

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

“Exploring the potential of a One-Health approach in the areas of neglected and emerging diseases as well as antimicrobial resistance”

Background: The concept of One-Health is not new, but of late there seems to be increased interest in this field that links the health of people, animals and the environment closely together. One-Health includes communicable and non-communicable diseases/aspects that are often but not exclusively of global nature. In the communicable arm of One-Health three major health concerns stand out and have recently attracted the attention of societies and their political leaders: neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), emerging (or re-emerging) infectious diseases (EIDs) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR). In all three areas, multidisciplinary collaboration and cross-sectorial outreach is indispensable taking into account the complexity of the topics. Furthermore, achievements in NTDs, EIDs and AMR depend on the state of health systems and, on the other hand, investing into NTDs, EIDs and AMR may lead to strengthening of health system, especially in resource-poor settings. In this symposium we want to explore NTDs, EIDs and AMR in a multidisciplinary way by using the One-Health concept and investigate potential areas of collaboration between the different fields.

Chair: Christoph Gradmann

Neglected Tropical Diseases and their One-Health character: improving animal health means improving human health (20 min). 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

Emerging Infectious Diseases and their One-Health character: protecting animal health means protecting ourselves (20 min). Osama Hassan Ahmed, Centre for Global Health, Department of Community Medicine and Global Health, Institute of Health and Society, University of Oslo

NTDs and EIDs are diverse groups of diseases. Whereas the former predominantly affects poor people in low income countries, the latter has the potential to cause pandemics and to affect people of low and high income countries alike. Many NTDs and EIDs are zoonotic in nature which has specific implications for control and elimination of the diseases.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the global dimension (20 min). Ernst Kristian Rodland, Centre for Global Health, Department of Community Medicine and Global Health, Institute of Health and Society, University of Oslo

AMR represents a growing global challenge. Antibiotic resistant bacteria are found in the environment and in human as well as animal populations. Due to globalization, resistant microbes are spreading worldwide. A multidisciplinary One-Health construct seems the right approach to tackle the health threat of AMR and knowledge sharing between the different sectors involved seems of paramount importance.

Panel discussion (20 min, Moderator Christoph Gradmann): Sharing of knowledge, expertise, facilities, platforms etc. across NTDs, EIDs and AMR: how to leverage from each other through the One-Health concept and how to ensure health system strengthening from different directions.