



Lancet EMP Newsletter

Lancet Commission on Essential Medicines Policies

Countdown to 2016

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

Recent Updates:

Summary of The Lancet EMP Commission Meeting in Amsterdam, November 2015

Nineteen Commissioners, one senior editor of The Lancet and one external reviewer met in Amsterdam 5-6 November 2015 to discuss the first draft of the Commission Report. The highly productive two-day meeting resulted in a roadmap for developing and revising each section of the Report which covers the following priority areas previously agreed:

1. Quality and safety of essential medicines
2. Financing of essential medicines
3. Affordability of essential medicines
4. Improving the use of essential medicines
5. Research and Development of missing essential medicines

Different commissioners have taken the lead developing each of these priority areas in collaboration with other commissioners and external collaborators. Case studies will illustrate progress achieved or challenges in overcoming existing barriers in design, implementation and evaluation of policies. One of the cross-cutting themes of the report is the human rights perspective and its implications for countries implementing sustainable essential medicines strategies. A final section of the Report will present how to measure progress in the five priority areas. The Lancet EMP Report will be published in 2016.

The Lancet Youth Commission attended one session of the meeting to present their work in progress and discuss the next steps in developing a commentary to be published in The Lancet. Among other areas The Youth Commission is organizing a series of events in which they will reach out to young people and professionals interested in essential medicines.

As always, stay tuned for latest updates on the work of the Commission @EMPCommission



Recent Publications

- Series on [Antimicrobials: access and sustainable effectiveness](#). *The Lancet*, 2015
- Emmerick I, Luiza V, Camacho L, Vialle-Valentin C, and Ross-Degnan D [Barriers in household access to medicines for chronic conditions in three Latin American countries](#). *International Journal for Equity in Health* 2015, **14**:115 doi:10.1186/s12939-015-0254-z
- Bergmann L, Enzmann H, Thirstrup S, Schweim JK, Widera I, Zwierzina H, [Access to Innovative Oncology Medicines in Europe](#). *Annals of Oncology*, 2015 doi: 10.1093/annonc/mdv547
- Shulman L, Wagner CM, Barr R, Lopes G, Longo G, Robertson J, Forte G, Torode J and Magrini N, [Proposing Essential Medicines to Treat Cancer: Methodologies, Processes, and Outcomes](#). *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, 2015 doi: 10.1200/JCO.2015.61.8736
- Bvdzai Priscilla Magadzire, Bruno Marchal and Kim Ward. Improving access to medicines through centralised dispensing in the public sector: a case study of the Chronic Dispensing Unit in the Western Cape. *BMC Health Services Research* (2015) 15:513 <http://www.biomedcentral.com/content/pdf/s12913-015-1164-x.pdf>

Upcoming Events and News relevant to Essential Medicine Policies

- United Nations establishes [15-member High-Level Panel](#) on health technology innovation and access to quality medicines at affordable prices
- World Diabetes Congress, November 30-December 4, 2015.
- WHO Essential Medicines and Health Products Related Events http://www.portal.pmnch.org/medicines/areas/quality_safety/safety_efficacy/med_safety_events/en/
- 3rd [International Conference on Clinical Pharmacy](#). December 7-9, 2015. Atlanta, USA.

Spotlight: Martha Gyansa-Lutterodt, Lancet Commissioner EMP

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Martha Gyansa-Lutterodt is the Director of Pharmaceutical Services and also the Chief Pharmacist of Ghana's Ministry of Health. Martha is a Pharmacist with MA in Health Management Planning and Policy as well as Masters in Governance and Leadership.

She serves on several international and national boards including National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) International UK, Pharmacy Council of Ghana, Ghana Psychological Council and also is an Expert member of World Health Organisation Expert Committee on Medicines Policies and Management, WHO, Geneva. She has served on several WHO and World Trade Organisation, West African Health Organisation consultations on Medicines Policy, Trade Related International Property Rights as well as West African Regulatory harmonization strategies.

She is also the chair for the Ghana chapter of International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR). She has coordinated several assessments of the pharmaceutical sector in Ghana as well as selection and reimbursement strategies of pharmaceuticals of Ghana's road towards Universal Health Coverage. As a strategic member of the health sector has contributed meaningfully towards Ghana's health sector dialogue and strategies. As one of the responsible for drafting Ghana's Health Policy 2007, she believes in evidence-based policy decision making and constantly exploring ways of improving the processes that allow health policies to move into practice that provides sustainable outcomes for the most vulnerable. Martha Gyansa-Lutterodt is a fellow of West African Post graduate College of Pharmacists and a foundation fellow of Ghana College of Pharmacists.

Martha is the current chair for Ghana's Antimicrobial Resistance Working group that responded to the Global Action Plan on antimicrobial resistance with a country working mechanism. She has been recently recognized and awarded for her contribution to Pharmacy development and practice in Ghana by the '2012 Ghana Women of Excellence Awards'.

Selected Publications:

Gyansa-Lutterodt M. Antibiotic Resistance in Ghana. *The Lancet Infect Dis* 2013; 13 (12): 1006–1007.

Sinclair D, Gyansa-Lutterodt M, Asare B, Koduah A, Andrews E, Garner P. Integrating Global and National Knowledge to Select Medicines for Children: The Ghana National Drugs Programme. *PLoS Med* 2013; 10(5): e1001449.

Cohen JC, Gyansa-Lutterodt M, Torpey K, Esmail LC, Kurokawa G. TRIPS, the Doha Declaration and increasing access to medicines for Ghana. *Global Health* 2005;1:17.

Dodoo ANO, **Gyansa-Lutterodt M**, Frempong N, Thompson H, Amofa G, Bart-Plange, C, Allotey NK, Eghan KE. Preliminary Safety Assessment Of Sulphadoxine-Pyrimethamine During Intermittent Presumptive Treatment Of Pregnant Women In A Region With High Prevalence Of G6PD Deficiency. *Int J Risk Saf Med* 2005; 17(1-2):13-18.

November 26, 2015

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