



CONCEPT NOTE FOR PLENARY SESSION 3

14th Priorities 2024 Conference

Plenary Session 3

The 14th Priorities Conference
Millennium Hilton
Bangkok, Thailand

Title: Ethics at the Hearth of Health Priority Setting: Striking a Balance Between Efficiency and Equity

Date: 09 May 2024

Time: 09:00 – 10:15

Session coordinators: Francis Carlo Panlilio; Sarin KC

Background:

In our pursuit of creating resilient and sustainable healthcare systems, the imperative to address health equity has become increasingly paramount. This plenary session aims to delve into the multifaceted landscape of health equity, exploring the why, how, and what of equitable healthcare access and delivery. By examining social determinants, distributional effects, and the interplay between efficiency and equity, we hope to chart a course towards a healthcare future that is not only effective but also just.

1. Why do we need to care about health equity?

Health equity is not just a moral imperative but an essential foundation for robust and sustainable healthcare systems. This session will delve into the social determinants in healthcare and the distributional effects that often lead to disparities in health outcomes. We will explore the significance of equitable access to healthcare, not only to individuals but also its broader impact on health systems.

2. Relative importance of efficiency and equity (individuals, health systems, decision-makers)

Balancing efficiency and equity is a complex task, and this session will critically examine the relative importance of these principles. We will explore the acceptable and unacceptable trade-offs that individuals, health systems, and decision-makers must navigate. By engaging with real-world scenarios, we aim to provide insights into the challenges of striking a delicate balance between efficiency and equity.

3. Tools to ensure equitable yet sustainable UHC:

The session will highlight tools and strategies that contribute to ensuring equitable yet sustainable Universal Health Coverage (UHC). We will delve into the policy process, focusing on Health Technology Assessment (HTA), and discuss research methods such as Distributional cost-effectiveness analysis (DCEA). Participants will gain insights into when Cost-Effectiveness Analysis

(CEA) might fall short and explore alternative approaches that better address the nuances of equity in healthcare.

4. Challenges (and ways forward) in using evidence from health equity research to inform equitable healthcare policies

Translating evidence from health equity research into effective policy is a challenging endeavor. This session will identify and address these challenges while exploring innovative ways to bridge the gap between research and policy. By examining successful case studies and lessons learned, participants will gain a nuanced understanding of the opportunities and obstacles in leveraging evidence for the formulation of equitable healthcare policies.

5. Equity considerations in healthcare decision-making (how much do decision-makers value equity)

Decisions made at the policy level profoundly impact health equity. This session will scrutinize the extent to which decision-makers prioritize equity considerations in healthcare decision-making. Through discussions with policymakers speaking in this session, we aim to uncover the factors that influence policymakers and explore avenues for enhancing the value placed on equity in the decision-making process.

By bringing together experts, practitioners, and policymakers, this plenary session aims to foster a comprehensive dialogue on the ethical dimensions of health priority setting. Through critical analysis and shared insights, participants will contribute to shaping a healthcare landscape that is not only efficient but, more importantly, equitable.

Objectives:

- To share developments in the health equity research and how they are applied to inform health policies across different settings
- To have a dialogue between researchers and policymakers on issues related to using evidence from health equity research to inform policies
- To discuss ways forward

Expected output/outcome:

- Outputs:
 - a. Presentations from speakers
- Outcomes:
 - b. Knowledge sharing how health equity research informs health policies as well as barriers and enablers
 - c. Identify potential ways forward to reduce the evidence to policy gap on how to reduce health inequality



Format:



1. Presentations followed by panel discussion

Agenda for Plenary 3 Session on May 8, 2024: 09:00 – 10:15 AM.

Time	Focus area	Person (s) responsible
9:00 – 9:05 AM	Opening talk (5mins) I. Framing the issue of equity/trade-offs II. Achieving the efficiency goals via equity goals	Assoc. Prof. Beverly Essue
9:05 – 9:15 AM	I. Equity in process (HTA in India) II. Public perception on equity - results from aversion to health inequality in India including the challenges	Prof. Sitanshu Sekhar Kar
9:15 – 9:25 AM	I. Will autonomizing public hospitals affect equity, quality, efficiency & sustainability of health care service? The case of Lao PDR II. Challenges of Autonomizing Public Hospitals	Assoc. Prof. Mayfong Mayxay
9:25 – 9:35 AM	I. How do Thai policymakers use equity in decision-making in developing UHC health benefit package: The case study of Thailand II. Challenges in using evidence from equity research into decisions: implementation experiences from Thailand	Dr. Phusit Prakongsai
9:35 – 9:45 AM	III. Research innovation: incorporating equity impact in Distributional Cost-Effectiveness Analysis (DCEA). Implications for inclusion or exclusion of new interventions in essential health benefit packages.	Prof. Ole Frithjof Norheim
9:45 – 10:10 AM	Panel discussion + Q&A	All
10:10 – 10:15 AM	Concluding remarks	Assoc. Prof. Beverly Essue

Speakers:

1) Prof. Ole Frithjof Norheim	
	<p>Prof. Ole Frithjof Norheim is a physician and a professor of medical ethics, Dept. of Global Public Health and Primary care, University of Bergen, Norway. He is also adjunct professor of global health at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Norheim's wide-ranging research interests include theories of distributive justice, inequality in health, how they apply to priority setting in health systems, and how to achieve Universal Health Coverage. He firmly believes that priority setting for health should aim for the greatest number of healthy life years for all, fairly distributed.</p> <p>He is currently directing the Bergen Center for Ethics and Priority Setting at the University of Bergen. Norheim is a member of the Lancet Commission on Investing in Health (CIH3) chaired by Larry Summers and Dean Jamison and the Lancet Commission on Sustainability in Healthcare (LCSH) chaired by Andrea MacNeill and Jodi Sherman. Norheim has chaired the 2009 revision of Norwegian Guidelines for Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease, the World Health Organization's Consultative Group on Equity and Universal Health Coverage (2012-2014), and the third Norwegian National Committee on Priority Setting in Health Care (2013-2014). He has published more than 200 peer-reviewed papers in journals such as the Nature Medicine, Science, Lancet, Lancet Global Health, BMJ, Bulletin of WHO, Health Policy and Planning, and Journal of Medical Ethics.</p>
2) Prof. Sitanshu Sekhar Kar	
	<p>Prof. Sitanshu Sekhar Kar is a Professor and Head of the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine at Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Puducherry, India. He has around 18 years of academic and research experience in Public Health. His areas of work include chronic disease epidemiology, Health technology assessment, Tobacco control and Medical Education. He played an important role in starting the MPH programme at JIPMER and establishing JIPMER International School of Public Health. He is the principal investigator of the HTAIn Resource Centre established at JIPMER from 2020. He contributed to the Department of Health Research commissioned study on EQ-5D-5L Value set generation and Estimation of Cost-effective threshold for India. He takes special interest in the issues of health equity and adaptive HTA methods.</p> <p>He is a Fulbright Nehru Academic Professional Excellence Fellow of 2016-17 at University of Southern California Institute for Global Health, LA, USA. Prior to joining JIPMER in February 2010, he had served in the WHO Country Office for India and in the Population Council, New Delhi.</p>

	<p>Dr Sitanshu was awarded for his research output at the national and regional level. He has 210 publications to his credit in peer reviewed journal.</p>
<p>3) Dr. Phusit Prakongsai</p>	
	<p>Dr. Phusit Prakongsai is the medical lecturer at Faculty of Medicines, Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University. He served as the senior advisor on health promotion for the Office of Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health of Thailand from 2018-2021. Before that he served as the director of the Bureau of International Health (BIH) and the International Health Policy Programme (IHPP) between October 2010 and December 2017. Prior to joining IHPP, he had 10 years of field experience in public health and health care management in three district hospitals in the rural area of Thailand from 1988 to 1998. He has been a principal investigator and co-investigator of several research projects related to health system and policy, health insurance, universal health coverage, and health care finance since 1999.</p> <p>Dr. Prakongsai earned a Ph.D. degree in public health and policy from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), in 2008, and the Medical Doctor degree from Mahidol University in 1988.</p>
<p>Assoc. Prof. Mayfong Mayxay</p>	
	<p>Assoc. Prof. Mayfong Mayxay is the Head of the Field Research of Lao-Oxford-Mahosot Hospital-Wellcome Trust Research Unit (LOMWRU), Associate Professor, and Vice-President of the Lao University of Health Sciences (UHS), Ministry of Health, Lao PDR. He has also been a Visiting Professor in Tropical Medicine at University of Oxford since 2020. His particular research interests include antimalarial drug resistance, causes of fever, dengue, rickettsial infections, Japanese encephalitis virus infection, and infantile beriberi.</p> <p>Dr. Mayfong founded and co-founded many important official entities in Lao PDR such as LOMWRU in 2000; Research Ethics Committee of UHS in 2001; Lao Medical Journal (LMJ) in 2010; Insititute of Rearch and Education Development (IRED) onf UHS in 2018; Lao Infectious Disease Society (LIDS) in 2019; Lao One Health University Network (LAOHUN) in 2019; and recently Unit for Health and Evidence Policy (UHEP) in 2020.</p>

Moderator:

Assoc. Prof. Beverly Essue



Assoc. Prof. Beverley Essue is an Associate Professor of Global Health in the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto. She holds a Visiting Scientist appointment at the Institute for the Advanced Study of the Americas, University of Miami and is an Honorary Senior Fellow at the George Institute for Global Health, India.

She is a global health systems researcher and health economist who leads interdisciplinary research focused on strengthening financial risk protection, supporting effective and equitable priority setting and advancing equity, including gender equity, across global health systems. Her research tackles some of the most pressing issues facing global health and is conducted with a network of collaborators and partnerships across low-, middle- and high-income countries. She has led work for key global health initiatives including the Disease Control Priorities series and the Lancet Taskforce on Non-Communicable Diseases. She co-chairs the Scientific Advisory committee for the Lancet Commission on Gender Based Violence and Maltreatment of Young People and co-leads the Economics working group for this Commission. She is also a Commissioner on the Lancet Commission on Cancer and Health Systems and was a Scientific Advisor to the Lancet Commission on Breast Cancer. In 2020 she was recognized on the list of Canadian Women in Global Health for her scholarship and contributions to the field.