THE ROLE OF PHARMACEUTICALS IN PUBLIC HEALTH
ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL MEDICINES AS A KEY DETERMINANT TO UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

September 15, 2016
9 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

#BUSPH40 #BUSPHSymposia
Overview of Pharmaceutical Public Health

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Progress often comes from between Disciplines

Public Health
“Application of Scientific Methods to understanding and addressing health challenges for Communities”

Pharmaceutical Sciences
Innovation
Quality & Safety
Access
Innovation

• Public Health methods can be used to prioritize public and private investment in research to meet unmet health needs

• Examples are Priority Medicines for Europe and the World reports 2004 and 2013 for Netherlands and European Commission
Quality & Safety

• Quality remains a concern in LMICs due to limited regulatory requirements. Important work done by EPN monitoring quality of products and WARN.

• Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacovigilance are already well established applying Public Health Methods to the inherent risks of pharmaceuticals.

• BU is already well established in this area with Slone Epidemiology Program and the Boston Collaborative Drug Surveillance Program.
Access comprises many elements

- Selection
- Procurement
- Distribution
- Rational Use
- Financing and Pricing
- Intellectual Property Barriers
- Information Sharing

See Bigdeli Framework
Selection

- WHO has taken lead with defining the Model List of Essential Medicines since 1977
- A number of studies have compared lists over time, between countries and for specific diseases
- Opportunities exist to apply the same messages to formularies in *High Income countries*

Rational Use

• INRUD network established methods for measuring and evaluating interventions.

• Clear evidence that medicine use can be improved

• Holloway & Henry showed that national policies impact on quality of medicine use
Financing & Pricing

• How medicines are financed critically affects availability but this is related to prices

• WHO/HAI methods allow for global comparisons

• When these methods are used in US interesting insights arise consistent with reporting by Consumers Union
Information Sharing

• Transparency in pharmaceutical issues benefits many but often resisted

• Sharing of actual payment and quality information as practiced by the GFATM benefits countries and purchasers.

• Analyzing trade flows using trade data can inform understanding of issues such as local production

See Global Trade Map for insulin 2013 prepared by Warren Kaplan
Insulin Trade Network Map: 2013 by WEIGHT

Yellow: Exports  Red: Imports
Thickness: proportional to yearly trade weight

Warren Kaplan, Abhishek Sharma, Prof. Eric Kolacyzk, Heather Shappell:
Intellectual Property Barriers and Trade Agreements

• While IP is seen as the basis for innovation, this does not always benefit LMIC’s and neglected diseases
• Trade Agreements may create barriers to access far beyond what was imagined
• Pro-generic policies may benefit access but not if branded generics or bio-similars are priced up
• Complex issues for trade negotiators to address
Opportunities

• BU is the only School of Public Health with a substantial Pharmaceutical Public Health program

• Schools of Pharmacy are generally reducing Social Pharmacy content within their programs

• Great opportunities exist for teaching, research and service for Schools of Public Health to contribute to this emerging area of study.
History

1997: Pharmaceutical Program created

2011: 1st Annual student-run Pharmaceuticals Symposium hosted

2015: Largest ever "info session" held – 50+ students!

2016: Leadership Council formed

Pharmaceuticals now one of 17 certificates in the MPH program

More than 150 graduates to date!
Certificate Requirements

- 12 credits of coursework
- Skills-based practicum (240 hours)
- Seminar Speakers’ Series
- Annual Symposium
- Networking & Social Events
Boston University School of Public Health
Pharmaceuticals Program

PRESENTING THE 5TH ANNUAL BUSPH PHARMACEUTICAL PROGRAM SYMPOSIUM

THE POLITICS OF ACCESS
External Advisory Board
Alumni

Boston University School of Public Health
Pharmaceuticals Program

[Diagram with logos of various companies surrounding Boston University logo]
Advancing Pharmaceutical Public Health

www.bu.edu/pharm
Comments and Questions

Thank you for your attention!

We welcome your comments and suggestions.
References

Selection

Rational Use
References

Financing and Pricing

Information Sharing

Intellectual Property Barriers and Trade Agreements
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BU School of Public Health
FOUR DECADES FORWARD
CELEBRATING BU SPH’S 40TH ANNIVERSARY