



# ACCESS Arab Health Summit

A GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION ON HEALTH EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

SEPTEMBER 16-19, 2018 • OMNI SHOREHAM HOTEL, WASHINGTON, DC



[www.accesscommunity.org/arabhealthsummit](http://www.accesscommunity.org/arabhealthsummit)

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

### AREAS OF EMPHASIS FOR THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

#### HEALTH RIGHTS

Access to health care is severely curtailed in areas of strife and among marginalized communities. Limiting access to care is frequently used as a strategic tool. As a result, these populations do not receive proper care in a timely manner and at times are completely denied the physical and mental health care that they need.

- How can we ensure that people living in areas of strife and marginalized populations continue to have access to health care services?
- What are major **mental health and chronic disease** challenges in Arab communities around the world?
- What global strategies exist or should be developed to define health rights of populations trapped in areas of political conflict and ensure prompt delivery of health services?

#### CAPACITY BUILDING IN HUMAN RESOURCES

The effect of conflict and displacement on physical and mental health is profound. There is an alarming deficit in individuals qualified in building and maintaining public health services to address emerging public health needs.

- How can we ensure capacity building of human resources to meet the **mental and physical health needs** during periods of strife?
- Are there functional models of care in the areas of **mental health and chronic disease management** to learn from?

#### FOSTERING COMMUNITY AND INDIVIDUAL RESILIENCE

Resilience is the adaptive response during traumatic events to allow individuals to thrive regardless of the **environmental and mental stressors** around them. This resilience may be an inherent quality of the community but is influenced by present infrastructure and environmental factors. Resilience may be compromised in the absence of strategies to support individuals in areas of strife.

- How can existing or future health systems cope with challenges caused by limited resources in **multiple mental and physical health disciplines**?
- How can communities “stretch” available resources or build additional capacity with less than adequate means?
- What have we learned from historical experiences from the MENA region and other minority communities about how individuals and communities interact to build capacity?
- How can we continue to motivate and support health systems and individuals to build additional capacity and advance positive outcomes for **physical and mental health challenges**?

#### INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY

The massive destruction of urban centers and the loss of established public health infrastructure coupled with the loss of energy resources and connectivity impairs the ability of societies to meet minimum public health needs.

- What methodologies are available to maintain some **infrastructure** in areas of strife
- How can we leverage **technology** to provide for the needs of communities in regions of strife?

#### EDUCATION

When survival is at stake, education becomes a secondary priority. **Health literacy** is of paramount importance to ensure adherence of individuals and communities to sound healthcare practices in the areas of physical and mental health.

- How can we maintain an emphasis on education in these distressed communities?
- How can educational programs be built and sustained? How can we keep intellectual attainment as a priority and an objective?
- How can we raise awareness and support for research, literacy, higher education and innovation in health and science and build enduring bridges between multidisciplinary experts (**physicians, nurses, public health, mental health, epidemiologist, etc.**) in the global Arab community?

#### INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Successful development of health care delivery programs may require **international partnerships** with academic, governmental and philanthropic agencies.

- How can these partnerships be developed and allowed to grow during periods of conflict?
- How can we influence decision makers around the globe and make the needs of the MENA region a priority?

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(CONTINUED)

#### LEGISLATION – ADVOCACY

Recovering communities need to maintain the momentum and avoid situations where subpopulations may be subjected to discrimination and dominance.

- What has been done to ensure that legislators understand and are involved in developing **health strategies** that protect and promote all?
- What effective strategies engage legislators and obtain their support for equitable and enforceable community **health rights**.
- How can we learn from global precedents from other areas of conflict to help guide this process?

#### OVERSIGHT

Ensuring the proper execution of equitable strategies to protect physical and mental health services may require internal and external oversight bodies and procedures.

- How can external and internal human rights and philanthropic organizations ensure the health rights of people recovering in areas of conflict?
- How can gains be sustained and setbacks prevented through **oversight and monitoring**?

#### HEALTH SECURITIES

In areas of strife there is little if any attention to long term planning to prepare for **public health emergencies such as epidemics, outbreaks, and natural disasters**.

- How can we come together to help improve global capacity for preparedness to outbreaks and emergencies, specifically using WHO pillars of detect, respond and prevent?
- How can we build partnerships both nationally and internationally to improve MENA region countries ability to prevent, detect and respond to **infectious disease threats**?
- How can we ensure **emergency preparedness** among underserved communities?

#### CONTACTS

##### Conference Chairs

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#### ABSTRACT SUBMISSION TIMELINE

- Abstract Submission Opens On: September 15, 2017
- Abstract Submission Deadline: February 1, 2018
- Acceptance Notification: March 15, 2018
- Speaker Commitment: May 15, 2018

#### NECESSARY ITEMS

- Learning objectives (3)
- Each abstract must have the following sections:
- Title — Must be limited to 10 words or less
- Authors — Must include names, title, and affiliation
- Introduction
- Objectives or Hypothesis
- Materials and Methods
- Results
- Conclusions

To submit an abstract, please visit our website at: [www.accesscommunity.org/arabhealthsummit](http://www.accesscommunity.org/arabhealthsummit)