The CIRHT Approach

Training — Integrate competency-based family planning and comprehensive abortion care curriculum for medical students, residents, fellows and midwives; establish simulation labs; improve quality of RH clinics; avail learning resources.

Research — Inspire, guide and evaluate primary RH research; promote rigorous methodology and design techniques; generate evidence-based results relevant for decision-making.

Promoting and supporting comprehensive reproductive health care in pre-service medical training improves access and reduces maternal mortality and morbidity, ultimately allowing women to take control of their lives and be more productive.
Our Vision
CIRHT seeks to be a global leader in the integration of training in Contraception and Comprehensive Abortion Care (CAC) into pre-service education, to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity from unintended pregnancy by improving access to comprehensive reproductive health care services.

Preventing tomorrow’s health workers to provide women with lifesaving reproductive health care
A woman with access to high-quality reproductive health services has access to opportunity. Without that care, even the most basic reproductive health issues can put women’s lives at risk, and limit their ability to work and to control their own destinies. An urgent need exists to increase the number of skilled health professionals who can provide quality care to women, whenever and wherever they need it.

CIRHT partners with academic institutions in developing countries to strengthen their capacity in providing competency-based pre-service training in all aspects of reproductive health, focusing on contraception, safe pregnancy termination and birth spacing. As more providers are trained to offer these services, more women and girls can access the treatment, care and support they need.

Beyond medical training, doctors, nurses and midwives learn how to promote the benefits of comprehensive reproductive health care and help families understand what services are available.

Overarching Goal
Partner universities have a robust capacity and curriculum to graduate competent health care providers who will be able to deliver high-quality, comprehensive RH care services.

Ethiopian Experience
Background:
- High unmet need for family planning (26% in 2011 EDHS)
- Need to improve access to safe abortion and contraception
- Existing pre-service education curricula in medical schools generally lacking comprehensive training in contraception and abortion care
- 2011 — Collaboration between U-M and St. Paul’s Hospital Millennium Medical College on integrating contraception and abortion care into medical training and OB-Gyn residency

Outputs:
- 2014 — CIRHT established, expands from one university to 10 across the country
- Work with Federal Ministry of Health to establish national curriculum
- 2016 — Expand outreach to Midwifery schools
- To date, 4,331 medical students (in clinical years), 971 interns and 237 OB-Gyn residents are in the program
- Regular faculty development provided in education, clinical care, research and leadership
- Continuous Quality Improvement and Monitoring and Evaluation for informed decision-making