

The 2018 Norwegian Global Health Conference, University of Oslo, 10-11 April 2018: symposium proposal

“Neglected Tropical Disease: is it possible to eliminate? Successes and challenges”

Background: Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) are a diverse group of diseases, ranging from infections to snake bites, that in the past received relatively little attention compared to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. The burden of NTDs is substantial with an estimated one billion people, mainly the poorest of the poor, being affected. NTDs contribute to chronic ill health, malnutrition, co-morbidities, poor schooling and unemployment, adverse pregnancy outcome and poor mental health, among others. Nation states, the WHO as well as the public and private sector have taken the challenge of NTDs on board, recognizing their potential for elimination, and have developed the Roadmap 2020 as well as the WHO list of NTDs, among others, to raise awareness and create momentum for disease elimination. There are various factors that are important for elimination which include access to quality health care and treatment, development of cheap point-of care diagnostic tests, as well as cross-sectorial and multidisciplinary collaboration.

Moderator: Andrea Sylvia Winkler, Centre for Global Health, Department of Community Medicine and Global Health, Institute of Health and Society, University of Oslo and Center for Global Health, Department of Neurology, Technical University of Munich

Neglected Tropical Diseases: where do we stand – an overview (15 min). Frank Olav Pettersen, Department of Infectious Diseases, Oslo University Hospital, Norway

There are 20 recognized NTDs by the WHO that receive varying support and that are at different stages of control/elimination/eradication. Here we give a short overview of the state of the art of control/elimination/eradication of the most important NTDs.

Female genital schistosomiasis (FGS) - a chronic disease for each untreated generation of girls, the implications of delayed mass intervention (15 min). Eyrun Kjetland, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, and Oslo University Hospital, Norway

Schistosomiasis is endemic in 53 countries and in females the most common type, *Schistosoma haematobium*, seems to be a risk factor for HIV. Furthermore, FGS has an effect on girls and on sexual health of women.

Intestinal zoonotic protozoa – approaches to control (15 min). Lucy J. Robertson, Parasitology, Food Safety and Infection Biology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, NMBU, Oslo, Norway

Both *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* are intestinal protozoan parasites that contribute to a high burden of diarrhoea in children. Both these parasites have a zoonotic potential, and transmission is also commonly via environmental contamination. It is therefore most relevant to take a One-Health approach when it comes to control/elimination of these diseases.

The potential of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for the elimination of NTDs exemplified by the Neglected Tropical Disease NGO Network (NNN) (15 min): Wendy Harrison, Schistosomiasis Control Initiative, Imperial College London, UK

NGOs are a critical player in global health and are uniquely placed, given their field-based programmes and experience, to reach the world's most underserved populations. Here we portray the role of an NGO network in the control and elimination of NTDs.

Panel discussion (30 min): “The pre-conditions of elimination: what works and what does not work.”