Symposium Overview

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Chair, Steering and Executive Committees,
Second Global Symposium on Health Systems Research
November 1, 2012
Outline

1. Why a Global Symposium?
2. The 1st Global Symposium and the “Montreux” Agenda
3. The Beijing Program
4. Making It Happen
1. Why a Global Symposium on HSR?
Key Recommendations:

- Mobilize a high profile agenda of research and learning
- Engage decision-makers in shaping the agenda
- Strengthen country capacity backed regionally and globally
- Increase finance
Recommendation 3.5

• “that WHO and other partners, host a global symposium on health systems research in 2010”.

• “the symposium would bring together the diverse research constituencies, share state-of-the-art findings, propose agendas for priority research, building capacity and the development of the field, as well as agree on mechanisms of ongoing association such as communities of practice”.
Systems research falling short too often
(Peters, Saharty and Siadat 2009)

- lacking taxonomic and conceptual rigor
  - same terms used to describe different reforms
- systemic weaknesses in methods/designs
  - From inference, to plausibility, to probability and explanatory study designs
- weak measures – from inputs to outputs to outcomes
- problems related to "generalizability" in various contexts...
- lack of standards for assessing the strength of evidence
- limited understanding of needs of decision-makers related to "evidence" on what works (and what doesn’t!).
Short-comings increasingly visible against gold standards in clinical evidence...

- taxonomies
  - ICD, SNOMED
- hierarchy of methods
- strength of evidence
  - GRADE, EPOC
- standards for research synthesis
Seizing Opportunities

• Growing demand from policy-makers for systems evidence

• Convergence towards a common set of knowledge/know-how issues emerging from diverse contexts and constituencies

• Value of Joint and continued learning
  – Sharing experience
  – Cross-country comparative analysis

• Frontier agenda of global public goods for HSR
  – Terms and taxonomies
  – Methods and measures

• Accelerating the strengthening of research capacities
Developing and reviewing “new” methods
2. The 1st Global Symposium and the “Montreux” Agenda
First global symposium on health systems research
Science to accelerate universal health coverage

16-19 November 2010, Montreux, Switzerland

No other US$ 5 trillion economic sector would be happy with so little investment in research related to its core agenda: the reduction of health inequalities; the organization of people-centred care; and the development of better, more effective public policies. — The world health report 2008

Mark your calendar now – the World Health Organization and partners will convene the inaugural global symposium on health systems research on 16–19 November 2010. Researchers, policy makers, funders, and other stakeholders representing diverse constituencies will gather in Montreux, Switzerland to share evidence, identify significant knowledge gaps, and set a priority research agenda that reflects the needs that are common across low- and middle-income countries.
Guiding Definitions

• Universal Health Coverage (UHC):
  – Access for all according to need…to appropriate promotive, preventive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative services…with protection from individual/household financial hardship

• Health Systems Research (HSR):
  – Research that enables societies to organize themselves to improve health outcomes and better deliver health services
  – Focuses on the constituent parts of health systems and their interactions
  – Doesn’t include discovery, development or clinical effectiveness research related to new drugs, vaccines or diagnostics
Miles Davis

Don’t play what’s there, play what’s not there”
Montreux Statement

• Establish a “society for HSR” linked to “science to accelerate UHC” to build credibility, constituency and capacity;

• Advocate an agenda of “improvement” and “action” for HSR related to:
  – national/regional HSR;
  – global priorities i.e. MCH, NCDs;
  – common scientific foundations;
  – cross-country/disciplinary research opportunities;

• Convene a 2nd Global Symposium for HSR in 2-3 years
3. The Beijing Program
Symposium's Objectives

• Share state of the art research on a high profile area of HSR i.e. Universal Health Coverage

• Strengthen scientific rigor including conceptual frameworks, taxonomies, measures and methods

• Facilitate greater HSR collaboration and learning across disciplines, sectors, initiatives and countries

• Identify mechanisms for strengthening capacities for HSR particularly in low and middle income countries
Focus on Universal Health Coverage

• Worrisome shortfalls in “Coverage”
  – Too low, inequitable, unsafe, impoverishing

• Policy relevance:
  – Focus of flagship reports and Member State resolutions
  – Post-MDG agenda
  – Mushroonming of ambitious reforms in countries

• Strategic entry point to field of health systems research:
  – financing, service delivery, governance, HRH, information, medicines etc.
Inclusion and Innovation

Second Global Symposium
HEALTH SYSTEM RESEARCH
The Program Menu

- Concurrent Sessions
- Films
- Lightening Talks
- Plenaries
- Posters
- Satellites
- Workshops
WHO Strategy on HPSR

- 1st Global Strategy on HPSR (launch 1 November)
- Responds to call from 1st Global Symposium on HSR
- Embedding of research and policy/decision making
- HS Global Founded! members> 1200!
- Vote! Board elections close 1 Nov, 23.59
  
  HS Global’s Marketplace stand
- First General Assembly on 3 Nov. at 7.45
- Official launch of HS Global on 3 Nov. at 13.00 in the Grand Hall—come join us!
- Rep of the new Board will speak at the closing plenary
The Beijing Statement

• A statement of action steps moving forward
• Reflecting the objectives, themes and outcomes of the Symposium
• Concurrent sessions to provide suggestions on actions
  – “volunteers” facilitated by Ravi and Sharmila
• Statement to be read in the closing plenary
Symposium Evaluation

• Give us your feedback on Friday & Saturday:
  – 10 minute interviews (CN/EN)
  – Anonymous survey form (EN)
    • In print
    • Online

• Enter to win an Amazon Kindle
4. Making it Happen
Councils and Committees

• Council of Deans
  – 6 distinguished leaders in HSR from 6 WHO regions provided guidance to the Symposium program

• Scientific Committee
  – 200 global experts who assisted in peer review and program design

• Steering Committee
  – 35 members (major sponsors, core organizers and partners) who assisted secretariat with overall strategic development of the Symposium

• Executive Committee
  – 6 members of Steering Committee providing guidance to secretariat reporting to Steering Committee
Host and Co-Sponsors

• Hosts
  – Peking University Health Sciences Centre

• Co-sponsors
  – Ministry of Health, Government of China
  – Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research
  – James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University at icddr,b
  – TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases
  – World Health Organization
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HEALTH SYSTEM RESEARCH

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Brazilian Government
Over 1800 participants from 120 countries!
A Stellar Secretariat!