

Geneva Forum Towards Global Access to Health

30 August - 1 September 2006

Call for abstracts



www.hcuge.ch/genevahealthforum

International Conference Centre Geneva

Organized by the Geneva University Hospitals and the Medical School of the University of Geneva, in collaboration with the Geneva international and non-governmental organizations active in health and care

Welcome to the Geneva Forum

It is widely recognized that health is key to prosperity.

Faced with a globalizing economy, the challenges involved in ensuring access to health have become a matter of great concern and debate. While the availability of means to improve health is increasing, access nonetheless remains very low in many parts of the world.

As stated in the Millennium Development Goals, the crucial question that must be considered relates to how health systems can respond to a growing need for action particularly in reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases as well as developing a global partnership for development. Health and especially access to health are preliminary conditions or determinants that can improve social welfare and societal stability. Insuring access to essential drugs, care and preventive measures such as vaccinations, clean water and sanitation, access to training and information, reaching vulnerable populations to offer basic services, are challenges the international community must address.

The Geneva Forum, under the flags of equity, training and partnership, will provide a unique opportunity for all participants to present and explore innovative partnerships and programmes facilitating access to health.



The Forum takes place in Geneva, world capital of health, which provides a platform for an increasing number of health organizations as well as most majors meetings. The Forum will aim to define how Hospitals/Universities, individually and through networks, in collaboration with all international organizations active in health and humanitarian fields located in Geneva as well as representatives of the civil society, can improve access to health.

Considering that a broad collaboration is essential to address these important challenges, it is our great pleasure to welcome you at the first edition of the "Geneva Forum: Towards global access to health". The Forum is jointly organized by the Geneva University Hospitals and the Medical School of the

University of Geneva, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Geneva Hospital, which has already a long standing tradition of international cooperation in the field of health.

Bernard Gruson
Chief Executive Officer
Geneva University Hospitals

Timetable

The Geneva Forum offers six plenary sessions, six sets of parallel sessions composed of symposia, workshops and free communications as well as exhibition and poster areas

	Wednesday 30 August 2006	Thursday 31 August 2006	Friday 1 September 2006
08:00	08:00 Registration	Market places for partnerships	Market places for partnerships
09:00		Plenary Session 3	Plenary Session 5
09:00			
10:30		Coffee Break	Coffee Break
11:00		Posters - Market places	Posters - Market places
11:00		Symposia Workshops	Symposia Workshops
12:30		Free Communications	Free Communications
12:30		Lunch and Satellite Symposia	Lunch and Satellite Symposia
14:00	Plenary Session 1	Plenary Session 4 and Debate	Symposia Workshops
15:30	Welcome Address		Free Communications
15:30	Coffee Break - Posters	Coffee Break - Posters	Coffee Break - Posters
16:00	Market places	Market places	Market places
16:00	Symposia Workshops	Symposia Workshops	Plenary Session and Closing Ceremony 6
17:30	Free Communications	Free Communications	
17:45	Plenary Session 2 Opening Ceremony Get together Reception		

List of Plenary Sessions

1 The state of the world's access to health	Social determinants of health, an overview. How they influence access to health
	Access to health, a right for all?
	Accountability of Governments in access to health
2 Keynote address	Access to health, a precondition for social and economic development?
3 Equity in access to health: dream or reality?	Need for equity in health sector reforms
	(Non) access to essential drugs
	Who should deliver?
4 Public/private partnerships to finance access to health	Can the World Trade Organization facilitate access to health?
	Social responsibility of the private sector
	Strengthening the long term capacity of the public sector
5 Research, capacity building and human resources crisis	Putting research evidence into practice
	Capacity building, self defeating or beneficial?
	Partnership to promote global security
6 Towards global access to health: setting an agenda for the future	Can research make a difference in global access to health?
	The need for a commitment from the academic world
	Access to health and humanitarian crises
	Towards a next Geneva Forum

Topics and subtopics

1 Access to health systems

While medical services and international institutions play a major role in providing access to health, one must remember the key role played by local organizations and the civil society in reaching sustainability and empowerment. How to balance diseases specific interventions with health systems strengthening? Do global funds facilitate access to health? What responses to disparities created by gender, culture specificities or geographical location? How to overcome the financial constraints reducing access to services?

2 Access to drugs, vaccines and diagnosis

Many initiatives are underway to improve access to drugs, vaccines and diagnosis. However, still many questions remain unanswered. How to make research in neglected diseases more attractive? How to put research evidence into practice? How to reduce financial gaps to improve access? Are innovative partnerships involving public responsibility needed?

3 Research and training

There are increasing concerns about ethical issues in the realization of clinical research in developing countries. Simultaneously, a growing number of trained professionals choose to move to countries with better facilities than those of their own countries. How can local capacity building enhance quality in research and training while avoiding brain drain? Can universities and hospitals networks make a difference?

4 International mobility and health

Migration and global circulation of people create new challenges in various aspects of access to health and care. Administrative status, communication barriers, exposure to infectious and non-infectious diseases remain among the numerous factors influencing the disparities in health and access to services. They increase the vulnerability of moving population. What responses should be provided locally and across borders? How can local services and national policies improve access for the benefit of all?

5 Information and communication technologies

As the information society develops and e-health appears as a potential new tool for improving health systems, several challenges are facing us: can the on-line medical information be trusted? How can one reduce e-exclusion? Can virtual communities effectively collaborate for better healthcare delivery and capacity building?

6 Humanitarian crises and development

When natural catastrophes or humanitarian crises occur, access to victims can be a difficult challenge. How do disabled persons have access to care? What role should play the training in catastrophe medicine? And how hospitals and medical schools networks can improve their efficiency in assisting victims as well as in encouraging social and economic development?

Come and use the various market places of the Geneva Forum to get information about innovative initiatives, to promote projects/programmes and to establish new partnerships

Forum Committees / Forum Organization

Organizing Committee

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Prof. Claude Le Coultre
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World Health Organization (WHO)
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Global Forum for Health Research
The Global Alliance for Vaccines and
Immunization (GAVI)

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS,
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with Developing Countries (KFPE)
Swiss Tropical Institute (STI)
Graduate institute of development
studies (iuéd)
Medicus Mundi
International Conference Volunteers (ICV)

Important dates

15 November 2005: opening for registrations and call for abstracts submission

15 March 2006: deadline for abstracts submission

5 May 2006: deadline for reduced registration fees

Call for abstracts

Abstracts must be sent through the submission system on www.hcuge.ch/genevahealthforum, contact:

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Hotel accommodation

For information about hotels and accommodation, rates, rooms and booking procedures, please visit our Website.

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Official Language

The official conference language will be English.

French translation will be available at plenary sessions.

All information on registration and abstracts submission on www.hcuge.ch/genevahealthforum

