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

Recent Updates - 2015: The Lancet Commission on EMP Review of The Year

2015 has been a very busy and productive year for The Lancet Commission on Essential Medicine Policies: March Meeting in London and November Meeting in Amsterdam, definition of the priority areas of the report, development the first draft report, discussion of the reviewers’ comments on the draft and agreement on the development of a revised version, to name only a few of the outcomes. As we look ahead to 2016, we are excited to continue working toward the goals of the commission.

In parallel to our work, 2015 has been a year with many other important developments for Essential Medicines. Some of this year’s highlights include the launch of the 2015 WHO Model Essential Medicine List with several new cancer chemotherapies, medicines for the treatment of hepatitis C and drug-resistant tuberculosis. Also, at the 68th World Health Assembly, there were calls to action to address antimicrobial drug resistance and immunization gaps to increase access to sustainable supplies of affordable vaccines. In September, the United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with essential medicines as a critical part of UHC. Finally, the UN Secretary General tasks a High-Level Panel to focus on Access to Medicines. All of these developments indicate the relevance of essential medicines to promoting health and development globally.

This is our 8th monthly Newsletter with information on The Lancet Commission’s progress, recent publications of interest and upcoming events. One of our Commissioners is featured in our “Spotlight” Section. We are looking forward to being in touch with you in the coming year with more news on the Commission and Essential Medicine developments, through our monthly Newsletter and ongoing tweets.

From the entire Lancet Commission on EMP team,

we would like to wish all our readers a healthy and happy 2016.

Recent Publications
Vogler S, Vitry A and Zaheer Ud- Din Babar, Cancer drugs in 16 European countries, Australia, and New Zealand: a cross-country price comparison study. The Lancet Oncology. 2015 Dec DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045(15)00449-0
Upcoming Events and News relevant to Essential Medicine Policies
United Nations Development Programme. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon calls for new deal on medicines. 
Prince Mahidol Award Conference, Thailand, Jan 26-31 2015
http://pmaconference.mahidol.ac.th/
Uganda Launches the National Medicines Policy (NMP) and National Pharmaceutical Sector Strategic Plan III (NPSSPIII)
WHO Essential Medicines and Health Products Related Events

Spotlight:
Lancet EMP Commissioner: Yot Teerawattananon, PhD, PgDip, MD
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A specialist in health service and system research, Yot Teerawattananon is a founding leader of the Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Programme (HITAP, http://www.hitap.net/en), a semi-autonomous health technology assessment agency under the auspices of Thailand's Ministry of Public Health. The work of HITAP have been used to inform policy decisions regarding the adoption of medicines, vaccines, medical devices, health promotion and disease prevention programmes under the Universal Health Coverage Scheme and the national pharmaceutical reimbursement list. Yot has also been appointed to serve on a number of national policy committees in Thailand, including the Committee for Development of the National List of Essential Medicines (since 2007). HITAP was referred in the World Health Report 2013 of the World Health Organization as a role model organization informing policy decisions to support Universal Health Coverage in resource-limited settings (http://www.who.int/whr/2013/report/en/index.html).

Yot has gone on to provide technical advice to many national and international agencies such as: the Gates Foundation, WHO, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the Centre for Global Development (CGD), giving him a broad knowledge of key issues in global health. He has also worked in Bhutan, Indonesia, the Philippines, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. Yot is also one of the founders of HTAsiaLink (http://htasialink.org/), a regional network comprising of governmental health technology assessment agencies throughout Asia. He has more than 80 international publications in peer-reviewed journals and served as an associate editor or editor of several national and international journals, giving him a strong international network of contacts.

Selected recent vaccine-related publications in peer-reviewed journals


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