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## Social Determinants of Migrants Health SDOMH

### Workshop at Bellagio Center - Italy

Rockefeller Foundation 7-11 October, 2014



**Left to right, top:**

*Faith Mitchell, James Nazroo, Ho Kendall, Oscar Mujica, Sarah Willen, Dionne Godette, Lisa Goldman Rosas, Darrel Hudson, Cathy Zimmerman, Fred Krimgold, Irene Dankwa-Mullan*

**Bottom row:**

*Edna Viruell-Fuentes, Laia Becares, Lisa Cacari-Stone, Kevin Pottie, Emma Sanchez-Vaznaugh, Barbara Krimgold, Lucia Ruggiero, Sawsan Abdulrahim, Bonnie Lefkowitz, Joanna Almeida, Patricia Miranda, Claire Brindis*

## Workshop

Participants reflected the integration of social determinants of health – socioeconomic and structural factors – into immigrant health research and policy. A cross-national framework was used to consider issues of place, migration and health. In addition to public health, the workshop drew upon the fields of economics, sociology of immigration, and social epidemiology, and incorporate three theoretical frameworks: the life-course framework from social epidemiology, the ‘push-pull’ factor theories from geography and economics, and transnational theory from sociology. It built upon academic literature, included in the Social Sciences and Medicine (SSM) supplement\*, to formulate areas where more research is needed and to recommend potentially fruitful program interventions and policy changes.

**\*Reference:**

Social Sciences and Medicine (SSM) supplement Volume 75, Issue 12, Pages 2055-2540 (December 2012) <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/02779536/75> Special Issue: **Place, migration & health.**

*".... Diversity makes for a good tapestry....all threads are equal in value...."*

- Maya Angelou



## Purpose

To discuss an integrative conceptual framework for understanding immigrant health from a cross-national perspective, drawing on literature from several academic research disciplines.

To address and to identify knowledge gaps critical for understanding social determinants of immigrant health and inform interventions & policy opportunities to preserve or prolong the health advantage among first-generation immigrants, improve their health and their offspring and the communities affected by world migration.

To facilitate understanding of variations in mental and physical health among immigrant groups by exploring social, political, and economic factors in countries of origin and in receiving nations.

## Outcomes of the meeting

The event brought together researchers, experts and advocates from across the global health community – For thoughtful conversation focused on efforts related to Research, Policy and Programs to improve health of all migrants.

The workshop had five panels, three working groups, and one special session:

Panel 1 - Place, migration and health research and policy –international perspectives.

Panel 2 - Broadening perspectives on immigration policy and immigrant health.

Panel 3 - Bridging social epidemiological research on immigrant health, translational clinical and policy research.

Panel 4 - Priorities for future policy-relevant research on immigrants health.

Panel 5 - Funding Panel - presented by Grantmakers in Health, National Institutes of Health NIH DG & IDM.

Final session - Call to Action: To identify areas lacking a solid research base and areas for future research collaboration, actionable interventions and areas of agreed-upon policy directions.

This was a very productive meeting, with a vigorous discussion among the participants about current and future work. An agreed-list of priority issues with SDOMH related to Research, Policy and Programs and; a list of information and communication needs to further advance research on SDOMH were delineated as important to address existing evidence and knowledge gaps.

## What you learned

From participation discussions it was highlighted what we, as a community, can achieve when we work together sharing information and evidence of better health solutions for all migrants.

Also the process for planning, implementing, and evaluating strategies to address SDOMH requires the promotion of evidence-based and practice-informed strategies.

Public health strategies require translation into actionable approaches that can be implemented by state and local entities to address disparities.

From the presentations and discussions on the panels, there are two important topics that I'll further explore and include in my next projects:

- The use of technologies for health literacy, cognitive support and well being of migrant populations; and Evidence on the use of social media and mHealth- mobile applications to find answers about their health and to access healthcare services. How to conceptualize technologies to help migrants manage health issues.
- The challenges of migration into cities. Their impact on shaping healthy, resilient, and smart cities. The implications on urban planning of health services; technologies and the social potential of innovation, and the cultural possibilities of creativity.

## What commitments were made for further action

Workshop proceedings and recommendations on actionable future research and policy will be published and disseminated. Dissemination channels include websites, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Listservers, KConnection e-newsletter, the Kellogg Health Scholars Program website, the Place, Migration and Health website and listserv. A press release of the proceedings and recommendations document will also be sent to the AltFutures press list of journalists and newswire services.

It was also discussed and proposed the *Creation of a Knowledge Network (KN)* by coordinating and contributing toward the knowledge generation activities on SDOMH.

Participants suggested to *develop a crowdsourcing platform online* - using a free Web-based software. To provide a public forum and to share links to databases or allow access to data sets.

The group recommended the *creation of a toolkit of resources* including information related to Key findings and gaps in knowledge from a landscaping exercise. The toolkit may include: An inventory of successful sectoral and intersectoral policies / programs that illustrate a positive impact on health status

and health gaps through action on social determinants. Case reviews on the impact the SDOMH on health and health equity; successful policy interventions; and Mapping of funding resources.

In closing the workshop, we put into place a process for developing research and policy recommendations, resulting in the content for a Call to Action that will be prepared and discussed by the group and disseminated after the workshop.

As requested, this is my brief summary of the workshop, a full report from the Group will be submitted soon.

Tweets from the workshop are available at @equitylist Hashtag #migrant.

### Workshop Program:

