

Building a strong collaboration across sectors and players to achieve sustainable health and equity outcome

18th Annual Briefing of the Alliance, rue Varembe 1, Geneva

Tuesday 19th May 17:00-19:00

Introduction by the Chair - Luc Besançon

Dr Eugenio Villar, WHO Coordinator for Social Determinants of Health

- Extended apologies from Dr Maria Neira, WHO Director who had conflicting meetings and was not able to come
- The Social Determinants of Health (SDH) and health promotion are converging as they are both closely related.
- Multi-stakeholder involvement is important and multisectoral action is required to reduce health inequity. There is an explosion of health inequities worldwide. Inequalities in society have increased substantially.
- Health is a consequence of where we live. Landmark report on SDH states that the conditions of living in society are polarised.
- The WHO is advocating strongly for universal health coverage (UHC) but this will not reduce health inequity alone. To address SDH we need to involve different sectors and we need to include the economy.
- Public policy can only be successful if it involves all stakeholders. WHO is ensuring UHC and working on intersectoral action for health

Dr John Downes-Life University

- New member of the A4HP Board and their global initiative is the same throughout the world. Has the largest chiropractic programme in the world.
- Better sanitation and health goes a long way. Patients require care but have no ability to pay for it.
- New clinic provides basic healthcare services to the local community. Works with Ghanaian ministry of health to put together healthcare coverage. Hopes to change the concept of sanitation in Ghana.
- Costa Rica has a 98% literacy rate and Life University gives healthcare presentations to local communities
- China has an ageing population which will be a major pressure on their government. The university is working closely with the top university in China, Tsinghua University, to provide a chiropractic service.
- Life University seeks and builds sustainable partnerships for healthcare and education.

Professor Elizabeth Cherian Paramesh-CAMHADD

- Believes in promoting self-responsibility for health.
- Promotes health education in schools as children can spread messages better
- During a previous outbreak of dengue in India, CAMHADD encouraged blood donation to help treat people
- Immunise children against polio, a vaccine-preventable disease
- Promote the use of sanitary napkins to help prevent infection and reduce genitourinary tract infections
- Distribute books and materials to children in orphanages

- Children bring solar lamps to school to charge them and take them back home to study
- Exam results have improved by 60% and they provide leadership training to students
- Aim to challenge illiteracy

Pedro Correia de Miranda, Liaison Officer to the World Health Organization - IFMSA

- WHO is making an effort to involve all sectors including students.
- Encourages us to ‘think global and act locally’
- A4HP also tries to bring many students together
- In Angela Merkel’s opening speech she mentioned about working together and not against each other.
- Health inequities are due to the policy level and the time has come for change.
- Need a Health in All Policies perspective
- Youth pre-WHA enabled medical students to get involved. Knowledge of Ebola was poor even though it first occurred 40 years ago.

Parand Akhavan- President of IPSF

- IPSF tries to engage with its members to inform them about key issues.
- Small acts such as distributing information on antimicrobial resistance and blood donations can go a long way.
- Through public health awareness we can educate members and make them aware.
- We are the future so if we don’t act then why should anyone else.
- If we are committed to these issues then our members will be also.
- WHA shows members what they should be doing in their societies. It has enabled students to think about how they can contribute to the Ebola response.

Dr John Downes added that without being uncomfortable with a situation there is no tipping point. Prof Elizabeth Cherian Paramesh stated that we need to focus on the community and get out of our comfort zones. We need to focus on the community’s needs and we need to bring the global network together to work with society. Democracy works with other stakeholders.

Question and Answer Session responses

Pedro stated that we need to look at the training of medical students and the use of technology in developing countries. Training to be tailored to a specific country. For example, in developed countries students rely a lot on technology whereas in developing countries students require training on how to use a CT machine.

How can we get people in the local community out of their comfort zone?

Dr Charles Senessie, AEMRN President mentioned that you have to study the community and accept their culture, their way of living. You need to respect the culture in order to integrate and find out how you can bring added value. Also, it is important to determine what you can and cannot do. Legislation needs to be put in place as it goes a step further and holds a state accountable. Community presentation is required.

Yasmin Osei-Koffour
IPSF, former A4HP intern