



Latin American and Caribbean HSG Pre-Conferences on Health Systems Research

Advancing health systems for
all in the Sustainable
Development Goals (SDG) era

St Augustine
Trinidad and Tobago
January 22nd, 2018

Call for abstracts

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Co-sponsors



UNIVERSITY of GUYANA



Background

The [Alma Ata vision](#) of 'Health for All' remains as compelling today as it was in 1978, as reflected in goal 3 of the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). But the world has changed in forty years. Despite improved health outcomes, **there remain extraordinary challenges for health equity and social inclusion**, such as demographic and disease transitions, conflicts and their subsequent migrations, pluralistic health systems and markets, and climate change. Political systems still marginalize those most in need. Yet there are new opportunities for health systems [to achieve universal coverage](#).

The [Fifth Global Symposium](#) will advance conversations and collaborations on new ways of financing health; delivering services; and engaging the health workforce, new social and political alliances, and new applications of technologies to promote health for all.

The organization of a [cycle of Pre-Congresses in the Americas](#) is motivated by the need to have a [Latin American and Caribbean perspective](#) on the analysis and the implementation of health systems and services, providing a perspective of its own, and transmitting to the world the experiences of research and management in the region.

The purpose of these events is twofold: on the one hand, **to generate a space for local exchange** on the most relevant experiences and transformative visions, which will fuel a necessary debate on health systems. Secondly, we will try [to support the selected papers for this pre-conference in the presentation of their summaries at the Fifth Symposium of the Global Health System](#) to be held in Liverpool.

With the purpose of **bringing together researchers and policymakers in health of Latin America and the Caribbean** working on issues related to health systems in the region, the proposal for this pre-conference implies:

- To promote the **exchange of experiences** in a meeting of researchers and policymakers around **interdisciplinary discussion tables**.
- **To stimulate the presentation of works** by Latin American and Caribbean authors in the Open Call of the Global Symposium in March 2018.
- **To strengthen the Latin American and Caribbean presence of studies on health systems and policies in the symposium.**

Also, those summaries that are selected in the call of Liverpool and have participated in one of the regional pre-conference conferences, [will have the possibility to be eligible for one of the ten complete grants offered by the Pan-American organization of Health to attend the symposium in the United Kingdom.](#)

Expecting to see you in St Augustine

Daniel Maceira, PhD.
Executive Board Member of Health Systems Global
Representing the Americas



Themes

The SDGs as a stimulus for renewed cross-sectoral action

During a period in which global advances are threatened by climate change, faltering aid commitments, and tightening of borders, the SDGs remind us that human progress relies on cross-sectoral action. There is a need for health systems to look beyond the provision of care, and act on the complex social, political, environmental and economic determinants of health. Such multi-sectoral action will be essential to address such diverse challenges as emerging infections, chronic conditions, and the mass movement of people. But such progress requires new ways of working across disease programs and across sectors, and new mechanisms of governance to support this. **How can our approach to health systems help us work across sectors to achieve shared goals of social development?**

Polemic and pragmatism: engaging the private sector in moving towards universal health coverage

The Alma Ata vision was premised mostly on the idea of publicly funded health systems providing health care for all. Little thought was given to the role of private sector providers (both not-for-profit and for-profit). Yet, forty years later, billions of people continue to seek care from the private sector, which is highly heterogeneous, often weakly regulated and poorly linked to the rest of the health system. And the private sector is evolving quickly, in response to the gaps left by the public sector and the opportunities for trade and investment. There is significant opposition to the role of the private sector in providing healthcare; yet the private sector can be a source of innovation, additional resources and services that are more responsive to the needs of health service users. **How best should the movement for universal health coverage consider the role of the private sector in delivering and financing health care?**

Leaving no one behind: health systems that deliver for all

Health systems not only provide access to essential services, but also form the backbone of social protection. This was part of the vision for the UK National Health Service, celebrating its 70th anniversary in 2018; and more broadly for universal health coverage which emphasises both financial protection and service coverage. Yet many slip through the health system safety net. These include those affected by conflict and humanitarian crisis; migrants whose entitlements to coverage are not assured; and those who because of their gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or other characteristics, are excluded. Financing of services for these marginalized populations is precarious – because of economic austerity and budget cuts; poor integration with the rest of health system financing; or dependence on external sources. And service delivery often relies on a poorly coordinated patchwork of public, NGO and private providers. **How can health systems be mobilized to form the backbone of social protection for vulnerable groups?**



Community health systems – where community needs are located, but often the invisible level of health systems

Alma Ata emphasized the importance of health services close to where people live, and of community participation. Forty years later, health systems are struggling with changes in society and communities brought about by urbanization and other demographic changes, and efforts to strengthen health systems often ignore the role of communities. Issues such as community mobilization, civil society engagement and the appropriate role of community health workers remain as relevant now as in 1978 – fundamental to effective primary care, but also to tackling both the burgeoning demands of chronic diseases as well as the renewed threats of pandemic infectious diseases. Community-led and participatory governance is also important not just to achieve immediate health outcomes, but also in strengthening health systems and their accountability to the populations they serve. **How should health systems engage communities to achieve universal coverage?**

Abstract Submission

Important dates

Closing date abstract submission: **December 22nd, 2017**
Results communication: **December 30th, 2017**
Pre-Conference in Trinidad: **January 22nd, 2018**

Abstracts must include

- Title
- Last, first name of authors, presenter author and institutional affiliation
- E-mail address presenter author
- Length 350 words, including: Motivation/Objective/Methods/Results/Policy Implications

Abstracts submission to: hsgpreconf.caribbean@gmail.com

**Participation is free and open.
HSG will provide certificates to presenters and participants.**

For more information about the
V Global Symposium:
<http://healthsystemsresearch.org/hsr2018/>

