

WHO AND SCIENCE:

**Vasee Moorthy on
behalf of
Soumya Swaminathan
Chief Scientist**

IAP, Seoul,
11 April 2019



Challenges to achieving health for all



- Conflict
- Inequality
- Poverty
- Climate change
- Environmental degradation
- Demographic changes
- Fragile states – health emergencies
- Outbreaks of high threat pathogens
- The rise of NCDs

Opportunities



Political will to achieve UHC:

Points to major need for research on how best each country can expand UHC, deliver PHC, address NCD

Potential of digital health to increase reach of the health system

Potential of emerging technologies to prevent and cure many more diseases

Existential threats may catalyse effective multisectoral action

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WHO's new technical strategy (GPW13): achieving impact for people at country level

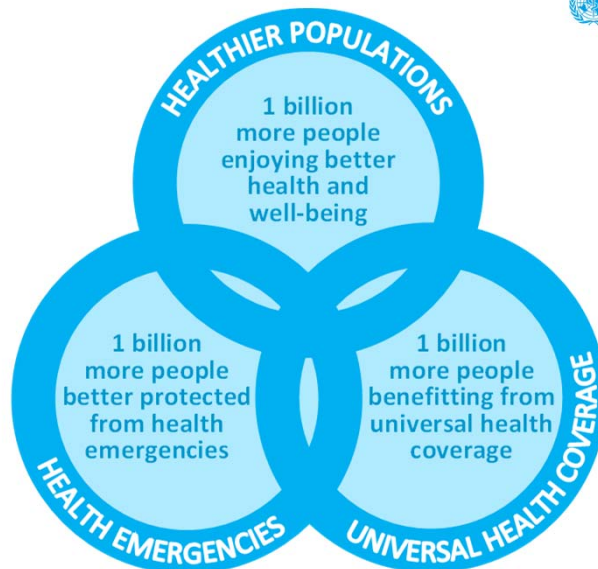


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Promote health
Keep the world safe
Serve the vulnerable

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Science Division: Harnessing the power of science and innovation to achieve health for all

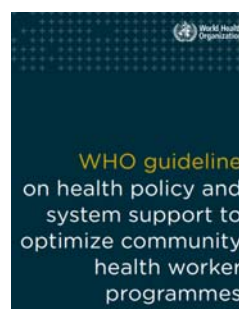
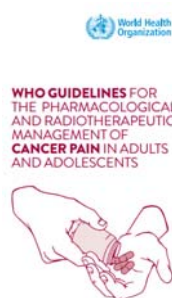


- Renewed emphasis on science to support countries in achieving SDG3 and the “triple billion” targets:
- Ensure WHO anticipates and stays ahead of the curve on the latest scientific developments and identify opportunities to harness those developments to improve global health; and
- Ensure the excellence, relevance and efficacy of our core technical functions, including norms and standards and research.

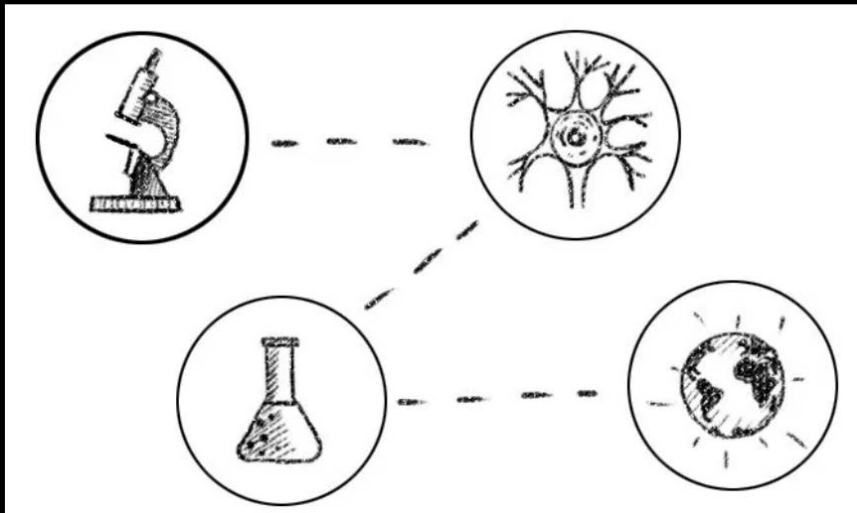
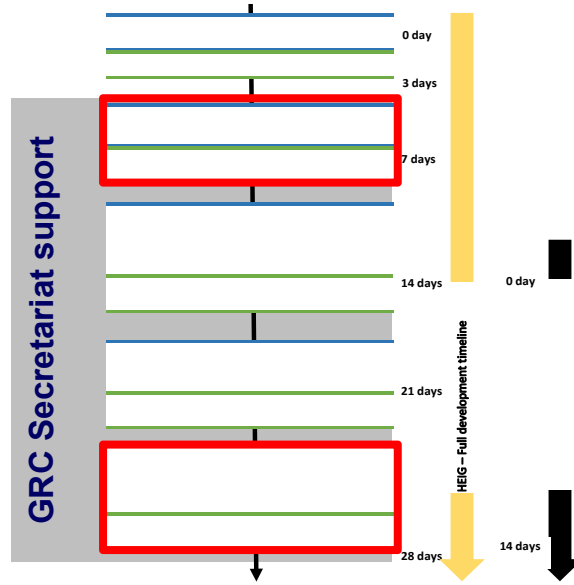
WHO Guidelines: Science and Evidence-based



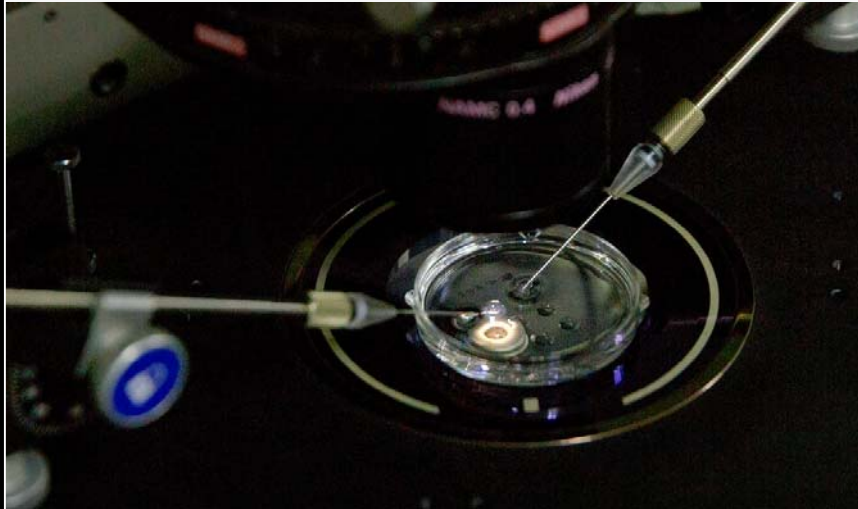
Considered as independent and trustworthy by policymakers in countries around the world



Working to re-engineer guidelines processes: eg 28 day process used for Ebola and living guidelines



Better Anticipating Impact of Emerging Technology



Human Genome Editing: Governance Options

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The New York Times

W.H.O. Panel Demands a Registry for Human Gene Editing

The panel, established after a Chinese experiment produced embryo-edited babies, said all human genome editing research should be listed in a registry.

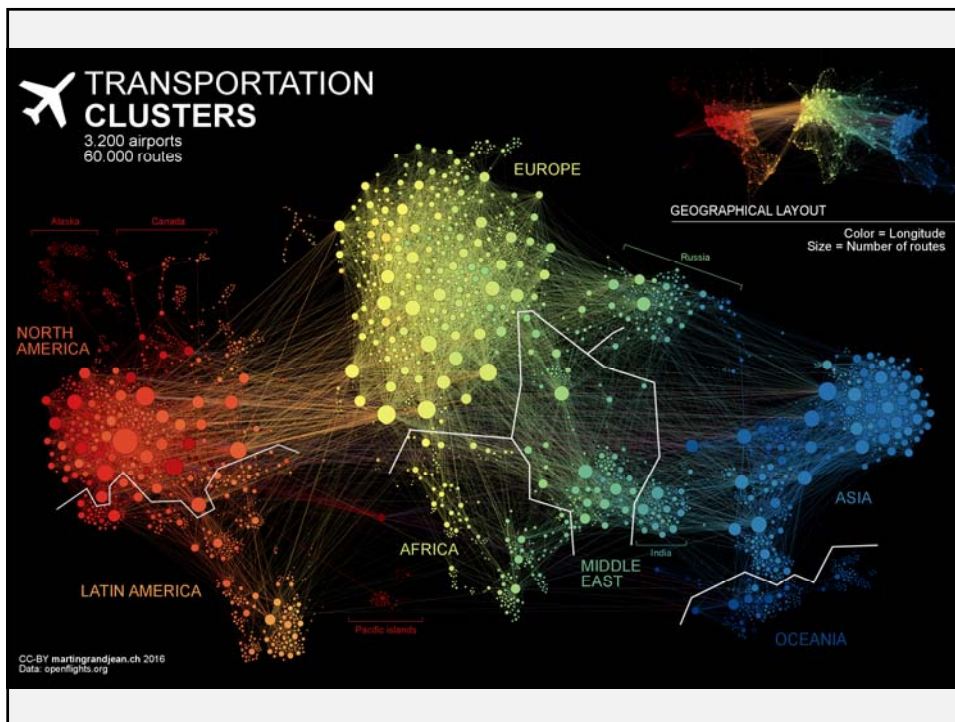
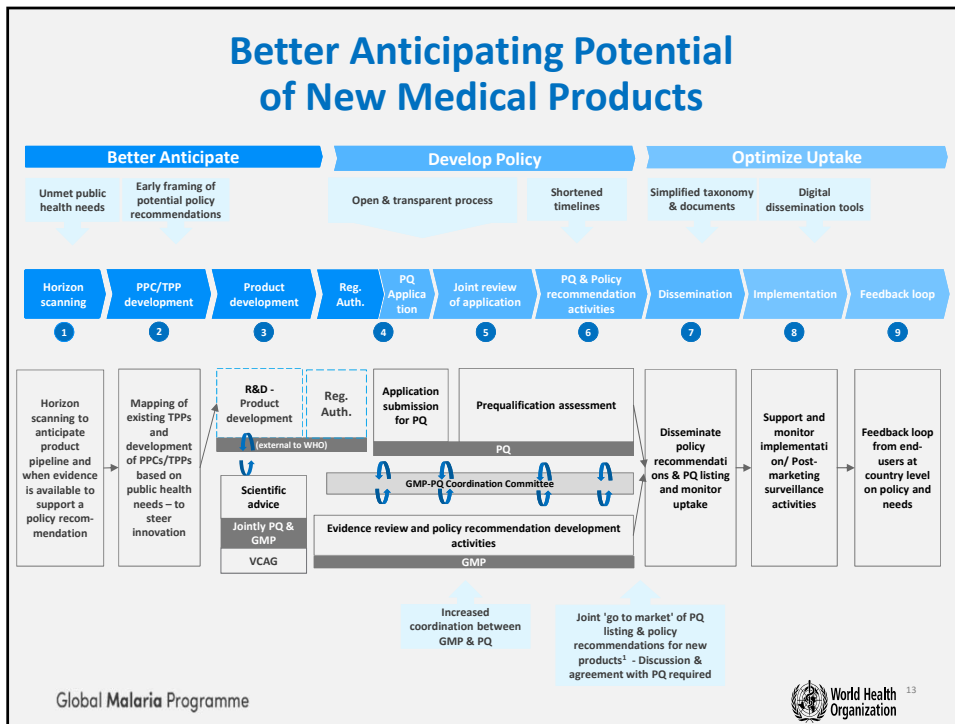


By Pam Belluck

March 19, 2019



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Research agendas



Commentary | Published: 07 July 2016

A roadmap for MERS-CoV research and product development: report from a World Health Organization consultation


Kayvon Modjarrad, Vasee S Moorthy, Peter Ben Embarek, Maria Van Kerkhove, Jerome Kim & Marie-Paule Kieny


Nature Medicine **22**, 701–705 (2016) | [Download Citation](#)

As part of the World Health Organization (WHO) R&D Blueprint initiative, leading stakeholders on Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) convened to agree on strategic public-health goals and global priority research activities that are needed to combat MERS-CoV.

Achieving broad, timely pathogen sequence sharing


Status quo represents a major risk to public health




 World Health Organization

 **nature**
International journal of science

CORRESPONDENCE · 19 DECEMBER 2018

Up for debate — WHO guidelines on prompt release of outbreak data

Vasee Moorthy , Peter Salama & Soumya Swaminathan

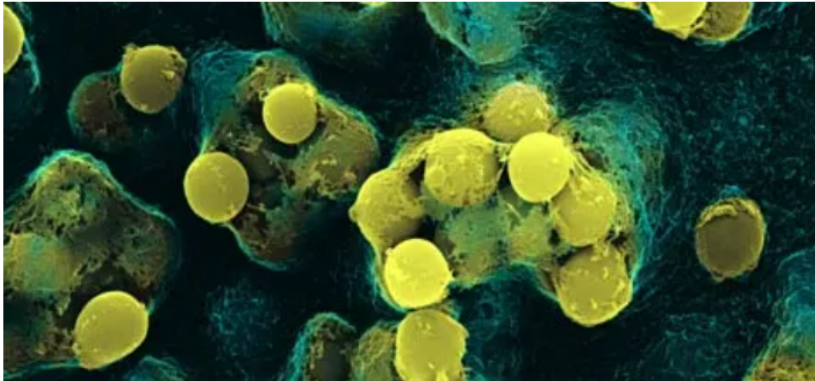
To understand and control disease outbreaks, researchers need free access to the genetic sequences of pathogenic organisms as

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WHO promotes AMR R&D

Are you ready for a world without antibiotics?

Antibiotics are a bedrock of modern medicine. But in the very near future, we're going to have to learn to live without them once again. And it's going to get nasty



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Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All

 World Health Organization

Twelve of the world's health and development organizations are uniting to accelerate progress towards the health-related SDGs.



















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The Innovation Hub Will Serve as a Strategic Translation Pillar across WHO

CONNECT

1. Link with research, UN partners, private sector/public sectors,
2. Partner in shaping calls for innovations or challenges matched to specific, identified health-related needs and gaps aligned with WHO strategic priorities

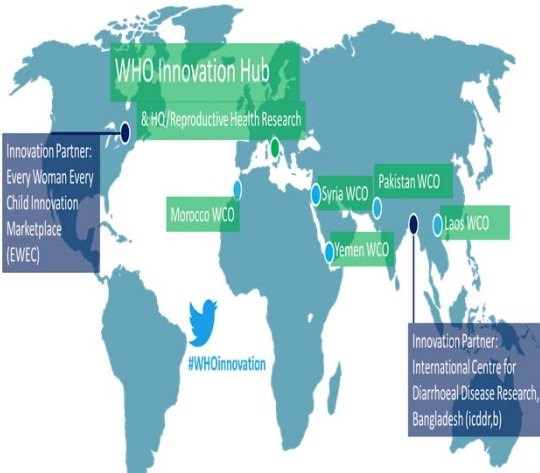
SCALE

1. Identify country needs
2. Connect innovations, innovators and founders with governments
3. Maximize opportunities for replication and scalability

AMPLIFY


1. Communicate successes and lessons learned
2. Develop and deliver innovation-related trainings and talks.

Innovating by Example: Group Prenatal Care can Accelerate Several GPW Impact Indicators




#WHOinnovation

Ideate
Design
Catalyze
Develop
Test
Deploy
Promote
Scale



INNOVATION HUB

DIGITAL HEALTH – WHO CURRENT WORK



Accelerator 6: Data and Digital Health

1. Assuring fundamentals for all health data, standards, and interoperability
2. Exploring potential of,
 1. Cloud-based visual analytics
 2. Automation
 3. Social media nudges
 4. Secure digital identities
 5. Unique identifiers



DIGITAL HEALTH – VISION FOR THE WAY FORWARD



WHA2020: WHO global strategy on digital health

Develop and assist in adoption of good practices

Anticipate impacts on health systems/delivery; manage challenges and take opportunities

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Conclusions

WHO has recently established a Chief Scientist position

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Conclusions



Science academies can contribute to health policy by:

- Supporting national research and innovation agendas
- Responding to WHO calls for science-policy documents
- Partnering with WHO for public engagement on health science; dialogue with all countries and communities will be key if we are to accelerate health for all
- Make the case for a public access model for pathogen sequence sharing
- Help us to partner with you

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harnessing the power of science
and innovation to achieve health
for all**

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