Concept Note and Agenda

Centre on Global Health Security–Harnessing New Technologies for Global Health Security

March 27th 2018, Chatham House

Despite advances in global health, including increased access to medical technologies such as vaccines and new developments in diagnostics, global health leaders warn that the world is ill-prepared for the next pandemic. Meanwhile, non-communicable diseases are fast becoming major health (and economic) threats across the globe. While expanding access to healthcare services will be essential for the control of both communicable and non-communicable diseases, there is also a growing realisation that new ways of cooperating, learning, and innovating will be necessary in the coming decades to achieve better health security for all.

Technologies—both those specifically designed for the medical field and those originally designed for other areas of life but applied to medicine and public health—have already improved the health of many millions across the planet. From the first vaccine, introduced by Dr Edward Jenner in 1796 to prevent smallpox, to the integration of the microchip into disease control efforts that has spawned the field of public health informatics—new technologies have made, and will continue to make, an important contribution to global health security.

While the opportunities abound, the adoption of new technologies is generating a range of new issues for policy makers, regulators, payers, providers and patients. These include finding ways to make innovations context-relevant, accessible, affordable and optimally used.

To best improve health, strategies for harnessing new technologies should not just focus on innovation but also on rational procurement, responsiveness to needs and effective use. Affordability is another important issue; new technologies are often expensive and policy makers are constantly seeking to reconcile access to innovative treatments with affordability, while maintaining incentives for innovation.

To optimize the potential of new technologies to strengthen global health security, it is important to consult the end users—be they hospitals and clinics, health professionals, humanitarian actors providing medical aid or surveillance experts working in remote areas—before and during the development of new or adapted technologies. These stakeholders often have a good understanding of the needs of the populations that are being served and the resources available with which to make effective use of innovations.

2 https://www.globalhealthnow.org/object/microchip
“Currently, most medical equipment used in low-resource settings is imported from industrialized countries. About 70% of the more complex devices do not function when they reach their destination in developing countries. The main reason is the disparity between the context in which the devices are expected to function, and the context in which they do.”

New products are more likely to be more relevant and more appropriately used if they are designed with various user requirements in mind and therefore with the benefit of input on technical and setting-specific aspects from those who will use the technologies.

The 27th of March 2018 conference at Chatham House, convened by the Centre on Global Health Security, will bring together the developers and users of new technologies to discuss, over four sessions, how global health security can be strengthened through increased access to innovative technologies designed or adapted to improve health. Experts will focus on the factors that have led to effective collaborations between different sectors when developing technologies used for health purposes, what new medical and non-medical technologies are needed in the medium and long term to strengthen health security for all, and how to ensure that technological innovation is suitable for low-resource settings. The four sessions are as follows:

**Session 1:** Collaboration and innovation: past and present technologies, their impact on global health security and the factors that enabled their creation

**Session 2:** New medical technologies for global health security

**Session 3:** Non-medical technologies applied to global health security

**Session 4:** Ensuring new and adapted technologies are suitable for a variety of income settings

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6 Ibid.
Agenda
Tuesday 27th of March 2018

09:00 Opening remarks: David L. Heymann, Head of the Centre on Global Health Security, Chatham House

09:10 Keynote address: Mariângela Batista Galvão Simão, WHO Assistant Director General for Drug Access, Vaccines and Pharmaceuticals

09:30 Session 1
Collaboration and innovation: past and present technologies, their impact on global health security and the factors that enabled their creation
Panellists will discuss technologies used to improve global health security, their impact, and lessons learned from collaboration between sectors.

Moderator/Chair: Anneke Schmider, Deputy Director, Global Health and Digital Transformation, Abt Britain

- Rosanna Peeling, Professor & Chair of Diagnostics Research, Director of the International Diagnostics Centre - London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Seshadri Vasan, Honorary Visiting Professor, University of York; Senior Business Development Manager, Public Health England
- Jonathan Lord, Global Medical Director, Orbis
- Andre Heller-Perache, Director of Partnerships and Communications, Dharma
- Mandeep Dhaliwal, Director, HIV, Health and Development Group, UNDP

11:00 Coffee Break (20 mins)

11:20 Session 2
New medical technologies for global health security
Panellists will present their views on which existing technologies require refinement, what new technologies are needed and what investors and creators need to be aware of and focus on in order to best respond to user needs.

Moderator/Chair: Matthew Harris, Clinical Senior Lecturer in Public Health, Imperial College, London

- Rosamund Southgate, Health Intelligence Unit, MSF UK
- Rangarajan Sampath, Chief Scientific Officer, FIND
- Mairi Johnson, Chief of Partnerships, Babylon Health
- Osamu Kunii, Head of Strategy, Investment and Impact, The Global Fund
- Subhanu Saxena, Regional Director, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
12:45  Lunch Break (60 mins)

13:45  Session 3

**Non-medical technologies applied to global health security**

*How will, for example, artificial intelligence, drones, and communications technology be further developed, and be applied to and affect the pursuit of better global health security? Experts, users, investors and developers of technology will discuss what is needed and what they believe will make the greatest impact.*

**Moderator/Chair: Michikazu Koshiba**, Head, Center on Global Health Architecture, Mitsubishi UFJ Research & Consulting Co Ltd

- **Dhesi Raja**, Co-founder and Chief Scientist, AIME
- **Sally Hughes**, Regional Director, West & Central Africa, VIAMO
- **Clare Jones**, CCO, What3words
- **Roy Head**, CEO, Development Media International
- **Ian Tansley**, CTO, The Sure Chill Company

15:10  Coffee Break

15:30  Session 4

**Ensuring new and adapted technologies are suitable for a variety of income settings**

*Panellists will discuss the factors that ensure new technologies applied to improving global health security are accessible and sustainable in low-resource settings.*

**Moderator/Chair: Chikwe Ihekweazu**, CEO and National Coordinator, Nigeria Centre for Disease Control

- **Arti Varanasi**, CEO and President, Advancing Synergy, LLC
- **Helmi Zakaria**, CEO, AIME
- **Jide Idris**, Commissioner for Health at Ministry of Health, Lagos State, Nigeria
- **Garrett Mehl**, Scientist, Digital Health Research, WHO
- **Anneke Schmider**, Deputy Director, Global Health and Digital Transformation, Abt Britain

16:55  Closing Remarks  **David Harper**, Senior Consulting Fellow, Centre on Global Health Security, Chatham House

**Final Thanks**  **David L. Heymann**, Head of the Centre on Global Health Security, Chatham House

17:15  END