



Lancet EMP Newsletter

Lancet Commission on Essential Medicines Policies

Countdown to 2016

Welcome to the July 2015 newsletter of the Lancet Commission on Essential Medicine Policies

EMP Commission Update on 2016 Report

The commissioners are developing the first draft of the report which will be discussed during the November 2015 meeting in Amsterdam.

One of sections of the Lancet Report will discuss measuring performance of pharmaceutical systems which enables stakeholders to track the implementation and impact of specific essential medicines policies. This month the LCEMP commissioners provided feedback about the proposed Performance Framework and the Development of Indicators. This section of the report is led by Maryam Bigdeli (see below Section 'Spotlight').

Lancet Youth Commission on EMP

The Lancet Youth Commission on EMP held their first meeting this past month, July 24-26 2015 in Boston. We will be featuring a summary of their meeting in our August 2015 newsletter. Please stay tuned for the details.

Recent Publications

- The 2015 WHO MEML contains 16 additional cancer medicines for adults. Robertson et al discuss cancer medicines for children: *Robertson J, Magrini N, Barr R, Forte G, Ondari C. Medicines for cancers in children: The WHO model for selection of essential medicines. Pediatr Blood Cancer. 2015* <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/pbc.25564/abstract>
- The WHO Regional Director for Africa seeks to improve access to medicines in the region. <http://www.who.int/medicines/areas/coordination/en/>
- Tran and Bero present a new framework for the rapid assessment of essential medicines for maternal health used in pre-eclampsia and eclampsia: *Tran DN, Bero LA. Barriers and facilitators to the quality use of essential medicines for maternal health in low-resource countries: An Ishikawa framework. J Glob Health. 2015 5(1).* <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4416332/pdf/jogh-05-010406.pdf>

Upcoming Events and News relevant to Essential Medicine Policies

- United Nations Summit to adopt the post 2015 Development Agenda, 25-27 September, New York, USA <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/summit>
- This past World Hepatitis Day, July 28th 2015, UNITAID seeks to increase access to hepatitis treatments as its priority <http://unitaid.org/en/component/content/article/20->

[news/statements/1465-unitaid-sees-access-to-hepatitis-c-treatments-and-diagnostics-as-top-priorities](#)

- Prince Mahidol Award Conference, 26-31 January 2016, Bangkok, Thailand – Priority Setting for Universal Health Coverage
<http://www.pmaconference.mahidol.ac.th/>
- 2015 APHA Annual Meeting, 31 October – 4th November 2015, Chicago, USA
<https://www.apha.org/events-and-meetings/annual/registration-information>

Spotlight

Lancet EMP Commissioner: **Maryam Bigdeli Pharm, MPH, PhD**, @maryam_bigdeli



Maryam is a pharmacist with specialization in public health, health financing and health planning. Since 2010, she leads the Alliance's portfolio of work on access to medicines, advocating for a health system lens on medicines in LMICs and supporting activities ranging from priority setting, primary research projects, systematic reviews and production of landmark publications such as the Flagship Report on Medicines in Health Systems. She is also in charge of the portfolio of work on capacity strengthening for health policy and systems research, with particular focus on institutional capacity strengthening of both researchers and decision makers in demanding, producing and using evidence for sound decision making in LMICs. Prior to joining the Alliance, Maryam has worked over 15 years in low income countries, including in WHO country offices in Cambodia and Lao PDR and with MSF in Guinea. Her field experience included managing medicines procurement and supply, and technical assistance to ministries on health financing systems and national health planning processes. She also brings her experience as a researcher in higher income settings, working with the European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer and in the Health Economics Department of the School of Public Health at University of Brussels

Recent publications of interest:

Bigdeli M., Peters D.H., Wagner A.K. Eds. (2014). Medicines in health systems: advancing access, affordability and appropriate use. Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, World Health Organization. Geneva, Switzerland

Bigdeli M., Laing R., Tomson G., Babar Z.U.D. (2015) *Medicines and universal health coverage: challenges and opportunities*. Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice 8:8

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