

Declaration

Insights from the World Healthcare Forum: Shaping the Future of Healthcare

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The following insights were generated from 76 presentations at the 2016 World Healthcare Forum. Action points are organized into five general categories;

- Patient's Journey: Health and Wellness for All
- Business
- Technology and Innovation
- Global Public Health
- Healthcare System Sustainability

This declaration draft was formulated and presented by an international body of young professionals (below) under the direction and leadership of Dr. John Finnegan, Dean of the University of Minnesota School of Public Health.



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Patient's Journey: Health and Wellness for All

The rise of patient-centered medicine has implications for healthcare delivery and individual responsibility. It promises to empower patients to be active consumers of healthcare, helping them determine when they are sick and enabling them to have a role in personal medical decisions. However, governments can also use this “empowerment” as justification for pushing responsibility for healthcare onto patients. Ultimately, a successful patient journey requires a delicate and deliberate balance: governments must provide the necessary tools and systems that foster patient autonomy while also guaranteeing support. This involves improving transparency of pricing and outcomes as well as improving quality of care by adhering to evidence-based practices.

We must also remember that healthcare is just one determinant of health, and that the patient journey encompasses factors like education, nutrition, and safety. Governments have a responsibility to provide these services at high quality. This is critical to creating an environment that does not simply burden patients with more responsibility, but truly makes them capable of improving their own health. Individuals cannot ignore their personal responsibility to live a healthy lifestyle, but this can only take place when governments provide proper care and support.

Therefore, the World Healthcare Forum calls for the following:

1. Design and refine healthcare systems that empower communities’ and societies’ engagement to improve and sustain their health and wellness.
2. Promote and facilitate individuals’ self-management and personal responsibility for their health and wellness.
3. Implement system-wide value-based, patient-centered, and evidence-based healthcare.
4. Improve integration and coordination, which will improve transparency of healthcare outcomes.
5. Build and implement a culture of healthy nutrition in the education of children.

Business

Healthcare has transformed to the status of a marketplace in many parts of the western world. As in any modern market-based economy, goods and services are produced and exchanged under the constraints of supply and demand. The market approach promises to make our healthcare delivery more efficient. However, healthcare is not a normal good. It is a human right and all people deserve access to it regardless of their wealth. Businesses have a responsibility to recognize these two (often times contradictory) goals as they navigate the healthcare market.

Market mechanisms are critical to ensuring a sustainable level of healthcare spending that maximizes efficiency. As healthcare expenditures continue to rise as a share of GDP in most countries, many stakeholders stress the need to cease the spending growth. Healthcare competes with other sectors like education and defense for public investment. An extra dollar spent on healthcare means a dollar less spent on education. This intensifies the need to slow

and ultimately stop healthcare spending from growing faster than GDP. It also demands that every dollar spent on healthcare is spent as efficiently as possible.

We, the members of the World Healthcare Forum, call for a paradigm shift in our healthcare systems. The role of business is not to be underrated for establishing this shift. We believe that true change can follow when we:

1. Take on the challenge of incorporating a business paradigm shift in our current healthcare systems to ensure efficiency, reducing costs and improving quality.
2. Use disruptive technologies to help focus on prevention as well as treating illness.
3. Shift our focus to recognize that health and wellbeing are about more than healthcare but about the conditions that form our health in the first place.
4. Health care of the future must utilize approaches to innovative models for high quality-low cost care, including increased emphasis on outpatient services.

Global Public Health

Diseases do not respect boundaries and spread worldwide. Clearly, the health of each of us increasingly depends on the health of others. Health is closely linked with economic and social development in an increasingly interdependent world. Moreover, the health and well-being of people everywhere have important implications for global security and freedom. These are some of the critical reasons why we should care about the health of other people and why global public health is of great importance. Over the last fifty years, the world has made significant progress in improving human health. However, the nature of the global health yields new challenges that can only be faced by different actors working together. Advancements in the 19th and 20th centuries enabled us to combat life-threatening diseases. Antibiotics have saved millions of lives. But the war against bacteria is far from won. The widespread use of antibiotics is rapidly increasing resistance. By 2050, 10 million people will be at risk of antibiotic resistant infections.

Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) represent a significant health burden for many countries in the developing world. Currently, there are 17 NTDs prioritized by the World Health Organization (WHO). These NTDs are endemic in 149 countries and affect an estimated 1.4 billion of the world's poorest people, trapping them in a persistent, vicious cycle of poor health, disability, and poverty. The word_pandemic_comes from the Greek_pandemos meaning "pertaining to all people." Indeed, this is a global problem. Vaccination will likely be part of a multi-faceted public health response to the future emergence of a pandemic illness. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing manufacturing problem in the vaccine pipeline, only one quarter of the global population will have access to vaccines in the following years. Last but not least, disasters--both natural and human-instigated--produce long-term problems pertaining to recovery and rehabilitation. They often overwhelm the capacity of the community, its resources and infrastructure. Disasters produce death, injury and disability.

Therefore, WHF calls on countries to undertake the following actions:

1. We need to offer better incentives to promote investment in the development of new drugs and to improve existing ones, especially antibiotics.
2. Better diagnostics and harnessing mobile technologies are needed to improve solutions for neglected tropical diseases.
3. The world needs to develop a network for vaccine production in developing countries in order to decrease the response time to pandemics.
4. Successful response to disasters requires awareness, solidarity, and training.
5. Antibiotics must be used carefully to curb the rise of resistance. This involves using rapid diagnostics to determine if antibiotics are indicated, developing new antibiotics, and implementing infection controls in hospitals.

Technology and Innovation

Innovation is the only engine capable of achieving the triple aim: higher quality care and better access at lower cost. Only through new technology can we push the frontiers of all three areas simultaneously. This is critical to extending quality years of life at sustainable levels of healthcare expenditure. Harnessing synergies between advances in other fields and healthcare paves a way to achieve the triple aim. For example, artificial intelligence promises to uncover new insights by mining the increasingly vast swaths of medical data generated from genomics, wearables, embedded sensors, electronic health records, etc. But the exciting potential of innovation must be met with careful and thoughtful execution. Technology should be used to democratize medicine and promote equity; it should enable better health for all people regardless of income, race/ethnicity, education, gender, and age. Safety and security of technology, from procedures to pharmaceuticals to software, is essential.

Recognizing the promise of innovation and technology, the World Healthcare Forum calls for:

1. As vast volumes of data are collected, appropriate measures must be taken to ensure adequate security and privacy, while also taking advantage of data-sharing to eliminate wasteful, redundant tests.
2. Data and research findings must be open sourced to foster an environment where collaboration enables faster technological progress.
3. Before precision medicine can be widely implemented, clear value for money must be established in order to convince payers that it is a worthwhile investment.
4. To capture the promise of precision medicine, hospitals must hire appropriate analytics support staff such as biostatisticians and must properly educate clinicians on how to employ precision medicine.
5. Precision medicine also requires collaboration with different public and private stakeholders in order to ensure that diagnostics are integrated in treatment pathways and that hurdles, both financial and logistical, are eliminated.

Healthcare System Sustainability

Health is a fundamental human right recognized in at least 135 national constitutions. However, only a few countries specifically recognize access to essential medicines as part of the fulfilment of the right to health. Limited access to healthcare poses a significant barrier to long-term social and economic development around the world. Currently there are 2 billion people in the world who have no access to medicine. Inequities in access to medicines reflect failures in health systems and medical policy. In addition, with the global population projected to reach 9 billion by 2050 and with most of this growth occurring in developing countries, ensuring broad access to medicine and healthcare is a critical issue. Access to essential medicines is multifaceted, and responsibility for tackling it lies with many different actors - governments, NGOs, academia, pharmaceutical companies, finance institutions and multilateral organizations such as the WHO. Initiatives such as the Access to Medicine Index and the establishment of HTA evaluations in countries like Norway show the way. However, more can be done.

While affordability of treatments is paramount, prices must sufficiently incentivize innovation in the pharmaceutical industry to address existing and emerging diseases. Medical/payer communities and pharmaceutical companies are both struggling with trade-offs between local affordability and global economic realities. The future of healthcare is shaped by all stakeholders involved: clinicians, payers, insurers, providers, patients and policymakers.

Acknowledging the importance of Healthcare System Sustainability, the World Healthcare Forum calls for:

1. Access to basic healthcare is a right; it needs to be defined and known by countries around the world. Furthermore, we need to balance the cost of universal access and population growth and find ways to break the barriers of access. Public-private partnerships in data sharing, logistics, and continuous monitoring are potential solutions.
2. In order to usher in the future of healthcare, we must improve the relationship between cost, quality and access; praise innovation; advocate for transparency; and better utilize data.
3. Healthcare costs can come down while maintaining a high quality of care. Focus on higher quality can actually save money, and good collaboration and integrated-patient -empowerment are essential.
4. Payment reform should be undertaken to move away from Fee-For-Service to payment schemes that incentivize performance and efficiency.
5. Digital health is a valuable tool that should be used to reach the poorest people even in the most remote areas.