



## **Human Resources for Health and Economic Growth Learning from the Cuban Experience in Medical Education**

**Mon 24 – Tue 25 April 2017**

**Imperial College London, Council Room, 170 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5HF (map below)**

### **Background**

Health inequalities continue to exist within and between countries despite advances in training of health professionals and an increased emphasis of evidence-based health care. Maldistribution of health professionals and services fuels health inequalities and health systems are increasingly failing to meet the needs of populations in low, middle and high income countries. These issues have been detailed by an expert group.<sup>1</sup>

The Sustainable Development Goals set out an ambitious agenda and the related health workforce needs are enormous, with an estimated 18 million additional qualified health professionals needed globally to deliver basic health services. The World Health Organization, in response to a request by its Member States, has developed a Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030, which examines the strategic opportunities and health workforce requirements in the decades to come. This global strategy aims to “accelerate progress towards universal health coverage and the UN Sustainable Development Goals by ensuring equitable access to health workers within strengthened health systems”<sup>2</sup> and was ratified by the World Health Assembly in May 2016.

The UK All Party Parliamentary Group on Global Health (APPG-GH) has played a key role in human resources for health. In 2015 the APPG-GH hosted a meeting on the role of Cuba in supporting health professionals training in South Africa. Cuba trains huge numbers of doctors for many countries in the world, USA included. The unique aspects of Cuban medical education, which focuses heavily on community health, community diagnosis and primary care – are all highly relevant to current thinking about transformation of health professional training to achieve universal health coverage.

Early in 2016 the APPG-GH hosted a panel discussion about the future direction of the global health workforce with perspectives from key leaders in public health: Jim Campbell (Executive Director, Global Health Workforce Alliance and Director of the Health Workforce Department, WHO), Francesca Colombo (Head of the OECD Health Division), Richard Horton (Editor-in-Chief of the Lancet), and Duncan Selbie (Chief Executive of Public Health). Richard Horton launched the Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth<sup>3</sup> at this meeting. The Commission is chaired by Presidents Zuma and Hollande, and aims to build the evidence base, strengthen policy dialogue across multiple sectors, and catalyze actions to guide the creation of new jobs and investment in health and social sector employment. A report is expected in September 2016.

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<sup>1</sup> Frenk J, Chen L, Bhutta ZA, Cohen J, Crisp N, Evans T, Fineberg H et al. Health professionals for a new century: transforming education to strengthen health systems in an interdependent world. *Lancet*, 2010;376: 1923-58

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.who.int/hrh/resources/16059\\_Global\\_strategyWorkforce2030.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/hrh/resources/16059_Global_strategyWorkforce2030.pdf?ua=1)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.who.int/hrh/com-heeg/hrh\\_heeg\\_call/en/](http://www.who.int/hrh/com-heeg/hrh_heeg_call/en/)



The APPG-GH has also commissioned a report that shows that the UK plays a leading role in health globally – in research and education, public health, healthcare, life sciences, policy making, international development, philanthropy and the NGO sector, and that benefits from this work flow into the NHS.<sup>4</sup>

The Republic of South Africa is currently training more than 2000 of its medical students in Cuba – a brave experiment in achieving transformations in its health services which is being studied by a DfID funded policy research project conducted by Imperial College London Institute for Global Health Innovation, Human Sciences Research Council South Africa, Public Health England and London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

**Purpose of the meeting.**

- Opportunity to discuss how to link UK primary health care know how, with Cuban know how, to create different types of partnerships for improving health systems globally.
- Highlight the lessons of the Cuban approach for medical education for South Africa, UK and elsewhere.
- Report research findings from the exploration of the role of Cuban medical training for South Africa.
- Explore the policy levers and implications of transforming health professionals training.

**Agenda**

**Mon 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017.**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session details</b>	<b>Speaker / lead</b>
12.00 –	Lunch	
13.00	Welcome and event overview	John Middleton, President, Faculty of Public Health
13.10	Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health	Cristian Morales, PAHO Cuba
13.30	Need for transformation of medical education	Shah Ebrahim, LSHTM
13.45	Cuba's role in training doctors for the World	Her Excellency Teresita Vicente Sotolongo, Cuban Ambassador to UK
14.00	Cuban medical education: past, present and future	Ileana Morales, MOH Cuba
14.30	What makes the Cuban model special?	Cristian Morales, PAHO Cuba

<sup>4</sup> The UK's Contribution to Health Globally: Benefiting the Country and the World. 2015  
<http://www.appg-globalhealth.org.uk/reports/4556656050>



15.00	Global surgery and the role of the Cubans	Richard Sullivan, Kings College London
15.30	Tea break	
16.00	Experiences of Cuban trained doctors returning to South Africa	Dr Sanele Madela Dr NMT Gumede
17.00	End of Day 1  Drinks reception (Solar Room)	

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

09.15	Welcome, review of day 1. Overview of day 2	John Middleton, Faculty of Public Health
09.30	Health Education England supported Africa placement scheme	Ged Byrne - Health Education England
09.50	Research findings - setting out the historic context to this work, the challenges faced in doing the work, and the findings	Priscilla Reddy, HSRC Shah Ebrahim, LSHTM Charles Hongoro, HSRC
10.20	Health and health services in South Africa: challenges and successes	Sibongiseni Dhlomo, MEC for Health, KwaZulu-Natal province
10.40	Medical Education in South Africa – lessons learned	Richard Hift, University of KwaZulu-Natal
11.00	Coffee Break	
11.30	Primary health care developments in South Africa	Steve Reid University of Cape Town
11.50	Royal College of General Practitioners work in South Africa – Supporting self- sufficiency in high quality GP Training and Assessment	Ed Parry-Jones, Royal College of General Practitioners
12.10	Group discussion: policy messages to feed in to afternoon	Neil Squires, Public Health England (PHE)
12.30	LUNCH	
<b>Afternoon</b> - focused on policy initiatives between UK and South Africa related to Cuban-trained doctors and their deployment in South Africa.		
13.30	The UK approach to partnership and interest in supporting South Africa	Neil Squires (PHE), Graeme Chisholm THET



14.00	UK capacity to support South African primary care orientated health system development	Sandra Mather, Royal College of General Practitioners
14.30	Potential for Prosperity Fund to facilitate initial engagement, and establish interest in taking forward a systematic appraisal of progress towards universal health care coverage.	Andrew Smith, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office
15.00	Round table discussion	All speakers
16.00	Summary of workshop	Neil Squires, PHE Shah Ebrahim, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
17.00	End	

**Venue:**

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