

Geneva Health Forum 2016, Day 2, 20th April 2016

Summary of Sessions and Debates

The IT revolution was the topic of the morning plenary session and covered how the emerging fourth industrial revolution can be of benefit to the health sector. The access of telemedicine is used to transcend transnational boundaries and improve the health services. Moreover, the mobile applications and the ease of access to data through Internet have established the new concept of digital epidemiology. However, this emerging innovation carries its own challenges in terms of data governance, privacy and accountability. Therefore a global framework is needed to deal with all ethical aspects in handling this new era of big data.

The parallel morning sessions covered several topics that nevertheless shared one vision of promoting efficient care to specific overlooked situations. The first one covered neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) and the strategies to promote access to care of these populations. While various NTDs were covered, the approaches were similar in targeting different elements at the same time and not focusing only on finding a sensitive diagnostic tool or an efficient drug. These elements are – along with treatment and diagnosis – part of a more comprehensive framework that includes transport systems, monitoring tools and national political advocacies. The second parallel session focused on pediatric death and how small-scale innovative techniques can lead to big improvements in neonatal care. Discussed were the three keys to saving infants' lives: thermoregulation, and breathing which are all inexpensive and proven to be efficient in reducing mortality. Skin-to-skin care is another procedure to prevent neonatal mortality especially in low resource settings. Education and training, along with an interdisciplinary approach are the means to ensure the success of these techniques. Another parallel session focused on the importance of community-based interventions in transitional countries to improve the healthcare system. Community health workers are the first point of contact and can contribute, if well-trained, to reducing the disease burden of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and cancer by offering screening and first-line treatment when possible. Countries should invest more rigorously in this sector in order to enable hospitals to focus more on other intensive treatments and thus help their health systems to achieve their maximum potential. In the same perspective of empowering health care professionals, a parallel session tackled the profession of nurses and focused on the increasing importance of nurses' role to cope with the shifts in the burden of diseases. In order to promote this autonomy, education curriculum should cover more intensively public health and primary care issues, and political institutions should empower nurses' roles in health care regulations. In the World Health Summit, the rising migration issue and the health challenges that migrants face were discussed. The need of innovative strategies to handle migrant's health issues was identified. The opening exhibition of "Tomorrow's affordable hospital" was a highlight of the morning, displaying more than 60 low-cost and high-tech innovations, along with eHealth, which are now available on the market for healthcare systems and other related organizations.

During the lunch sessions, WAMBO presented its online platform that gathers suppliers and buyers, especially developing countries in order to offer global public health products at competitive prices while respecting transparency. SANOFI led a discussion on ways to combat mental illness especially in low- and middle-income countries, and presented the progress achieved in Guatemala in this regard. The ongoing exhibition of "Tomorrow's affordable hospital" continued to draw the large

attention of the public.

The second plenary session of the day focused on a new innovative approach to current emergencies. The first part was a very touching overview on the work of Panzi hospital in Bunkavu with women victims of violent rapes. The hospital is a prime example of the importance of holistic approach to health when working with victims of violence as it delivers – in addition to traditional clinical and psychological services – social and legal assistance as part of patients’ rehabilitation. The second part focused on the difficulties and challenges encountered in Syria and it was claimed that suitable health innovations are still possible in war zones, such as creating treatment facilities in caves or underground. In the last part, the mental health consequences of voluntary migration were highlighted which encourage health professionals to be sensitive when treating migrants with different cultures.

After a coffee break, participants were invited to several workshops (ref. Highlights Day 3 for the Recommendations). Experts gathered over the past 6 months to review the current state-of-the art in various current Global Health Issues, presenting current questions and discuss their draft recommendations. These 11 parallel sessions covered the following topics: new hospitals’ architecture and costs; the challenges of access to treatment and vaccines; diagnostic tools and treatment for both mental health and childhood cancer; distance learning for Health Care Workers (HCWs); social innovation diagnosis; the use metrics and data in achieving SDG #2, access to UHC; data sharing with LMICs; high quality and low cost health care, and defining academic global health. The findings of the discussions will further feed into the recommendations of the Forum and publications as a contribution to move the global health agenda forward.

The second day ended with an evening celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Geneva Health Forum (2006-2016) to exchange on “Health Innovation for All.”.

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- More details available in the **Highlights of Day 2**, and the **Geneva Health Journal No. 3**