

Partners

Global Forum on Health Research holds Forum 7 in Geneva

The annual meeting of the Global Forum for Health Research - Forum 7 - was held in Geneva at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on December 1-5, 2003. Almost 700 attendees participated in the meeting including policy makers, researchers, health practitioners, international donors, and representatives from civil society and the media. Participants came together to discuss support for public and private sector research networks, to foster research partnerships on diseases representing the heaviest burden on the poor, and to disseminate recent important findings. Plenary sessions focused on economic implications of investments on health and health research; poverty and health; the Millennium Development Goals; and gender inequities. Notable were sessions on research priorities in non-communicable diseases, including mental health, cardiovascular diseases, diet-related conditions, and cancer. The topics of violence and injuries as well as a new thematic focus on social sciences research were also featured at plenary sessions. Many of the break-out sessions in the afternoon focused on papers related to the plenary themes.

The Forum 7 program also showcased various regional and information networks that have been launched to specifically address some of these important issues. In particular, members of the regional forums (African Health Research Forum, Asia-Pacific Health Research Forum including the South Asia Research Forum, and the Latin American and Caribbean Health Research Forum) had separate and joint meetings to discuss developments in their respective regions and develop plans for their contributions to Forum 8 and the World Summit on Health Research in 2004.

Dr. Louis Currat, Executive Secretary of the Global Forum for Health Research, was given a kind farewell as he is stepping down from his office on December 31, 2003. Dr. Steven Matlin is taking over as Executive Secretary on January 1, 2004. It will be an exciting year for Dr. Matlin as all look forward to Forum 8, to be held simultaneously with the World Summit on Health Research from November 15 - 19, 2004 in Mexico City.

INCLLEN was well represented at the recent Global Forum 7. Dr. Mary Ann Lansang, INCLLEN Executive Director, was busy with various meetings with partners, INCLLEN members, and potential collaborators and funders. Also representing the INCLLEN Executive Office was Tina Heiler, who was available to discuss and distribute materials to Forum 7 attendees at INCLLEN's booth at the Forum Marketplace.

Other INCLLEN faculty participated in various capacities:

- Dr. Srinath Reddy, former president of IndiaCLEN and currently the Coordinator of the Initiative on Cardiovascular Health Research in Developing Countries (IC Health), convened the annual meeting of the IC Health Partnership Council. Dr. Mary Ann Lansang attended the IC Partnership Council meeting as representative of INCLLEN. Dr. Reddy also conducted a pre-Forum 7 workshop on Tobacco Control and was a discussant at the Forum 7 plenary session on non-communicable diseases.

- Dr. Shally Awasthi from CSM University in Lucknow was invited to speak at the meeting of the Child Health Network for Research Initiatives (CHNRI). Dr. Awasthi, as a member of the CHNRI Board, was part of panel that spoke on the unfinished agenda and resources needed for child health research initiatives. Dr. Awasthi attended various sessions on Child Health at the GFHR and attended the South Asia Health Research Forum.

- Dr. Antonio Ledo Alves da Cunha from Universidad de Rio de Janeiro was invited and supported by the GFHR because of his interest in developing priority research for child health in Rio de Janeiro and Brazil. He was very active in the meeting and attended sessions on child health and the Latin American and Caribbean Health Research Forum. Dr. da Cunha is very interested in linking the INCLEN networks of LatinCLEN and ChildNET to broaden the scope and reach of each network.
- Dr. Amr Hassan from the Suez Canal University in Ismalia, Egypt attended Forum 7 representing INCLEN-Africa in his current capacity as Secretary-General. Dr. Hassan represented INCLEN at the meeting of the African Health Research Forum and networked with colleagues from IN-DEPTH and the Alliance for Health Systems Research and Policy. He also had various meetings with Vic Neufeld, INCLEN's Leadership and Management Program (LAMP) Coordinator, to discuss next steps for the LAMP program to continue throughout INCLEN-Africa.
- Dr. William Macharia from the University of Nairobi in Kenya attended the meeting and was supported by African Health Research Forum. He was very active in the general and plenary sessions along with his duties in conjunction with the various happenings of the African Health Research Forum.
- Drs. Peter Tugwell and Vic Neufeld joined the large Canadian delegation who showcased their research efforts in international health at various sessions. Dr Neufeld also took the opportunity to discuss leadership and management issues with INCLEN participants and other interested parties. INCLEN wishes to recognize these faculty members and all INCLEN friends who continue to advocate for a stronger network even though other responsibilities may have brought them to the Forum.

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