



**Commonwealth Dental Association
Commonwealth Nurses Federation
Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association
Commonwealth HIV/AIDS Action Group/Para55**

Global Health - Networking for Better Outcomes

**Cotoner Room
Mediterranean Conference Centre
Valletta, Malta**

**Tuesday 22 November 2005
11.30 - 16.00 hrs**

The symposium 'Global Health - Networking for Better Outcomes' is organised by four health Non-Governmental Organisations to take place at the 2005 Commonwealth People's Forum during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). This symposium reflects the theme of CHOGM 'Networking Commonwealth People' and addresses two key health issues - HIV/AIDS and the Migration of Health Workers. The four organisations enjoy regular contact with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Foundation and foster active collaboration with other international and Commonwealth organisations.

The outcome of this symposium will be a communiqué which will be taken forward to the Foreign Ministers' meeting in Malta, prior to the commencement of CHOGM, and then to the Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting in Geneva in May 2006.

Supported by the Commonwealth Foundation

Registration and Coffee

10.45 - 11.30 hrs

Session 1 11.30 - 13.00 hrs HIV/AIDS - Access to Treatment and Care

Welcome Address: Mr Winston Cox
Deputy Secretary-General, Commonwealth Secretariat

Chairperson: Dr John Hunt

European Vice-President, Commonwealth Dental Association

Access to Treatment and Care

Speaker: Dr Alice Welbourn

Chair, UK Board of Trustees, International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW)

Palliative Care

Speaker: Dr Richard Scheffer

Chair, Advocacy Committee of the UK Forum for Hospice and Palliative Care Worldwide

Panel Discussion

An interactive discussion between the speakers and audience

Chairperson: Dr E Grace Allen-Young

President, Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Jamaica

13.00 - 14.20 Break

refreshments provided for those attending

Session 2 14.30 - 16.00 hrs Migration of Health Workers - The Global Impact

Chairperson: Mrs Corinne Ward

European Board Member, Commonwealth Nurses Federation

A Developing World Perspective

Speaker: Professor Agyeman Badu Akosa

President, Commonwealth Medical Association; Director-General, Ministry of Health, Ghana

A Developed World Perspective

Speaker: Dr Richard A Cooper

Professor of Medicine, Leonard Davis Institute, University of Pennsylvania, USA

Panel Discussion

An interactive discussion between the speakers and audience

Chairperson: Dr E Grace Allen-Young

President, Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Jamaica

Abstracts

HIV/AIDS - Access to Treatment and Care

Access to Treatment and Care

Gender, HIV and the Global Tsunami: some essential steps for survival

Speaker: Dr Alice Welbourn

Around 40 million people were living with HIV at the end of 2004. Two-thirds of them are Commonwealth citizens. Eight out of nineteen Commonwealth countries in sub-Saharan Africa have HIV/AIDS adult prevalence rates above 10%. UNAIDS has identified marriage as a risk factor for women in Africa. In sub-Saharan Africa, 76% of the young people with HIV are girls. Young women are especially vulnerable, through physical factors, through their lack of education, and their poor social, legal and economic status in society. Many are subject to violence, abuse, and exploitation – all of which increase their risk of HIV infection. In Zambia whole forests have vanished and turned into coffins. Farms have reverted to bush as the women have had no time to weed, because of tending for their sick relatives.

Only 1 million of the 6 million people who need treatment have yet been able to access it – and women, particularly, face huge treatment access issues. Research shows that for many health conditions treatment access is harder for women. HIV is no exception. Moreover, HIV increases risks of TB co-infection, from which many with HIV also die. Unless women are kept alive, their children too will be orphaned, exacerbating the crisis yet further.

The Commonwealth must act to stem this tide. Alice Welbourn will outline some steps which are needed to do so.

Palliative Care

Speaker: Dr Richard Scheffer

This session will define palliative care and, in particular, highlight palliative care as one of the essential domains in the treatment and care of patients with HIV/AIDS. The integration of palliative care into the overall management of patients to deliver effective, humane treatment and care for those living with and dying from HIV/AIDS will be described together with models of care currently in use

The global situation in hospice and palliative care and the international organisational networks in the delivery of palliative care that have been developed will also be considered. Issues for supporting the development of palliative care in resource poor countries in the Commonwealth will be explored.

Abstracts

Migration of Health Workers - The Global Impact

A Developing World Perspective *Speaker: Professor Agyeman Badu Akosa*

Human Resource for Health is Ghana's major problem in its quest to provide quality healthcare for the people and also achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Over the last 30 years, despite the production of an average 150 doctors per year in Ghana the doctor population has only marginally increased from 1,750 to 2,000. In the same period the population of Ghana has doubled. The doctor patient ratio averages 1:12,000 with serious regional variation, the worst is 1:65,000. Ghanaian trained doctors work the world over but are in greater density in USA, Canada, UK and South Africa. The attrition of nurses now far exceeds that of doctors. Other health professionals such as pharmacists and X-ray and laboratory technologists have also joined the brain drain.

The ability to address the issue lies as much with our governments as with the beneficiary countries and it is only when both begin to critically look at the problem that we can hopefully find solutions. The issues of remuneration, motivation, opportunities for postgraduate training and general working environment must engage the governments of developing countries. Assistance to produce a lot more of such quality products to satisfy the local demands and then create bilateral or multilateral agreements on staff movements must be a concern of the developed countries. The ability to move health professionals from an already depleted source to another with greater than 2.5 professional health staff/1000 population must be discouraged. To achieve or not to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, rests with the Human Resource problem.

A Developed World Perspective *Speaker: Dr Richard A Cooper*

For several decades, the United States and other developed countries have relied on developing countries to provide doctors, nurses and other health professionals in order to achieve adequate staffing levels. The draw on professionals from developing countries is becoming more intense because of a continued escalation in demand for services in developed countries, coupled with inadequate training capacity. The existing disparity between supply and demand has already led Canada, Australia and the UK to recruit more doctors and nurses. The US has aggressively recruited nurses and can be expected to increase its draw on doctors when existing caps on residency-training positions are lifted. At the same time, the medical needs of developing countries are increasing. The fundamental problem is that there simply are not enough English-speaking doctors and nurses produced worldwide to meet the combined demand of developed and developing countries.

While some developing countries have been able to increase their output of doctors, nurses and other health professionals, thereby insulating themselves from the effects of emigration, others have not. The losers in this process are those that produce the fewest health care workers, offer the least financial and professional rewards, and have the greatest medical needs – a situation that is most profound in sub-Saharan Africa. To assure equity in access to health care, English-speaking countries must work together to train a workforce of physicians, nurses and other health professionals that is scaled to aggregate needs, a situation that could be termed 'global self-sufficiency'. This will require efforts within developed countries to become more self-sufficient, while still offering opportunities for immigration from developing countries, combined with efforts in developing countries (aided by developed countries) to increase their output of well-trained health professionals, both in response to domestic needs and in recognition of the natural flow of highly-trained individuals from developing to developed countries.

Biographies



Mr Winston A Cox assumed the position of Commonwealth Deputy Secretary General in September 2000. He came to the Commonwealth Secretariat after completing an assignment with the International Monetary Fund on the impact of the publication of IMF staff reports on the economies of Fund members. Mr Cox served as Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados from September 1997 to April 1999 and prior to joining the Central Bank, he was an Alternate Executive Director in the World Bank from November 1994. He was appointed Director of Finance and Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs in 1987 and served in this capacity until July 1991.



Dr John Hunt has enjoyed a varied career. He graduated as a dentist from Guy's Hospital in London, UK and after a brief spell as a house surgeon he obtained a Fulbright Scholarship to study at the Eastman Dental Center in the USA. This was followed by three years at the London Hospital Dental Institute and then ten years as a general dental practitioner in Torquay. In 1980 he and his family left for Hong Kong where, for five years, he was a Clinical Dental Surgeon at the new Prince Philip Dental Hospital. On his return to the UK he became a civil servant in the UK's Department of Health. In 1993 he became the Chief Executive of the British Dental Association, a position he held until 2001. Currently he is a Vice-President of the Commonwealth Dental Association, an International Board Member of the Organisation for Safety and Asepsis Procedures (OSAP) in the USA and a Director of Smile-on Ltd. He also chairs the Advisory Panel of Dentaaid, the UK based dental charity, is a member of the General Dental Council's Appointments Committee and Chairman of his local village hall and playing field trust at home in southwest England.



Dr Alice Welbourn is a trainer, writer and activist and has worked on international gender, participation and health issues for 25 years. After a PhD at Cambridge, based on research in rural Kenya, she worked in East, Southern and West Africa. Diagnosed HIV positive in 1992, as a personal response to coping with the virus, she wrote an HIV and relationship skills training package called Stepping Stones, used now by communities across Africa, Asia and Latin America. Alice has just finished serving as international chair of ICW. She has advised the UN, the Diana Fund, Comic Relief, and others on global policy issues in relation to HIV positive women. She is married with two teenage children.



Dr Richard Scheffer is a practising consultant in palliative medicine in Torquay, UK and the medical director of Rowcroft Hospice. He has strong links with Southern Africa having trained in Cape Town and through the twinning of Rowcroft Hospice with South Coast Hospice in Port Shepstone, KwaZulu-Natal. He has been involved with the development and auditing of the Integrated Community Home based Care programme (ICHC) in Port Shepstone that is now being piloted by the Hospice and Palliative Care Association of South Africa in a number of sites. The Advocacy Committee of the *UK forum for hospice and palliative care worldwide* is committed to raising the awareness of governments to the importance of palliative care as an essential part of the treatment and care of patients with HIV/AIDS.

Biographies



Dr E Grace Allen-Young is the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health in Jamaica. In August 2003 she took office as the first female President of the Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association. A Doctor of Pharmacy, she is a member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Jamaica, Caribbean Association of Pharmacists, Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and Institute of Pharmacy Management International. Dr Allen-Young lectures part-time at the University of Technology, Jamaica and is a student mentor. Her community work involves the Soroptimist International of Jamaica (Kingston), Salvation Army Greater Kingston Advisory Board, Methodist Women's League and St Andrew Business & Professional Women's Club.



Mrs Corinne Ward is the Commonwealth Nurses' Federation Regional Board Member for Europe. Internationally she represents Malta on the International Skin care Nursing Group (ISNG) and also the International Diabetes Federation. She was formerly Vice-President and President of the Nurses' Association of Malta. After specialising with a Masters Degree in Wound Healing and Tissue Repair she now heads a nurse led clinic on wound healing and works as a Tissue Viability nurse specialist for Malta and Gozo.



Professor Agyeman Badu Akosa is Professor of Pathology, University of Ghana Medical School and previously Consultant Histopathologist and Clinical Director of Pathology to Forest Healthcare Trust, Whipps Cross Hospital, London. Professor Akosa is now the Director-General of Ghana Health Service and has been for the past 3 years. He is also the President of the Commonwealth Medical Association. Professor Akosa is a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists UK, West African College of Physicians, Ghana Medical Association and the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is a powerful health advocate and has expertise in Health Systems Management.



Dr Richard A Cooper is a Professor of Medicine at the Leonard Davis Institute of the University of Pennsylvania. He graduated from Washington University School of Medicine in 1961 and trained in internal medicine, haematology and oncology at the Harvard Medical School and the National Cancer Institute. Following two years on the faculty of the Harvard Medical School, he became Chief of Haematology in the Department of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania and subsequently Director of Penn's Cancer Center, positions that he held for 14 years. In 1985 he moved to the Medical College of Wisconsin, where he served as Executive Vice-President and Dean for nine years and as the Director of the Medical College's Health Policy Institute for an additional eleven.

Dr Cooper's interests in health policy have centred on the health care workforce. He has played a principal role in bringing greater understanding to the interrelationships among physicians and various nonphysician clinician disciplines. In addition he has developed models for projecting the future demand for physicians and has championed the notion that there are impending physician shortages. His recent work has focused on finding solutions to this deepening problem and the associated issues of international medical migration.

The United Nations Millennium Development Goals

The eight UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) - which range from eradicating extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by the target date of 2015 - form a blueprint agreed to by all the world's countries and all the world's leading developing institutions. They have galvanised unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest.

The Goals

- 1 *Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger*
- 2 *Achieve universal primary education*
- 3 *Promote gender equality and empower women*
- 4 *Reduce child mortality*
- 5 *Improve maternal health*
- 6 *Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases*
- 7 *Ensure environmental sustainability*
- 8 *Develop a global partnership for development*

"We will have time to reach the Millennium Development Goals - worldwide and in most, or even all, individual countries - but only if we break with business as usual. We cannot win overnight. Success will require sustained action across the entire decade between now and the deadline. It takes time to train the teachers, nurses and engineers; to build the roads, schools and hospitals; to grow the small and large businesses able to create the jobs and income needed. So we must start now. And we must more than double global development assistance over the next few years. Nothing less will help to achieve the Goals."

*United Nations Secretary-General
Kofi A Annan*

The Commonwealth Associations

The Commonwealth Dental Association (CDA), inaugurated in 1991, is an association of Dental Organisations which aims to improve dental and oral health in Commonwealth countries by raising the skills of practitioners and increasing awareness of oral health. Its aims and activities are to develop and promote strategies to improve oral health care; to encourage the training of appropriate personnel, to serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas, professional information and the emerging concept of oral health, to address problems of professional isolation in the non-industrialised Commonwealth countries, to stimulate continuing professional education.

Website: www.cdauk.com

The Commonwealth Nurses Federation (CNF), founded in 1973, is a federation of national nurses' associations in Commonwealth countries. It is involved in the promotion of high standards of professional practice. There are currently 36 member associations. The CNF is accredited to the Commonwealth and has observer status at pan-Commonwealth meetings. The CNF exists to: influence health policy; develop nursing networks; enhance nursing education; improve nursing standards and competence and strengthen nursing leadership. The CNF makes a constructive and influential contribution to the work of the Commonwealth Steering Committee for Nursing and Midwifery and the Commonwealth HIV/AIDS Action Group. *Website:* www.commonwealthnurses.org



The Organising Team: (left to right) Betty Falconbridge (CPA), Michael Stubbings (CNF), Frank Davis (Para55), Julia Campion (CDA)

The Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association (CPA) is a non-governmental organisation representing professional pharmaceutical societies from over 40 Commonwealth countries. Over 1,200 pharmacists from throughout the Commonwealth are personal members of CPA. This combined membership of skilled and expert pharmacists, committed to serving their communities, enables CPA to work continually towards improving health outcomes for almost one third of the world's population. To achieve our objectives of: high professional standards; dissemination of pharmaceutical knowledge; improved access to the highest possible level of health care in all communities, CPA strategies focus on communication and collaboration at the international, national and regional level.

Website: www.commonwealthpharmacy.org

Para55 the Commonwealth HIV and AIDS Action Group is a unique multidisciplinary group. Members and their organisations network throughout the Commonwealth. The group exercises every opportunity to inform and influence Commonwealth Heads of Governments and Ministers to focus more resources on the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The group continues to disseminate information on good practice to reduce the incidence of AIDS to its members world wide. *Website:* www.para55.org

Acknowledgements

The Commonwealth Associations would like to acknowledge with thanks the help and support they have received with this symposium from their *Executive Committees, the Commonwealth Foundation, Commonwealth Secretariat, Malta Chamber of Pharmacists, Malta Federation of Professional Associations, Malta High Commission, Malta Union of Midwives & Nurses, Dental Association of Malta, Commonwealth Medical Association.*