



WINDWARD ISLANDS RESEARCH & EDUCATION FOUNDATION

2010 FACT SHEET

Background

The Windward Islands Research and Education Foundation (WINDREF) is an independent nonprofit organization located on the True Blue campus of the George's University (SGU), School of Medicine, Grenada. Founded in 1994 with funds granted by SGU, WINDREF seeks to advance health and environmental development through multidisciplinary research and education programs. WINDREF strives for program excellence by promoting collaborative relationships between internationally recognized scholars and regional scientists; by adhering to the highest ethical and academic standards in the design and conduct of research; and by maintaining computer links to the world's scientific community. WINDREF is registered in the USA with the Internal Revenue Service 501(C) (3) as an educational non-profit foundation. It is also registered in Grenada as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in compliance with section 328 of the Companies Act 1994, and in 1999 was registered in the UK as a charitable Trust, Charity in compliance with UK Charities Act 1993.

Research Areas

Currently, WINDREF Research Fellows conduct both short and long term studies in public health, tropical medicine, climate change, renewable energy, and other topics relevant to tropical climates and developing nations. Scientists at WINDREF have been involved in a number of multi-disciplinary studies of communicable and non-communicable diseases with current projects focusing on rheumatic fever, soil transmitted helminths, persistent organic pollutants, occupational health and upper respiratory conditions, land degradation, and solar energy.

Scientific Credentials

The combined scientific community of faculty affiliated with SGU and international scientific research fellows affiliated with WINDREF, strengthen the design and conduct of new and ongoing quality scientific research. These associations further the probability of success. To ensure the ethical protection of human subjects in research, the SGU Institutional Review Board (IRB) for human subject protection, and SGU Office of Research for grants administration provide strict research and administrative oversight and support. As a result of the strong influence of public health on various research conducted, WINDREF also works very closely with CEPH Accredited SGU Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine (DPHPM). Through SGU DPHPM MPH course practicum requirement, WINDREF is an established site for graduate students to gain research experience and assist with ongoing research projects. To further enhance the quality of research through access to historical and current country health and environmental indicators, WINDREF has established collaborations with several Ministerial offices with the Government of Grenada including: the Ministry of Health; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Ministry of Environment, Foreign Trade and Export; and Ministry of Education and Human Resources.

P.O. BOX 7
ST. GEORGE'S, GRENADA
TEL. 473.444.3997
FAX. 473-444-3041

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St. George's University Support

SGU provides institutional investment for faculty members also affiliated with WINDREF. This investment includes an annual stipend for faculty professional development and additional funds for presentation of research at regional and internationally recognized scientific conferences. Ongoing training and professional development opportunities are also provided by SGU faculty and visiting professors through small workshops and special seminars covering a multidisciplinary range of topics. Graduate study seminars are held weekly at WINDREF and are open to all faculty and students of SGU. SGU faculty, visiting professors, students, and members of the community involved in research and community health related programs are invited to present on various topics of interest. This is also a venue for graduate students to defend their thesis. SGU promotes internal and external research collaborations through SGU Annual Research Day consisting of opening ceremonies, and both competitive oral and poster presentations. In support of the development of pilot research projects, SGU has established a small internal institutional research grant initiative for faculty proposals to purchase small equipment items, consumables, consulting fees, and local or regional travel for the implementation of pilot research programs. Upon completion of a pilot project faculty have preliminary data available to further develop proposals for extramural funding opportunities. WINDREF facilities are supported by SGU infrastructure and include IT and telephone support, building and equipment maintenance, and other administrative support services.

Facilities

The physical facilities of WINDREF are located on the SGU True Blue campus in St. George's Grenada. WINDREF facilities available for support of research include two fully equipped wet and dry lab space with refrigerator/freezer (-20° C & -70° C) storage, secure research administration storage capacity for private health information, one conference room for meeting conduct (25 persons) and presentations (40 persons) with phone, projector, screen, and computer internet connections. Office space includes 11 workstations with adequate locked filing cabinets, for research support staff use and the availability of two computer workstations for shared usage. All computer connections have LAN/wireless web-based connectivity with restricted access to research data through a password-protected web-based 21 CFR Part 11 compliant system.

Administrative Support

Current administrative research support personnel include one Program Manager for Research Development and Administration, one Executive secretary, and one Receptionist.

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