Hang Out with the Teaching and Learning Thematic Working Group at the symposium in Liverpool

The Health Systems Global Teaching and Learning Thematic Working Group (T&L TWG) will be hosting various activities at the 5th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research in Liverpool. The activities include a skills building clinic, HPSR competency development and consolidation workshop, and business meeting. We will also have a stall in the marketplace to talk face-to-face about all your questions and comments.

**Monday, October 8, 2018**: Satellite/Skills Building Session/Clinic: Strengthening Capacity for Teaching and Learning in HPSR: Practical Issues for Educators and Learners. 8:00am -12:00noon in Exhibition Centre Room 24.

The **Skills Building Session** has the aim of engaging everyone interested in teaching, learning and capacity building in HPSR. We encourage members and non-members of the T&L TWG to participate in the activities that will promote collective engagement, networking, and real opportunities to discuss issues affecting the routine activities of HPSR instructors and practitioners.

The “clinic” will also create a space for open engagement and mutual work to identify steps towards building capacity for advancing health systems for all. It will encourage the building of relationships with a broader learning community of practice to develop HPSR teaching and learning. Experienced educators, practitioners and researchers will lead interesting round-table discussions:

- Dr Nikki Schaay, School of Public Health, University of the Western Cape, South Africa will lead *Educating educators of HPSR*. The purpose of this theme is to
explore the competencies, resources and knowledge required to educate/train those interested in teaching HPSR to enable them to be responsive and innovative in dealing with learners and critical issues.

• Dr Jacinta Nzinga, Health Systems Division, Kemri Wellcome Trust, Kenya will lead *Leadership development and reflective practice in HPSR*. This theme will address fundamental issues around leadership capacity building in HPSR for leaders, practitioners, policymakers and researchers to enable them to anticipate and respond to challenges in their countries.

• Dr Leanne Brady, School of Public Health and Family Medicine, University of Cape Town, South Africa will discuss *Using audio-visual aids in teaching and learning HPSR*. This theme will be activity-packed and explore the trends, significance and multiple resources available for using audio-visual aids in teaching HPSR and the presentation of research findings.

• Dr Venus Oliva Cloma-Rosales, 101 Health Research, Philippines will cover *How to support each other for the teaching and learning of HPSR*. This discussion is an exploration of the various ways that educators of HPSR could support each other through, for example, networking, shared resources, and community of practices; and the concrete steps towards their realisation at country, regional and global level.

• Dr Meike Schleiff, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA will talk about *Educational research for HPSR field building*. Research is fundamental to evidence and practice and engaging in educational research is essential for building the field of HPSR. Engage in this discussion to build a consortium of people and institutions with similar interests to engage in educational research.

• Dr Dina Balabanova, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK will lead on *Syllabi and course materials development and pedagogy approaches for teaching and learning HPSR*. One of the challenges facing educators the world over is the appropriateness of their curriculum to enable them to develop the right competencies required by their learners. This discussion is a great platform for exploring the appropriate ways to address these issues.

When it comes to topics such as educating the educators, the resources we use in our teaching and the appropriateness of our curricula, one potential challenge is to ensure that we meet the needs of new generations of students; students who belong to a different generation.

**Read more below:** Francisco Oviedo Gomez, co-chair of the T&L TWG reflects on his experience with the generational gap between educator and students, and how this links to the work of the T&L TWG.
At the end of 2017, a colleague who is the dean of a faculty of medicine in my country asked if I would be interested in teaching a new course about social determinants of health for undergraduate students of medicine, nursing and dentistry.

I have been working as a teacher at several universities for almost 8 years now, but always at graduate level in master’s and specialization courses. I gladly accepted my colleague’s offer because I thought it would be a nice challenge to teach undergraduate students – a group I had not taught before. Truth be told, my expectations were dashed on the very first day of class.

When I entered the classroom at the beginning of the semester, I was shocked when I saw all those very young faces. I did the math: the clear majority of them were 17-18 years old, meaning that almost all of them had been born in the 21st century. I still consider myself a young person, but I must confess that was the first time I felt the generational gap - for the first time I was perceived as someone “from the past century”.

As the weeks passed, it became more and more evident that my usual teaching methods and activities were not the best choice for these young people’s needs and learning expectations. At the end of this course, I was not satisfied my performance. Far from discouraging me, this experience motivated me to learn more and grow as a teacher, especially since a few years from now “21st-centurians” will be the rule, not the exception, in classrooms, even for graduate programmes.

As an emerging area, health policy and systems research (HPSR) aims to help societies address often-complex health challenges and reach shared goals. It brings together multiple disciplines and a range of methodologies to answer complex questions about how health systems are shaped by and can shape policies and underlying health determinants.

Currently, many international institutions are increasingly recognizing the importance of developing HPSR capacity to support health systems. We must move forward on identifying opportunities and gaps in our current models of teaching and learning HSPR worldwide so that we can adapt them to the needs of new generations and give the field its own identity, not confusing it with areas such as global or public health.

Since 2012, the T&L TWG has provided leadership in mapping available training, expanding training opportunities globally and identifying gaps — across geographic locations, languages, topic areas, and target audiences — and opportunities for addressing these.

In this context, I cannot help but wonder how we can make sure that teaching is designed to match the expectations of new, 21st century cohorts of students, in order to achieve the reality, as Plutarch once said, that “the mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled”. As teachers, we have an important responsibility to make this so for our students.

If you would like to get involved in the work of our TWG, please join our Google Group listserv (twg-tl@googlegroups.com) and our activities at the symposium in Liverpool.

If you are interested in finding HPSR training opportunities, or you are developing a course and interested in finding the right person with expertise in a particular topic, you will find in our group the best platform to do this.
The business meeting has always been an interesting activity, especially in terms of setting the agenda for subsequent years and assessing previous years. Since the 2016 Global Symposium in Vancouver, we have strengthened our regional champion activities and engagement, we are busy finalizing a competency framework for HPSR, and we have launched our Google group for your participation and regular updates. We have started a blog to enable us to share experiences on teaching and learning across the globe. We encourage you to join us for this exciting agenda setting opportunity and retrospective review.

This session aims to advance thinking and practice related to a set of core competencies for HPSR. Through a consultative, iterative research process, a global set of core competencies for the field of HPSR has been developed. These competencies will be presented along with a set of diverse cases of processes for competency development and use from around the world.

This session will provide a forum for discussion and will hopefully lead to additional opportunities for more institutions to adapt and use HPSR competencies. It will also offer a structured opportunity to raise awareness of the new set of global core competencies for HPSR, as well as to showcase the diversity of environments and processes within which they can be used to inform HPSR curricula.

The presentation of the core competencies and cases will be led by:

- Dina Balabanova, Department of Global Health & Development, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK
- Meike Schleiff, Department of International Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA
Participate in our activities

Visit any of our activities, engage and share experience with people passionate about HPSR teaching and learning across the world. These activities are particularly useful for institutions that are actively engaging in HPSR capacity building activities and emerging institutions and practitioners.

Also, come network with our regional champions from Africa, Latin America, Europe, South East Asia, the Eastern Mediterranean, and Western Pacific. If you want to lead representations in the North America region or a specific country in the region, speak with us and network for support at Liverpool.

This is also an opportunity to get to know what is happening in your continent as well as across the globe in HPSR teaching and learning. Representatives from the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research and WHO with specific interest in teaching and learning in HPSR will hopefully join our activities and broaden the engagement in future.

Be part of the Teaching and Learning Thematic Working Group now and network for HPSR!

Gina Teddy, co-chair of the T&L TWG, and Meike Schleiff, coordinator of the T&L TWG