World Leadership Dialogue 018: Women Rising - Stories in Global Health

Co-organizers: Women in Global Health, American Public Health Association

Co-moderators:
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Panelists:

Andrea Winkler
Co-chair of The Lancet One Health Commission; Director of the Centre for Global Health at University of Oslo (UiO)

Lundi-Anne Omam Ngo Bibaa
Assistant Executive Director, Reach Out Cameroon

Lina Bader
Lead for Workforce Transformation & Development, International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)

Flavia Senkubuge
Chair, WHO/AFRO African Advisory Committee on Research and Development (AACHRD); President of the College of Medicine South Africa

Overview
Women play a critical role in health promotion and providing health and social care in their communities. They make up 70% of the health and social workforce and make up the majority of students entering public health and global health programs around the world. However, their contributions are undervalued and under recognized. Women’s representation in top leadership roles in global health organizations and professional associations and societies remains staggering at 25%. Evidence has shown that having role models from diverse backgrounds fosters greater diversity.

Although the public health and global health community is strongly committed to the values of equity, there is a responsibility to accelerate progress on gender equality, especially on women’s leadership. By creating a platform for women leaders in public and global health to share their stories and experience from a gendered perspective, we are addressing an aspect of the gender gap in global health leadership - visibility of women leaders. We also know that diverse perspectives and leadership are needed to create more innovative and sustainable solutions for the complex global health challenges we are facing.

In 2020, there is greater awareness of the need to recognize and support strong female leadership in the world today. In 2014, the most notable example of this in the health field was the #WGH300 Twitter campaign that aimed to highlight 300 great women working in global health as nominated by their
peers. This list garnered international attention and was featured in The Lancet and inspired a global movement. In 2020, the Women in Global Health movement continues to galvanize support for achieving gender equality in global health leadership as it grows to 20,000 supporters from 90+ countries and numerous initiatives, including the Lancet Women.

This session will present information on gender equity in global health leadership. There will be an emphasis on women’s leadership in public and global health. A series of brief “TED-style talks” on issues related to leadership development and career success will be given by 3-4 women leaders. Each speaker will be invited to share their stories and experiences and encouraged to share their personal narrative from the perspective of applying a gender and intersectionality lens.

Following the brief talks, a facilitated discussion accompanied by an interactive audience Q&A will follow. The speakers will be asked to present their thoughts on issues such as: 1) the role of gender equity in relation to the global health field; 2) address the challenges faced in their respective career paths; and 3) advise on solutions to overcome the “glass ceiling” women often encounter on their leadership journey and 4) discuss strategies to make gender equality everyone’s business. Audience members will be encouraged to participate in the discussion and pose questions to the esteemed panelists.