

## **Improving Access to Essential Medicines for Mental, Neurological and Substance Use Disorders in Sub-Saharan Africa A Workshop**

**January 13-14, 2014  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

### **Background:**

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has one of the largest treatment gaps for mental, neurological and substance use (MNS) disorders in the world. In 2011 the Grand Challenges in Global Mental Health initiative identified priorities that will make a significant impact on the lives of people living with MNS disorders. The reduction of cost and improvement of the supply of effective medications was highlighted as one of the top five challenges. Critical to the success of any effort to reduce the treatment gap is a demonstration that ignoring MNS disorders is not only devastating for overall population health but that it also undermines efforts to prevent and treat other causes of disease burden. Efforts in this area should not try to compete for resources used to combat infectious diseases, but should, instead, try to leverage those ongoing activities with initiatives targeted to MNS disorders. For low- and middle-income countries improving access to essential medicines can be a tremendous challenge and a critical barrier to scaling-up care for MNS disorders. Given the importance of access to essential medicines this workshop will bring together key stakeholders to discuss opportunities for achieving long-term affordable access of essential medicines for MNS disorders.

### **Meeting Objectives:**

Participants will be invited to:

- Identify critical barriers that impact the procurement of essential medicines for MNS disorders.
- Examine successful activities that increase access to essential medicines both within SSA and in other developing countries.
  - Explore challenges and opportunities for improving access to essential medicines in four critical areas: demand, selection, supply chains, financing and pricing.
  - Identify critical components of these models that might be features in SSA programs focused on MNS disorders.
- Consider the role of governments, non-governmental organizations, and private groups in procurement of essential medicines for MNS disorders.
  - Examine current funding and payment practices at each level.
  - Explore the impact of prescription practices on determining priority setting for acquiring essential medicines.
- Identify the key components of a distribution framework that may serve as a demonstration project focused on increasing access for three essential medicines.

## **DAY ONE**

8:30 a.m. Welcome

**H.E. DR. KESETEBIRHAN ADMASU**  
Minister of Health  
Ethiopia

8:35 a.m. Opening Remarks

**STEVEN HYMAN**, *Chair*  
Director  
Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research  
The Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard

8:40 a.m. Access to essential medicines for MNS disorders with the greatest burden: Focus on depression, psychosis and epilepsy

**ATALAY ALEM**  
Professor of Psychiatry  
Addis Ababa University

9:00 a.m. Current look at the supply of essential medicines for MNS disorders vs. other disease areas (e.g., HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB)

**PRASHANT YADAV**  
Director-Healthcare Research  
William Davidson Institute  
University of Michigan

9:20 a.m. Exploring successful access to medicine frameworks

**MARYAM BIGDELI**  
Senior Programme Officer  
World Health Organization

9:40 a.m. Charge to participants: workshop objectives and deliverables

**TEDLA GIORGIS**  
Advisor  
Officer of the Minister  
Ministry of Health, Ethiopia

## SESSION I: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVING ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL MEDICINES

Session Objectives: Explore feasible opportunities for improving access to essential medicines in four challenge areas: demand, supply chains, selection, and financing/pricing. Examine how progress in one of these areas can impact the others. Consider current government, non-governmental organization and private group decision-making strategies.

9:50 a.m. Overview and Session Objectives

**DAVID MICHELSON**, *Session Chair*  
Vice President  
Clinical Neuroscience and Ophthalmology  
Merck Research Laboratories

10:00 a.m. **Challenge 1: Insufficient Demand**

How is patient demand adversely affected by

- The prevailing standard of care for MNS disorders?
- Provider training, prescribing ability, and prescribing knowledge?
- Ability of providers to monitor drug adherence and efficacy?
- Low awareness about availability of common medicines?
- Concerns around cost of both medicines and health care system use?
- Public stigma around MNS disorders?

**OYE GUREJE**  
Professor  
Department of Psychiatry  
University of Ibadan

10:25 a.m. **Challenge 2: Appropriate Selection**

How is appropriate selection of medicines adversely affected by

- Low and/or variable availability?
- Regulatory and procurement procedures?
- Prescription practices and patient demand?
- Prioritizations based on disease area, cost, generation?

**HANS HOGERZEIL**  
Professor of Global Health  
Groningen University

10:50 a.m. BREAK

11:05 a.m.

**Challenge 3: Supply Chains**

How are supply chains for medicines adversely affected by

- Absence of or delays in registration of drugs?
- Absence of monitoring of drug supplies?
- Transportation deficiencies?

**PRASHANT YADAV**

Director-Healthcare Research  
William Davidson Institute  
University of Michigan

11:30 a.m.

**Challenge 4: Pricing/Financing**

How are pricing and financing of medicines adversely affected by

- Tariffs and taxes placed on supply prices?
- High mark ups by manufacturers?
- Inadequate financial price off-setting by distributors?

**MARGARET EWEN - PRICING**

Pharmacist  
Health Action International

**DAN CHISHOLM - FINANCING**

Health Economist  
World Health Organization

12:10 p.m.

Response Panel

- Is there one area that could be considered the greatest barrier to improvement or are all four areas equal in burden?

*Government Perspective*

**ATALAY ALEM**

Professor of Psychiatry  
Addis Ababa University

*Non-government organization Perspective*

**CHRISTINA NTULO**

Basic Needs - Uganda

*Private Sector Perspective*

**ISMET SAMJI**

Director  
Portfolio Expansion  
GlaxoSmithKline

- 12:40 p.m. Panel discussion with session speakers and participants
- How would changes in one area impact the other areas? For example, would increases in demand positively boost willingness of groups to finance essential medicines for MNS disorders?

**DAVID MICHELSON**, *Session Chair*  
Vice President  
Clinical Neuroscience and Ophthalmology  
Merck Research Laboratories

1:10 p.m. LUNCH

## **SESSION II: SUCCESSFUL PROCUREMENT OF ESSENTIAL MEDICINES CASE STUDIES**

Session Objectives: Examine successful activities that have increased access to essential medicines both within SSA and in other developing countries. Explore acquisition and distribution models for other disease areas (e.g., diabetes, HIV/AIDS). Identify critical components that might be featured in SSA programs focused on MNS disorders.

2:10 p.m. Overview and Session Objectives

**EVA OMBAKA**, *Session Chair*  
Senior Lecturer  
St. John's University of Tanzania

Speakers will focus on the following questions

- What were the challenges in developing and executing the project?
- What partnerships were critical to the success of the project?
- How were issues around demand, supply chains, selection and pricing/financing addressed?
- Are there specific lessons learned that could be applied to efforts around MNS medicines?

2:20 p.m. Case Study Set One – Country Programs

Case Study I – National Health Insurance  
**ALBERT AKPALU**  
Neurologist, Ghana

Case Study II – Government Storage w/ Private Groups  
**JAFARY LIANA**  
Accredited Drug Dispensing Outlets (ADDO)  
Tanzania

3:00 p.m. Case Study Set Two –Infectious Disease Programs

Case Study III – HIV/AIDS

**ISABELLE GIRAULT**

Executive Director, Access & Strategy

HIV & Hepatitis, Low- and middle-income countries

Merck & Co.

Case Study IV – MDR-TB

**PAUL ZINTL**

Senior Advisor for Planning and Finance

Program in Infectious Disease and Social Change

Harvard Medical School

3:40 p.m. BREAK

4:00 p.m. Case Study Set Three – Non-communicable Disease Programs

Case Study V – Diabetes

**MAPOKO MBELENGE ILONDO**

Senior Advisor, Corporate Diabetes Programmes

Novo Nordisk

Case Study VI – Schizophrenia

**FRANCOIS BOMPART**

Medical Director

Access to Medicines

Sanofi

4:40 p.m. Lessons Learned – Discussion with Speakers & Participants

- What components of the cases presented might translate well into a project around MNS medicines?
- What common challenges and opportunities would a demonstration project need to address early on?

**EVA OMBAKA**, *Session Chair*

Senior Lecturer

St. John's University of Tanzania

5:30 p.m. WRAP-UP & ADJOURN

## DAY TWO

8:15 a.m. Day Two Welcome

**STEVEN HYMAN**, *Chair*  
Director  
Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research  
The Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard

8:20 a.m. Day One Panel Review: Defining the Challenges, Understanding the Lessons

**PAMELA COLLINS**  
Director  
Office for Research on Disparities & Global Mental Health  
National Institute of Mental Health

**ATUL PANDE**  
Senior Vice President, Neurosciences  
Neurosciences Medicines Development Centre  
GlaxoSmithKline

**TEDLA GIORGIS**  
Advisor  
Officer of the Minister  
Ministry of Health, Ethiopia

**DAN CHISHOLM**  
Health Economist  
World Health Organization

### **SESSION III: A ROADMAP FORWARD: ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES**

Breakout Objectives: Identify a roadmap forward to address the four challenge areas: demand, selection, supply chains and pricing/financing. Consider country income levels (e.g., low, middle and high) and MNS disorders (e.g., depression, psychosis, epilepsy) when discussing potential solutions.

8:50 a.m. Breakout Objectives and Goals

**FRANCES JENSEN**, *Session Chair*  
Professor and Chair,  
Department of Neurology  
University of Pennsylvania Health System

9:00 a.m.

**CHALLENGE AREA BREAKOUTS**

- Identify components of a roadmap to address the challenge area. Discuss barriers and opportunities at the level of country income and MNS disorder.

**Challenge Area 1: Demand**

**PAMELA COLLINS**, *Challenge Facilitator*

**Challenge Area 2: Selection**

**ATUL PANDE**, *Challenge Facilitator*

**Challenge Area 3: Supply Chains**

**TEDLA GIORGIS**, *Challenge Facilitator*

**Challenge Area 4: Pricing/Financing**

**DAN CHISHOLM**, *Challenge Facilitator*

12:30 p.m. LUNCH

1:30 p.m. Building a roadmap forward – Within and Across Challenge Areas

**CHALLENGE FACILITATORS**

**PAMELA COLLINS**, *Challenge Facilitator - Demand*

**ATUL PANDE**, *Challenge Facilitator - Selection*

**TEDLA GIORGIS**, *Challenge Facilitator – Supply Chains*

**DAN CHISHOLM**, *Challenge Facilitator – Pricing/Financing*

3:00 p.m. Discussion with Leaders and Participants

- Identify potential obstacles and opportunities to implementation

**FRANCES JENSEN**, *Session Chair*

Professor and Chair,

Department of Neurology

University of Pennsylvania Health System

3:30 p.m. BREAK

## **SESSION IV: NEXT STEPS – IMPLEMENTING THE ROADMAP FORWARD**

Session Objectives: Explore available resources that could support a demonstration project. Identify tangible next steps for launching a demonstration project for MNS disorders.

3:45 p.m. Overview

**STEVEN HYMAN**, *Chair*  
Director  
Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research  
The Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard

3:50 p.m. Discussion with Workshop Session Chairs, Facilitators, and Participants

- Identify potential next steps for launching a demonstration project
- Who would be critical partners to facilitate such a project?

4:30 p.m. Closing Remarks

4:45 p.m. ADJOURN