Winners of health systems research essay competition announced

Geneva, 15 October, 2010: Seven young researchers under 30 – two men and five women -- have been chosen as winners of a competition seeking to identify the next generation of leaders in health systems research.

Organized under the auspices of the First Global Symposium on Health Systems Research, in partnership with the Global Forum for Health Systems Research and The Lancet, the competition attracted 129 entries from authors of 44 nationalities.

Winners are Bonventure Ameyo Masakhwe from Kenya, Margarita Bernales from Chile, Leanne Idzerda from Canada, Laurence Lannes from France, Long Qian from China, Amrit Virk from India and Edwin Wouters from Belgium.

The short (1500-word) essays reflected each author’s unique perspective on a particular aspect of health systems research, essentially one of the four sub-themes of the symposium: political economy of universal coverage, health system financing, scale-up of health services or knowledge translation.

These essays, along with those of the other finalists, will be published in an anthology to be launched in Montreux during the November symposium, and the winners have been invited to present their ideas.

The 2010 competition builds on the successful project “Young Voices in Research for Health” run jointly since 2006 by the Global Forum and The Lancet which has so far published around four anthologies of essays by young authors and introduced each year’s winners into the global network of decision-makers in health research.
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Dr Timothy G. Evans, chair of the symposium’s steering committee and dean of the School of Public Health, BRAC University, Bangladesh, said he was delighted to welcome the winners to the symposium: “They bring fresh vision, innovative ideas and impatience for action to address the challenges of universal health coverage.”

The full shortlist is as follows:

**Bonventure Ameyo Masakhwe** (Kenya) Groves that grow on graves of knowledge

**Elizabeth Arend** (USA) The politics of the undeserving: the foundation of historic opposition to universal health care in the US

**Breannon Babbel** (USA) The cost of reproductive repression: a case for universal health coverage

**Margarita Bernales** (Chile) Open minds before open doors

**Claire Elise Burdet** (Canada/Switzerland/USA) Universal health care: a culture of care through culture

**Jennifer Callaghan** (USA) The role of health systems research in the successful scale-up of community case management of childhood illness

**Chee Ho Cheah** (Malaysia) Lost in translation: bridging the evidence gap towards reducing health inequalities and improving health equity

**Mrudu Herbert** (India) The roads to redemption

**Rebecca Hodes** (South Africa) How HSR championed South Africa’s roll out of antiretroviral treatment

**Leanne Idzerda** (Canada/South Africa) Universal health care: who are we missing?

**Priya Iyer** (USA) For true universal coverage: health systems research in male partner involvement

**Henry Ko** (Australia) Fostering better shared decision-making in universal health coverage in the face of hype, hope and evidence

**Rositsa Koleva-Kolarova** (Bulgaria) Financing the health system in Bulgaria: who is better at providing universal health coverage and equity: Semashko or Bismarck?

**Laurence Lannes** (France) Rwanda et couverture de santé universelle: modèle ou miracle?

**Li Qian** (China) Progress and challenges of universal coverage in China

**Long Qian** (China) Paying for maternal health care in rural China: how affordable to the poor?

**Inez Mikkelsen-Lopez** (Australia) Is universal coverage the right goal?

**Job Siekei Mogire** (Kenya) Do something!

**Aftab Akbar Ali Mukhi** (Pakistan) Health for all: an unfinished agenda

**Jenneken Naaldenberg** (Netherlands) Translating knowledge or creating a shared language?

**Serah Njenga** (Kenya) Delivering post-rape care services in Kenya: utilization of health systems research to inform policy and practice

**Oluwatosin Omole** (Nigeria) A sacred duty to guarantee health care? Rethinking the roles of the mobile phone and trade unions in the bid for universal health coverage

**Nithiah Thangiah** (Malaysia) Socioeconomic inequalities in health care utilization in Malaysia

**Kingsley Nnanna Ukwaja** (Nigeria) Improving universal child health coverage in Africa: where
we got it wrong!

Amrit Kaur Virk (India) Expanding access to health services through health insurance programmes in developing countries: the case for a context-driven research agenda

Shelina Visram (UK) It’s not a textbook thing, is it? The use of lay knowledge in promoting health and increasing equity in more economically developed countries

Yohann White (Jamaica) Health systems research: towards universal health coverage

Margot Witvliet (USA) Global healthcare: where there is a will, there will be a way

Edwin Wouters (Belgium) No one should walk alone: achieving universal treatment access through community mobilization

Jomkwan Yothisamut (Thailand) Stories of knowledge translation: lessons learned from three-year experiences working in a policy research unit under the Thai Ministry of Public Health

Note for editors

Health Systems Research (HSR) “the purposeful generation of knowledge that enables societies to organize themselves to improve health outcomes and health services” is rapidly emerging as one of the most dynamic and complex areas of research for health. The First Global Symposium on Health Systems Research is dedicated to improving the scientific evidence needed by health policy-makers and health professionals to inform their decisions related to accelerating universal health coverage.

First Global Symposium on Health Systems Research, Montreux, Switzerland, 16-20 November 2010.

For further information see hsr2010 and/or contact Jamie Guth, guthj@who.int.