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13 - 14 November 2014
Hotel Windsor, Melbourne, Australia

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1. We, the attendees at the inaugural H20 International Health Summit (H20), met on 13th and 14th November 2014 at the Hotel Windsor in Melbourne. The event was co-hosted by the World Medical Association, the Australian Medical Association and AMA Victoria and welcomed health professionals, academics and thought leaders to discuss a wide range of health and related social issues on the eve of the G20 Leaders' Summit in Brisbane. Topics included 'health as a wise investment', the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), the social determinants of health and the health effects of climate change.

2. We congratulate Dr Mukesh

5. Health is the foundation of economic growth, yet has been omitted from the global G20 agenda.

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Big Data

14. The collection and analysis of Big Data will improve service planning and individual delivery while imbedded and wearable devices will help individuals achieve 'the quantified self'. Supply-driven systems based on procedures, hospitalisations and clinicians will evolve into e-enabled platforms, organised around the patient experience, which prize value and outcomes, drive down costs and improve safety and accountability. IT solutions should be designed and implemented in consultation with the clinicians who will use them to ensure their support and exploit the power, convenience and ubiquity of smartphones and mobile devices.

Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD)

15. Non-communicable diseases, including cardiovascular complaints, cancers, chronic respiratory failure and diabetes cause over 60% of global mortality[4]. The NCD epidemic threatens service sustainability and population health in Australia and around the world. NCDs can be caused or exacerbated by tobacco, physical inactivity, alcohol misuse and unhealthy diets, but rather than blame patients for lifestyle choices, attention must be given to the social determinants which drive them. Greater emphasis on primary care and health literacy will reduce the incidence of diabetes, hypertension and other problems, while structured care plans and clinician teamwork will reduce avoidable admissions to hospital. Action against smoking has been effective, and disinvestment in tobacco shares by Australia's superfunds should be pursued.

Mental Health

16. No condition is as prevalent, persistent or has the range of personal and social impacts as mental illness. Early interventions and effective treatment must be complemented by policies to address social inequality and other exacerbating factors. Improved professional training and both universal and targeted interventions should be delivered through a sustained and coordinated cross-government approach in partnership with NGOs and communities.

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[4] World Health Organization (WHO) NCD Surveillance strategy; http://www.who.int/ncd_surveillance/strategy/en/

- Modern methods of Big Data collection and analysis should be encouraged to generate insights into population health dynamics.

- Surgical and other patient outcomes should be discussed with the clinicians responsible to improve standards and ensure the use of best practice. Standardisation of outcome measurements will support long-term planning and allow national and international comparisons to be made.

- Government should support international efforts to tackle newly emerging infectious threats such as Ebola as they pose a serious cross-border threat in today's globalised society. Developed nations should work to strengthen government, growth and public health systems in low-income countries to improve their resilience and health provision.

- Governments, military organisations and non-state actors should agree and respect effective measures to safeguard the security of emergency health workers in combat zones.

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