



**'Rebalancing power in global mental health'
Innovative means of increasing participation in global health**

DATE: 22nd March 2019

VENUE: LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE & TROPICAL MEDICINE

Keppel Street, London, WC1E 7HT

5.30-7.00PM followed by a reception

"For isn't that the joy of art in mental health – To be a language that transcends borders and barriers. To be the consummate diplomat, traveling the world overcoming race, religion and rancor, building bridges of respect and understanding between us all, North, South, East and West."

Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah

Introduction

There are 350 million people with mental, neurological and substance use conditions in the world. The vast majority of these people live in low and middle income countries (LMICs), where around 85% of people with mental health conditions are unable to access services. It is in this context that Global Mental Health has emerged as an academic discipline and field of practice to reduce inequities in social determinants of mental health, and access to care around the world.

Due to a scarcity of resources in LMICs in the global south, higher income countries predominantly in the global north, have taken the lead to address the burden of mental health in poor resource settings. While steady process has been made in addressing the treatment gap, the global mental health movement has been overshadowed by a critique that it lacks inclusion of the global south.

This symposium starts from a point of critiquing the dominance of the global north in research, in policy frameworks, and in education and training. A central theme will be to explore how knowledge systems can be democratised to meaningfully integrate a broader range of perspectives. For this to be achieved, a greater understanding must be sought on how to effectively translate evidenced-based findings to diverse contexts, and facilitate the participation of people who are affected by the proposed services and interventions of Global Mental Health.

In the Strategy 2017-2022 of the LSHTM (Impact through excellence in research and education) the importance for research on 'Chronic conditions and diseases' with a specific reference to mental health is highlighted (*Closing the treatment gap for people living with mental, neurological and substance-use disorders in low-resource settings, where health systems are under-resourced, and populations under-served.*). This vision reflects also the call to action of

the landmark 2007 Lancet Series on Global Mental Health and the perspectives of the Lancet Commission on Global Mental Health. “There is no wealth without mental health”

Traditional structures of knowledge transfer from the global north to the global south should also be challenged to create a bi-directional flow of knowledge between the regions. High income settings have much to learn from low income settings as well as in the other direction.

This symposium seeks to explore practical and innovative ways of rebalancing power to pave the way for a new era of cooperation in the field of mental health.

Key themes covered in the evening:

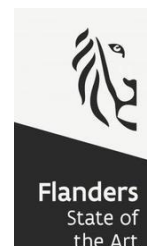
- Experience from other fields in how people affected by public health interventions have been engaged in processes of change
- How research and practice in the field of Global Mental Health can better reflect the target communities that are the focus of much of the work
- How people with lived experience, women, young people, indigenous peoples and other traditionally marginalized groups can have a bigger impact on global health priorities

Organisers:

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (London, United Kingdom) is renowned for its research, postgraduate studies and continuing education in public and global health. In 2019, LSHTM is celebrating its 120 year anniversary, with an international presence and collaborative ethos, it is uniquely placed to help shape health policy and translate research findings into tangible impact. The mission of LSHTM is to improve health and health equity in the UK and worldwide.

Fracarita International (Brugge, Belgium) is a not-for-profit organisation of the Congregation of the Brothers of Charity working in Latin America, Africa and Asia. It exercises this task in line with the mission of the Brothers of Charity especially in the lives of the most vulnerable people through concrete works of charity in the fields of mental health care, care for people with a disability and education. Fracarita International has more than 200 years of experience in mental health, with an aim to restore the human dignity of thousands of men, women and children by providing mental health care in 30 countries with more than 150 projects.

CBM International is an international non-governmental organisation focusing particularly on disability inclusive development. With experience of over 100 years of working in the poorest communities in the world, CBM had developed mental health programmes in over 20 countries that support system strengthening to close the treatment gap, and promote access to human rights by empowering people affected to have a voice in their own communities.





Sponsors:

Funding is also gratefully received from the Embassy of Belgium to the United Kingdom and the Representation of the Flanders Region.

Programme and Speakers:

5.00 PM Registration

5.30 Welcome and introductory speech 'Global participation in transforming health – experience from other global health fields' by Baron Peter Piot, Director, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

5.45 – 5.50 Message from Mathilde, Queen of the Belgians and Goodwill Ambassador to the UN SDG Advocacy Group

5.50 – 6.00 Message from WHO

Devora Kestel, Director, Mental Health and Substance Abuse

6.00 – 6.40 Panel discussion:

How do we create a Global Mental Health genuinely representing people affected?

5 minute introductory talks by panel members, followed by chaired panel discussion

Moderator:

Julian Eaton, Centre for Global Mental Health, LSHTM and CBM

Panel:

- Dixon Chibanda, Zimbabwe; London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Jenny Damayanti, Indonesia; Transforming Communities for Inclusion, Asia Pacific
- Bonnie Evans, UK; Queen Mary, University of London
- Brother Jimi Huayta-Rivera, Peru; Director, Fracarita International (Brothers of Charity)
- Victor Ugo, Nigeria; Mentally Aware Nigeria

6.40 – 7.00 Audience questions

7.00 Onward: Reception