 5, 2014); Invited country coordinator for Bangladesh

The British Council and University Grants Commission, Bangladesh Joint Program in "Strengthening Leadership Capacity in Higher Education" UK Meeting – Manchester and Leicester, UK (March 12 – 18, 2013); Invited country representative

The British Council and University Grants Commission, Bangladesh Joint Program in "Strengthening Leadership Capacity in Higher Education" – Dhaka, Bangladesh and the UK (May, 2012 – present); One of 23 national representatives selected to participate in a development program for future Bangladeshi leaders in higher education. The program emphasizes individualized mentorship and partnership with leaders in UK Universities

The Prospective Urban and Rural Epidemiological Study (PURE) Annual Global Investigators' Meeting – Toronto, Canada (June 22 - 26, 2011); Invited country coordinator for Bangladesh

The Prospective Urban and Rural Epidemiological Study (PURE) Annual Global Investigators' Meeting - Beijing, China (November 26 - 28, 2009); Invited country coordinator for Bangladesh

Round Table Conference on “The Present Status of Biotechnology in Bangladesh and its Possible Solutions” – The Center for Excellence, University of Dhaka, Dhaka, Bangladesh (July 15, 2009); Invited Panelist

Nobel Peace Prize Forum 2008 “Striving for Peace: Investing in Community” with Dr. Mohammed Yunus as keynote speaker -- Moorhead, Minnesota, USA (March 7 – 8, 2008); Invited Delegate

The Center for Health, Population and Development, Independent University, Bangladesh Writing Workshop in collaboration with Writers Without Borders, Champlain College, USA – Dhaka, Bangladesh (Jan 2 – 5 & 14th, 2008); Co-coordinator

The Prospective Urban and Rural Epidemiological Study (PURE) Regional Investigators' Meeting – Bangalore, India (December 20 -22, 2007); Invited country coordinator for Bangladesh

The Canadian Conference on International Health (CCIH) Annual Meeting – Ottawa, Ontario, Canada (November 3 – 7, 2007); Invited panelist for the CCGHR “Building Partnerships Workshop” and the South Asia Task Group Meeting

The Cochrane Collaboration for Evidence-Based Healthcare Symposium and Steering Committee Meeting – Colombo, Sri Lanka (August 22 – 28, 2007); Bangladesh panelist

The Cochrane Collaboration Sensitization Workshop “Introduction to Systematic Reviews and Meta-analysis” at IUB with Sir Iain Chalmers – Dhaka, Bangladesh (May 4, 2007); Member of the host/organizing committee

The Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research (CCGHR) International Workshop “Building Effective and Sustainable Health Partnerships in South Asia” – Rajendrapur, Dhaka, Bangladesh (May 2 – 4, 2007); Bangladesh delegate

The Prospective Urban and Rural Epidemiological Study (PURE) Annual Global Investigators' Meeting - Istanbul, Turkey (April 13 -17, 2007); Invited country coordinator for Bangladesh