

Improving Global Health Research and Collaboration

The Good, Bad and Ugly in International
Collaborative Research

Thomas T.H. Wan, Ph.D., MHS
College of Health and Public Affairs
University of Central Florida

1. A Shared Vision

In a competitive global environment, health service delivery & administrative systems are driven to achieve equity, cost-effectiveness, quality, and efficiency for all people in the global communities. The focus on healthcare informatics research & training is **to serve the information needs** of service organizations and enable them **to function efficiently and effectively on the basis of evidence-based approach.**

2. Value-Added Informatics Research for Global Health

- Comparative effectiveness analysis
- Transforming organizational performance
- Benchmarking service organizations
- Allocating resources for better performance
- Navigating strategies & positioning

3. Sharing a common culture

“We are what we repeatedly do; excellence is not an act, but a habit.”

Aristotle

4. Why Is Global Health Research Needed?

- Specialization in health services research to meet the need of the healthcare sector for improving evidence-based practice and management.
- An integration of health and social services for promoting “integrated care”.
- A transdisciplinary approach to health and healthcare disparities.
- Optimization of clinical and administrative decisions with the knowledge of best-practiced modeling & performance improvement in quality and efficiency.
- Achieving high performance on the basis of multi-criteria optimization in health resources allocation.

5. How Do We Develop A Viable Global Health Research Agenda?

- Formulation of an analytical framework to guide the construction of data warehouse and formulate theoretically informed strategies for selecting analytical models for validation.
- Collection of both cross-sectional and longitudinal data of a panel of healthcare organizations (e.g., nursing homes, hospitals, clinics, etc.).
- Use of appropriate data mining and multivariate modeling techniques to generate the best fitting model for optimization.
- Demonstration of multi-criteria optimization.

6. What is the Roadmap for Achieving the Best Practice in Generating Global Collaboration Research Projects?

- Understand the strengths & weaknesses of the collaborative partners
- Identify mutually beneficial outcomes of the projects
- Set an achievable target for accomplishments
- Overcome challenges in collaboration
- Jointly prepare a fundable grant application
- Monitor the progress and communicate/share important information with international collaborators
- Celebrate the success
- Continue the journey of international collaboration for health services and disparities research

7. Funding Prospects for Global Health Research

- NIH International Collaboration
 - NIH: Institute-specific research priorities
 - The Fogarty International Health Center
- NSF International Collaborative Projects
 - Exchange scientist program
 - Travel funds
- CDC International Health Collaboratives: www.cdc.gov
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: www.gatesfoundation.org
- EURO Research Council: erc.Europa.eu/Funding-and-grants
- Qatar National Research Fund: www.gnrf.org

8. Vision Beyond Collaborative Research

- Health Policy Informatics & Comparative Effectiveness Analysis
- Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
- Alternatives to Institutionalization
- Global Health Care Markets- Remote Access to robotics surgical systems and Global Health Records
- Childhood Obesity Research and Prevention