

LERU-EGHRIN Global Health Town Hall Meeting

Healthy people, healthy societies: an integrated approach

June 13 – 14, 2022

UB Historic Building. Aula Magna.

Universitat de Barcelona, Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes, 585, 08007 Barcelona, Spain

Monday, June 13

*Day chair: **Pancras Hogendoorn** (LERU, Leiden University)*

10:00-10:30 *Welcome coffee*

Plenary session

10:30-10:45 Opening speeches by organisers

- **Joan Guàrdia**, Rector, University of Barcelona
- **Kurt Deketelaere**, Secretary-General, LERU
- **Antoni Plasència**, Chair of EGHRIN

10:45-11:45 *Plenary Session with **Soumya Swaminathan**, WHO Chief Scientist, followed by Q&A*

Theme 1 - Healthy and sustainable societies

11:45-12:15 *Keynote speech, by **Shabbar Jaffar**, University College London (UCL)*

12:15-13:00 Panel discussion, moderated by **Pedro Alonso**, University of Barcelona

- Health promotion and prevention for non-communicable diseases and mental health - by **Thomas G. Schulze**, LMU Munich
- Strategies against poverty-related diseases - by **Meta Roestenberg**, Leiden University
- Preparedness for and response to health emergencies and pandemics, health system and societal resilience - by **Judit Vall Castelló**, University of Barcelona
- Health in relation to the environment - by **Cathryn Tonne**, Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal)

13:00-14:00 *Lunch break*

Theme 2 - Equitable Access to Health

14:00-14:30 *Keynote speech by **Tamás Evetovits**, Head of WHO Barcelona Office*

14:30-15:15 Panel discussion, moderated by **Jolene Skordis**, University College London (UCL)

- Equity in health services, financing and governance - by **Benedict Oppong Asamoah**, Lund University
- Social protection and Universal Health Coverage - by **Fabrizio Tediosi**, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (TPH)
- Primary health care and health systems strengthening - by **Jeffrey Lazarus**, University of Barcelona
- Equity in access to drugs, vaccines and diagnostics - by **Anniek de Ruijter**, University of Amsterdam

15:15-16:00 **Breakout session theme 1** **Breakout session theme 2**

16:00-16:15 *Coffee break*

16:15-17:00 **Breakout session theme 1** **Breakout session theme 2**

17:00-17:30 Reporting Breakouts Themes 1 & 2 and Wrap up Day 1

20:00-21:30 **Dinner, at the Central Garden of the UB Historic Building.**
*Keynote speech by **Xavier Prats Monné**, former Director-General of the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (2015–2018) and Director-General at the Directorate-General for Education and Culture (2014–2015). President of the health working group at the Institute Jacques Delors.*

Tuesday, June 14

Day chair: **Till Bärnighausen**, Heidelberg University

Theme 3 - Health communication and miscommunication

8:30-9:00	Keynote speech by Marc Van Ranst , KU Leuven
9:00-9:45	Panel discussion, moderated by Julia van Weert , University of Amsterdam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health communication, use of social media in health - by Claudia Pagliari, Edinburgh University - Health literacy - by Lies Sercu, KU Leuven - Political Dimensions of health - by Ana Antic, University of Copenhagen - Science diplomacy, vaccine hesitancy – by Antoni Trilla, University of Barcelona

Theme 4 - Information Technologies for Health

9:45-10:15	Keynote speech by Ana Fernández del Río , benshi.ai
10:15-10:45	Coffee break
10:45-11:30	Panel discussion, moderated by Kerstin Klipstein-Grobusch , Utrecht University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open data access, fair data, health information systems - by Mirjam van Reisen, Leiden University - Artificial intelligence; decision support systems - by José Balibrea, Hospital Clínic de Barcelona-University of Barcelona - Digital health, co-creation - by Andrea Evers, Leiden University
11:30-13:00	Breakout session theme 3 Breakout session theme 4
13:00-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-14:30	Reporting Breakouts Themes 3 & 4 and Wrap up Day 2
14:30-15:00	Conclusions and next steps

BACKGROUND

COVID-19 has contributed to revisiting and redefining the Global Health research and innovation agenda in two ways. First by highlighting the main health priorities/issues to be addressed globally in the post-pandemic era, but second also by showing what the impact of the pandemic has been on other health issues and in terms of preparedness and response, equitable access to health and keeping healthy populations at all levels. Moreover, no one can deny the impact that the pandemic has had globally in non-health related sectors like the economy, global trade, political stability, etc.

LERU in collaboration with EGHRIN (and member universities/institutions) have jointly identified:

- The need and relevance of this Global Health research agenda for Europe and beyond
- The multi-, inter- and trans-disciplinary dimensions of this research agenda
- The potential for interdisciplinary collaborative research
- The potential for working across borders (also with the *Global South*)
- The potential for linking this research agenda to higher education
- The added opportunities for Global Health beyond research and education: innovation & translation
- The potential for funding across EU and other instruments

MAIN THEMES FOR DISCUSSION

We propose four themes, each meant to encompass various scientific disciplines (e.g., Social Sciences, Biomedical Sciences, Economics, Ethics and Law, Political Sciences; Natural Sciences, Behavioural Sciences) across various health-related dimensions. Learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic and societal preparedness for the next global health emergency are central to each theme.

1. Healthy and sustainable societies

This theme is about studying, improving and maintaining health of and in societies in relation to sustainability in a global context.

Subthemes:

- health promotion and prevention for non-communicable diseases and mental health
- strategies against poverty-related diseases;
- preparedness for and response to health emergencies and pandemics, health system and societal resilience;

- health in relation to the environment: One Health, Planetary Health, climate & health and ecology, biodiversity & health; contribution of human health to sustainable development.

2. Equitable Access to Health

This theme relates to studying, improving and sustaining access to quality health care and prevention globally in an equitable way.

Subthemes:

- equity in health services, financing and governance;
- social protection and Universal Health Coverage;
- primary health care and health systems strengthening;
- equity in access to drugs, vaccines and diagnostics.

3. Health communication and miscommunication

This theme is about studying, improving and sustaining communication to support health, but also to understanding and addressing miscommunication that undermines people's health in global context.

Subthemes:

- health communication, use of social media in health;
- health literacy;
- political dimensions of health;
- science diplomacy, vaccine hesitancy.

4. Information Technologies for Health

This theme is cross-cutting, relating to the use of information technology in support of any of the other themes above.

Subthemes:

- digital health, co-creation;
- open data access, FAIR data, health information systems
- artificial intelligence; decision support systems;
- data ownership, privacy and ethics.