



## Lancet EMP Newsletter

### Lancet Commission on Essential Medicines Policies

#### *Countdown to 2016*

**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**

Goel A and Yadav P. America's real Drug Problem. <http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/keeping-life-saving-medicines-affordable-by-akash-goel-and-prashant-yadav-1-2015-12>

Meier BM, Gelpi A, Kavanagh MM, Forman L, Amon JJ. Employing human rights frameworks to realize access to an HIV cure. J Int AIDS Soc. 2015 Nov 13;18(1):20305.

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](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045(15)00449-0)

Van Harten W, Wind A, Paoli P, Saghatchian M, Oberst S [Actual costs of cancer drugs in 15 European countries](#). The Lancet Oncology. 2015 Dec DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045\(15\)00486-6](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045(15)00486-6)

Hoffman S, Caleo G, Daulaire N, Elbe S, Matsoso P, Mossialos E, Rizvi Z & Røttingen J, [Strategies for achieving global collective action on antimicrobial resistance](#), *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 2015;93:867-876. doi:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.15.153171>

Nickerson JW, Access to Medicines are an Essential Component of Global Surgery, World J Surg, 2015 Oct.

#### **Upcoming Events and News relevant to Essential Medicine Policies**

United Nations Development Programme. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon calls for new deal on medicines.

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2015/12/11/secretary-general-ban-ki-moon-issues-call-for-new-deal-on-medicines.html>

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)

<http://www.afro.who.int/en/uganda/press-materials/item/8193-uganda-launches-the-national-medicines-policy-nmp-and-national-pharmaceutical-sector-strategic-plan-iii-npsspii.html?platform=hootsuite>

WHO Essential Medicines and Health Products Related Events

[http://www.portal.pmnch.org/medicines/areas/quality\\_safety/safety\\_efficacy/med\\_safety\\_events/en/](http://www.portal.pmnch.org/medicines/areas/quality_safety/safety_efficacy/med_safety_events/en/)

#### **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**

- Thi boonboon K, Leelahavarong P, Wattanasirichaigoon D, Vatanavicharn N, Wasant P, Shotelersuk V, Pangkanon S, Kuptanon C, Chaisomchit S, Teerawattananon Y. An Economic Evaluation of Neonatal Screening for Inborn Errors of Metabolism Using Tandem Mass Spectrometry in Thailand. PLoS One. 2015 Aug 10;10(8):e0134782.
- Santatiwongchai B, Chantarastapornchit V, Wilkinson T, Thi boonboon K, Rattanavipapong W, Walker DG, Chalkidou K, Teerawattananon Y. Methodological variation in economic evaluations conducted in low- and middle-income countries: information for reference case development. PLoS One. 2015 May 7;10(5):e0123853.
- Teerawattananon Y and Tritasavit N. A learning experience from price negotiations for vaccines. Vaccine. 2015 May 7;33 Suppl 1:A11-2.
- Chalkidou K, Marquez P, Dhillon PK, Teerawattananon Y, Anothaisintawee T, Gadelha CA, Sullivan R. Evidence-informed frameworks for cost-effective cancer care and prevention in low, middle, and high-income countries. Lancet Oncol. 2014 Mar;15(3):e119-31.

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