



GLOBALISATION AND HEALTHCARE: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

CoPMRE's Fifteenth Annual Symposium in October was opened by the BU's Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Tim McIntyre-Bhatty who gave a brief overview of BU 2025 strategy [BU2025: A New Vision](#) which identifies medical science as an area of investment.

The overarching idea of the globalisation and healthcare conference was to explore what a health and social care system could learn from abroad and what we here could contribute to overseas systems and the opportunities for research, education and commercial for BU and partners along societal benefits. An amazing keynote address was delivered by Ben Simms, CEO of Tropical Health Education Trust (THET) who set the scene stating that we live in unprecedented times with regards to inequality and climate change. It is reported that 8 individual billionaires own as much wealth as half of the world's population (Oxfam 2017) and 1 billion people in the world will not access a qualified health worker in their life! Economic nationalism and aid fatigue were identified as the main threats for global health. The importance of developing long term trusted partnerships was discussed and the crucial role of academic partnerships. Ben believes that we have reason to be optimistic for better healthcare for everyone if we strike the right balance and work with the right people.

Dr Waheed Arian, Founder and CEO of Arian TeleHeal <http://www.arianteleheal.com/> took us on a moving personal journey starting with his early years covering from bombs in Kabul, struggling to stay alive in a refugee camp in Peshawar, teaching himself English, arriving in the UK after his father sold their home to send him here, educating himself to finally studying medicine at Cambridge. His successes and story have been covered by



numerous media organisations around the world and has been recognised with the UN Global Hero Award in 2017. Arian TeleHeal, a pioneering telemedicine charity was founded by Dr Arian to provide world-class healthcare advice to doctors in war-torn countries using social media and other everyday technology by way of giving something back to those still suffering in his homeland. The audience were both humbled and inspired by his presentation.

Next, John Acres, Co-ordinator, who stood in for Dame Yvonne Moores, gave an overview of the work of the Wessex Global Health Network www.wessexghnetwork.org.uk whose aim is to help improve the health of people in Low and Middle Income Countries by disseminating and sharing knowledge, promoting educational and networking events and supporting people with a common interest. The Network includes local groups in Southampton Dorset and Winchester, special interest groups such as Refugee Health and Global Surgery and Global Health Fellows in Public Health and Primary Care. Inequalities between high and low income countries were discussed as well as the effectiveness of long term partnerships and opportunities for BU. The take home message was 'If you want to go fast - go alone; if you want to go far - go together'!

Following a coffee break and networking, a series of case studies showcased the magnificent global health work at BU. Professor Rob Middleton examined the effects of global hubs and highlighted the excellent collaborative work of ORI www.bournemouth.ac.uk/ori both internally, with NHS partners and external industry partners in Europe, North and South America. Professor Edwin van Teijlingen discussed BU health related projects in Nepal and explored issues around globalisation such as health risks due to increased global mobility as well as international inequalities which effect health policies and public health. Professor Anba Soopramanien, Consultant in Spinal Injuries and Rehabilitation Medicine gave an account on neurorehabilitation services in Mauritius www.neuram.org. The lack of post-acute care called for a more holistic approach to bridge the gap between acute care and community support. Potential for setting up a research centre linking renowned universities was discussed. The morning session ended with a lively debate around future direction.

After a networking lunch, our afternoon keynote speaker, Barb Jacobson, BIEN Co-ordinator <https://basicincome.org/>, introduced us to Universal Basic Income (UBI) where all adults receive a no-strings-attached sum from the state to cover the basic cost of living. The amount is paid to everyone, regardless of their employment status, wealth, marital status, or any other circumstances. It was argued that this ensures that nobody lives in poverty which will in turn have a positive effect on health and social wellbeing whilst freeing entrepreneurial instincts of the population. Small-scale trials have taken place around the world including Finland, Canada, the US, India and Namibia, each using different methods and delivering different results.



Toby Basey-Fisher, Co-Founder Entia Ltd <https://www.entia.co/> wowed us with a demonstration of Aptus, the world's first handheld portable device capable of rapidly calculating haematocrit and haemoglobin levels from a finger prick to quickly diagnose anaemia in patients around the globe. Haematocrit is the ratio of red blood cells to the total volume of blood. The product was developed in-house by medical technology firm Entia in London and supported with manufacturing by ITL Group. This product is a good example of how portable technological devices ensure better care for patients worldwide.

Next Dr Fleur Kitsell introduced us to the IGH (Improving Global Health) Programme which is a unique and innovative scheme run by the Thames Valley and Wessex Leadership Academy (TVWLA), Health Education England. It recruits volunteers from the NHS who are awarded a Fellowship and then complete a placement for 6 months working with an Overseas Partner in a resource-poor setting. The programme enables volunteers to develop leadership skills through project work using system-strengthening methods, who in turn make a real difference to the NHS on their return to the UK.



Another showcase of case studies followed. Professor Paul Thompson presented the work of the Poole Africa Link <http://pooleafricalink.org.uk/> which was set up in 2009 linking Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust with Wau Hospital in South Sudan and now LIRA University in Uganda. The developments at Lira University and potential collaborations with BU were discussed. This was followed by Tony Markus, Maxillofacial surgeon who presented his inspiring work in the Indian subcontinent. Five billion people



globally do not have access to safe, timely, affordable surgery. Funding, availability of care, education and research are crucial to relieve some of the challenges. A Craniofacial Centre in Janakpur was built in 2017 following funding from Future Faces which is providing care, training and research. Finally Professor Colin Pritchard delivered a lively comparison of studies discussing the aetiology – epigenetic practice and policy implications and lessons to be learnt and urged us to think outside the box for solutions. The conference ended with a panel discussion led by Professor Tamas Hickish on how BU can contribute to the local healthcare economy agenda.



Thanks to all the speakers, Professor Tamas Hickish for chairing and Rebecca Marney, Events Team for her unstinting support. Presentations can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/y7o7ayqg>. Hope to see you at the Sixteenth Annual Symposium!

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