1st International Conference on Health Sustainable Development

Commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Excellence in Health Education

The School of Public Health

Tehran University of Medical Science

Conference Hall of The University

24 & 25 April 2016

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With Emphasis on Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

Preventing and Controlling Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

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Establishment of Tehran University in 1934, which coincided with the inauguration of the School of Medicine, created appropriate opportunity for initiation of medical researches. Medical research at Tehran University was officially founded in 1940 through establishment of Parasitology Chair and revision of the medical school curriculum.

At that time, a limited practices were being carried for controlling Malaria in some parts of the country. Given the importance of parasitic diseases, particularly Malaria which had affected a significant portion of the population and due to the mortality rate caused by this disease, the Malariology Institute started its activities in 1951 across the country in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and World Health Organization with the aim of carrying out extensive research in this field and eradication of Malaria. A year later, in 1952, a contract was signed with World Health Organization and the plan for prevention of the communicable diseases by arthropods was implemented in Malariology Institute. As a result of the studies conducted over the following years not only on malaria but also on parasitic diseases, the Malariology Institute changed its title to Parasitology and Malariology Institute and its scope of activity broadened.

In 1959, Schistosomiasis eradication plan, which had been developed as a result of a cooperation between Ministry of Health and Plan and Budget Organization, was assigned to Parasitology and Malariology Institute. Thus, extensive research was conducted in the area of combating Schistosomiasis in Khuzestan province. In 1964, the Chair of Tropical Diseases merged with the Chair of Parasitology. Shortly after, the name of Parasitology and Malariology Institute was changed to Parasitology and Tropical Health Institute. As a result, its scope of activity also broadened and studying widespread parasitic and tropical diseases in various parts of the country became part of its agenda. In 1965, the Chair of Health also merged with Medical Parasitology and Tropical Diseases Chairs and as a result of integration of these three Chairs, Health Sciences Group, School of Medicine, Tehran University was established. In addition, the name of Medical Parasitology and Tropical Health Institute was changed to Health Research Institute whose main mission was, conducting scientific studies on local diseases, a task which was considered of utmost importance and essential for the executive organizations of the Government. Finally on July 1966, at the 115th meeting of the Central Council of Iranian Universities, constitution of the school of public health was approved.

School of Public Health with over half a century of brilliant history in the fields of education and research, strong infrastructures, a wide range of educational disciplines and groups, knowledgeable and competent professors and as a member of the large family of Tehran University of Medical Sciences and the only center of excellence in the field of health sciences in the country, has always enjoyed a distinguished position in higher education at national level and in terms of physical area, is a pioneer in comparison with similar schools in Iran and the region.
The most distinguished characteristics of the School of Public Health, Tehran University of Medical Sciences are as follows:

- History, physical area, and strong infrastructures
- The only center of excellence in the field of health sciences in Iran
- High diversity of disciplinary fields and academic departments (more than fifty undergraduate and graduate fields)
- High number of foreign graduates and students at various levels
- Considerable number of knowledgeable professors who have brilliant scientific and management background
- More than half of the faculty members of the school of public health hold academic ranks of professor or associate professor.
- More than 80% of the students of this school are graduate students.
- 10 scientific research journals are published in cooperation with the School of Public Health, 4 of which are ISI and Pubmed indexed journals.
- Numerous research stations in different parts of the country as well as reference and national laboratories
- Distinguished position and brilliant history due to decades of activity in the field of public health at the national, regional, and international level as well as active and continuous collaboration with World Health Organization, Ministry of Health, and National Institute of Health Research

The most important mission of the School of Public Health is providing the highest quality educational services, strengthening new and applied research, analyzing the health system policies, monitoring health indices and establishing continuous and strong connections with influential national and international organizations for capacity building and providing practical approaches for promotion of public health; in a way that this scientific center, would be promoted to the level of a well-known and outstanding health school at regional level.

An introduction to the First International Conference on Health Sustainable Development

with a focus on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Prevention and Controlling Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

This Conference will be held on April 25-26, 2016 at the conference hall of the Central Headquarters of Tehran University of Medical Sciences, with the aim of commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the School of Public Health establishment. The School of Public Health, Tehran University of Medical Sciences with 50 years of brilliant background, will be considered as a pioneer center of excellence in promotion of health sciences education and research in Iran and the region. The achievements and services of this distinguished scientific institution in the areas of combating communicable and parasitic diseases, development of health systems, including Primary Health Care (PHC) as well as educating prominent researchers, professors and health care managers, most of whom hold high-ranking national, regional, and international health care positions, have been very considerable and valuable. On the verge of the fiftieth anniversary of the School of Public Health, this honorable school, as well as commemorating and reviewing the aforesaid outstanding achievements and appreciating those who played a pivotal in achieving these targets, intends to hold the First International Conference on “Health Sustainable Development” with a focus on the two fundamental and significant goals of Health Sustainable Development, adopted by the United Nations Organization, under the titles of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Prevention and Combating Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) both of which have been pursued as high priority goals by Ministry of Health and Medical Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
The first day of the congress will be dedicated to the issue of “Universal Health Coverage (UHC)” and the second day to discussion of “Prevention and Combatting Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)”. Formation of specialized working groups with the presence of prominent national and international experts from reputable health schools at national, regional and international levels, would be as special programs of this significant event. These working groups, plan to explain the role of schools of public health in realizing sustainable development with a focus on UHC and NCDs through providing the necessary documents and evidences. Establishment of a joint committee of public health schools, with the aim of materialization of this program, would be one of main discussion topics of this conference.

Secretariat of the Congress
Executive Committee

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Conference Calendar

- Papers Submission Deadline: February 20, 2016
- Enrolling Deadline: March 24, 2016
- Conference Date: April 24-25, 2016
- Commemoration Ceremony of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the School of Public Health: April 24, 2016
- Joint Meeting of Deans of Iranian Schools of Public Health: April 26, 2016

Organizational Chart of the Conference

Given the importance of implementation of policies and principles of holding the First International Conference on Health Sustainable Development and the Commemoration ceremony of the Fiftieth Anniversary of establishment of the School of Public Health, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, a following executive chart has been prepared.

- President of the Conference: Dr. Ali Jafarian- Chancellor of Tehran University of Medical Sciences
- Vice-President of the Conference: Dr. Ali Akbari Sari- Dean of the School of Public Health, Tehran University of Medical Sciences
- Secretary of the Conference: Dr. Amir Hossein Takian- Deputy Dean of the School of Public Health, Tehran University of Medical Sciences for International Affairs
- Conference Co- Organizer: Independent Inc. for Contemporary International Conferences & Fairs(IICIC)
Conference Topics

• Universal Health Coverage (UHC)
• Preventing and Combatting Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

Supported by

• Ministry of Health and Medical Education, I. R., Iran
• World Health Organization (WHO)
• Tehran University of Medical Sciences
• School of Public Health, Tehran University of Medical Sciences
• Social Assistance Health Department of Tehran Municipality
• National Institute for Healthcare Research, I. R., Iran
• United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
• Academy of Medical Sciences, I. R., Iran
• Management and Programming Organization, R., Iran
• Iranian Public Health Association
• Institut Pasteur D’IRAN
• Department of Environment, I. R., Iran
Concept Note of the First International Conference on Health Sustainable Development
Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of establishment of School of Public Health, Tehran University of Medical Sciences

Introduction
The First International Conference on Health Sustainable Development, which will be held simultaneously with Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of establishment the School of Public Health, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, is considered as an appropriate opportunity for scrutinizing the various aspects of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), which is one of the goals of sustainable development, as well as the relationship between these goals and Essential Public Health Functions (EPHFs), particularly Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) Control Program and further explanation of the pivotal role of research and higher education institutions in this regard. In definition of discussions topics, definition of UHC and NCDs, together with constraints, which school faced them during its activity, have been taken into consideration.

This conference to be held for two days at the conference hall of the Central Headquarters of Tehran University of Medical Sciences on April 2016, 24-25 with a focus on the goals of Health Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations on September 2015, based on the priorities of the health system of the Islamic Republic of Iran and with a focus on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) Control Program. The main goals of this conference consists of:

- Discussing on the special role of Public Health Schools in education, research and providing services in the these two mentioned areas through contribution of all Schools of Public Health in Iran and the Middle East as well as delivering speeches by leading international experts from reputable universities in the United States, Australia, Germany, England, Canada, Turkey, Egypt and Lebanon and finally the establishment of a regional network of health schools in the Middle East with a focus on materializing the Health Sustainable Development.

The first day (April 2016, 24): Schools of Public Health and Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Conference Panels:

A) UHC
1. UHC and health services
2. The special role of Schools of Public Health in capacity building of human resources
3. UHC and research

1. UHC and Health Services:
Services and Universal Health Coverage: Given the global development of health technologies and also significant increasing of financial risk protection in the definition of UHC, many countries have adopted the high frequency and high cost approach. Practically, most of these services are being provided in the areas of treatment and specialized levels. The issue here is how to avoid neglecting other important aspects of public health. Is it due to a fundamental mistake in UHC goal setting, negligence of administrators or an issue which should be further considered? Therefore, in this part, three topics including A) UHC and Social Determinants of Health, B) Primary Health Care and UHC, and C) Essential Health Functions and UHC will be taken into consideration. The key question is whether these three issues have been properly addressed in the operational activities of the world health systems in the area of UHC? If not, why and what should be done?
2. The role of Schools of Public Health in capacity building of human resources:
By definition, public health involves all aspects of prevention as well as all basic services which have demographical dimensions. But traditionally, Schools of Public Health have focused on the issues of promotion, primary prevention and primary health care. This is while UHC has dealt with primary prevention rather than palliation services. In this area, the first question of the panel is A) what is the role of Schools of Public Health in providing health care, rehabilitation and palliative services? What should be the distinction between Schools of Public Health and other higher education institutions in the fields of medicine, rehabilitation, etc.? The second topic of this panel is derived from the observation that in many universities, there are independent schools or groups (such as administration) which act independently of Schools of Public Health. Thus, the question is B) what is the appropriate structural model of Schools of Public Health and management and what points should be taken into consideration in the interaction between the schools of health and management?

3. UHC and research:
Two topics of A) filling the gap between research and higher education institutions and the decision making environment and B) Cooperation Networking between these institutions, are the main topics of this panel. In fact, the differences between the decision making environment and the academic environment is a well-known phenomenon which has drawn global attention. The aim of this discussion is to introduce successful models and also share experiences in this field. Regarding networking, the main issue is cooperation between Schools of Public Health at the national, regional and international levels and the aim of this panel will be focused on finding the issues of mutual interest.

The second day (April 25, 2016): Schools of Public Health and prevention and controlling Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) are currently the primary cause of death in world countries, particularly in low and middle-income countries.
Considering the unprecedented growth of these diseases as well as their risk factors, in 2011 more than 190 world governments adopted a political declaration and an action plan for reducing premature deaths caused by these diseases by 2025. In 2015, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a global framework for achieving sustainable development goals within future 15 years. Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) have a significant role in the three aspects of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In fact, prevention and controlling these diseases will have an important role in achieving these goals. Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) are considered as multifactorial diseases; so controlling them requires inter-sectoral collaboration.

Proposed topics for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) panel:
1. NCDs and SDGs in the region
2. The role of Schools of Public Health in prevention and controlling communicable diseases
3. NCDs and cooperation with other sectors
4. NCDs and environmental health
5. The alignment of NCDs programs and SDGs with PHC and health system
1. The role of Schools of Public Health in prevention and controlling Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

Scientific institutions play a significant role in prevention and controlling Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). It seems that scientific communities have worked sporadically and separately on the NCDs related plans, and there have mostly been individual and occasional efforts on planning and policymaking in this regard in scientific institutions and no comprehensive, integrated and holistic action plan has been developed in this context. Nowadays, particularly with regard to increasing investment at the global, regional and national levels in this area, the importance of these programs has been increased. For example, Iran national program on prevention and combating Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) can be mentioned.

In this meeting, the following issues can be addressed:
- Research, analysis of policies and policymaking
- Training health sector human resources on NCDs-related activities
- Supporting, contribution and leadership; for example, cooperation with other beneficiaries
- Supporting healthy lifestyle and reducing primary risk factors of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) through taking advantage of community-based programs and conducting research activities with the aim of reducing the risk of NCDs in society
- Strengthening the health system in order to early diagnosing and managing of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

6. NCDs and cooperation with other sectors

Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) are multifactorial, and prevention and controlling them requires strong inter-sectoral collaboration. A wide range of beneficiaries are involved in prevention and control of NCDs, including the Ministry of Health, other ministries, universities, non-governmental organizations, and civil societies, the private sector, and international organizations. The aim of this session would be focused on establishing communication, initiating discussions and identifying the role of various beneficiaries in prevention and controlling Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and their cooperation for materializing this goal.

7. NCDs and environmental health
- Unstable environmental systems and the risk of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) (war, refugees, etc.)
- Poor air quality due to greenhouse gas emissions and the risk of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)
- Commercialized food system compared to traditional foodstuff and the use of fat, sugar and salt
- Unplanned and uncontrolled urbanization and suburbanization