



Beyond the MDGs: Opportunities and challenges for Human Resources in Health

April 29 2011

9.00-9.15 Opening of seminar

9.15- 10.00 **Session 1: Human Resources in Health – an expensive and limited resource**

Confirmed speaker: Manuel Dayrit MD, Director, World Health Organization Department for Human Resources for Health

Are ultrasound machines and drugs all you need to run a health system? Or would something be missing – for instance, the hands to operate the machines and dispense the drugs? Dr. Dayrit will show why Human Resources are fundamental to health systems, and how the current lack of health workers represents a significant constraining factor in achieving the MDGs and combating future epidemiological trends. He will also present the WHO's recommendations for policies to strengthen HRH.

10.00-10.15 Coffee break

10.15 -11.15 **Session 2: Entrepreneurship and HRH**

Scaling up the capacity of Human Resources for Health

Confirmed speaker: Vinicius de Araújo Oliveira, Coordinator, Open University of the National Health System, Brazil.

Are distances of thousands of miles an obstacle to education? By use of “blended learning” (e-learning, distant learning etc.) the National Health System of Brazil has managed to increase the output of skilled health workers, hereby strengthening the primary sector in non-urban areas. The teaching initiatives are aimed at multiprofessional teams emphasizing local health needs.

Task shifting – maintaining quality whilst improving availability of services

Confirmed speaker: Marc Mitchell, Harvard School of Public Health

Do treatment decisions always have to be taken by doctors? By developing protocols for diagnosis and monitoring in the form of decision trees available on inexpensive mobile phones, D-tree have managed to provide quality point-of-care diagnosis and treatment of patients receiving ARV, Children with fever (IMCI), diabetes care and maternal health. The case of D-tree.org will be presented with special emphasis on general MCH and specialized diabetes care.

Unaddressed health concerns – who is to take care of neglected or emerging diseases?

Confirmed speaker: Markos Tesfaye MD, Head of the Department of Psychiatry, Jimma University



What do you do when you are a lone psychiatrist responsible for treating a population of 10 million people? Mental illness is highly prevalent in Africa, yet mental health remains among the most neglected health concerns on the continent. The number of African doctors who train as psychiatrists is negligible. As an alternative solution to these challenges, Dr. Tesfaye has created a mental health masters program for non-doctors based on the concept of “training of trainers”.

11.15-12.15 Session 3: Panel discussion with participating speakers

12.15-12.30 Closing of seminar