



## **Lancet EMP Newsletter** **Lancet Commission on Essential Medicines Policies** *Countdown to 2016*

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

### **Lancet Youth Commission on EMP**

Using a youth lens and a focus on health issues of the future the Lancet Youth Commission on EMP aims to assess access and promotion policies for Essential Medicines worldwide. The Youth Commission has 17 members and two secretariats who were selected in March 2015 from over 200 applications of interested young people.

From July 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> 2015 The Lancet Youth Commission on Essential Medicines Policies (YCEMP) met for their first in-person time in Boston. The 15 attending members of the Youth Commission discussed with several invited experts the definition of essential medicines, intersections between essential medicines policies and trade, intellectual property, and innovation, and system-based strategies for equitable worldwide access. The work of the Youth Commission will provide input for The Lancet Commission on EMP and result in the publication of an independent report.

The Lancet Youth Commission on EMP receives financial support from Norwegian Forum for Global Health Research, the Norwegian Agency for Aid and Development, and the University of Bergen.

More information on The Lancet Youth Commission can be found at <http://ycemp.com/>

### **Recent Publications**

- Bazargani YT, de Boer A, Schellens JH, Leufkens HG, Mantel-Teeuwisse AK. Essential medicines for breast cancer in low and middle income countries. BMC Cancer. 2015; 15(1):591. doi: 10.1186/s12885-015-1583-4.
- Bigdeli M. Sustainable Development Goals and essential medicines: not an impossible mission, if we're on target. Available at: <http://www.internationalhealthpolicies.org/sustainable-development-goals-and-essential-medicines-not-an-impossible-mission-if-were-on-target/>
- Massele A, Godman B, Adorka M, Fadare J, Gray A, Lubbe M, Ogunleye O, Truter I. Initiative to progress research on medicine utilization in Africa: formation of the Medicines Utilization Research in Africa group. Expert Rev Pharmacoecon Outcomes Res. 2015 Aug;15(4):607-10. doi: 10.1586/14737167.2015.1065735
- Luo J, Kesselheim AS. The Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement and Implications for Access to Essential Medicines. JAMA. 2015 Aug 20. doi: 10.1001/jama.2015.10872.

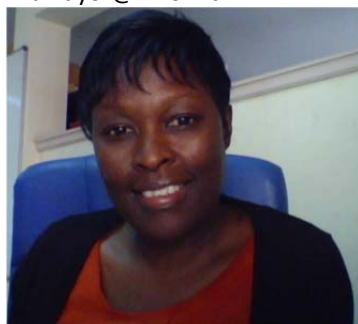
### **Upcoming Events and News relevant to Essential Medicine Policies**

- United Nations Summit to adopt the post 2015 Development Agenda, 25-27 September, New York, USA  
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/summit>

- Cost of Cancer Drugs: Financial Toxicity in Cancer Care. September 29 2015, Weill Cornell Medical College, NY, USA. Organized by AfrOx, Cancer Africa, Weill Cornell Medical College.  
<http://costofdrugsfinancialtoxicityin.splashthat.com/>
- PPRI conference in Vienna in 12-13 October 2015: 3rd International PPRI Conference, Pharmaceutical Pricing and Reimbursement Policies, Challenges Beyond the Financial Crisis <http://whocc.goeg.at/Conference2015>
- Prince Mahidol Award Conference, 26-31 January 2016, Bangkok, Thailand – Priority Setting for Universal Health Coverage  
<http://www.pmaconference.mahidol.ac.th/>

### Spotlight

Lancet EMP Commissioner: **Regina Mbindyo, MBA, BPharm**  
mbindyor@who.int



Regina is the national advisor for medicines and health technologies in the WHO Country Office in Kenya Since 2005. She is a pharmacist with an MBA in strategic management. Her role targets access to essential medicines and the relevant WHO norms and standards in national systems. The work entails generating and articulating evidence for policy through pharmaceutical situation assessments, review, updating and monitoring of pharmaceutical policies, essential medicines list and clinical guidelines; as well as institutional strengthening of the national medicines regulatory system. Currently she is contributing to ongoing health sector reforms in the context of devolved governance for health in Kenya, articulating issues of policy, legislative and institutional frameworks and bringing a special focus on the role of healthcare regulation and sustainable institutional arrangements.

Regina coordinates the Health Policies and Systems Cluster within the WHO country team, and represents WHO on matters of Devolution and Accountability within the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) in Kenya. She also contributes to regional strategies for enhancing access to medicines, including the ongoing regulatory harmonization within the East African Community.

Prior to joining WHO, Regina had worked over 10 years in pharmaceutical systems in the public and faith-based sectors. Her role entailed the management of pharmaceutical procurement and supply systems, and capacity enhancement for pharmaceutical services in low income settings. She also contributed to in-service training and curriculum development for middle-level pharmaceutical personnel. She has also prior experience in scientific research on traditional medicines.

Recent publications of interest:

Mbindyo R, Okello D, Kimani F. Experience with supporting pharmaceutical policies and systems in Kenya: Progress, lessons and the role of WHO (WHO/EMP/MPC/2010.2). Geneva: World Health Organization, 2010.

Mbindyo R. Healthcare Regulation: Bridging a Fuzzy Gap in Health Systems Governance for Sustainable Development. Working paper, in peer-review submission process.

Regina Mbindyo contributed to various national policies and assessment reports published by the Ministry of Health, including – Sessional Paper No 4 on the Kenya National Pharmaceutical Policy, Kenya Pharmaceutical Country Profile and national surveys on access to medicines.

August 30, 2015

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