Commonwealth Health Professions Alliance
Commonwealth Civil Society Policy Forum 2020

2020 Virtual Meeting

Wednesday 6 May 2020
10:00hrs to 12:00hrs
(London Time GMT +1)

Concept Note and Programme

Strengthening Health Systems with Digital Technologies in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure Universal Health Coverage

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is based on the principle that individuals and communities have the right to equitably access comprehensive and good quality health services without experiencing financial hardship. The rights-based approach lies at the core of this concept. UHC is pivotal to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda. It is necessary to use modern technology in innovative ways to strengthen and reengineer processes within health systems and health care to achieve UHC. The COVID-19 global pandemic has brought health systems even in high income countries to their knees. Digital and diagnostic technologies are playing a leading role in the response to the pandemic and understanding how these technologies can be used effectively and strategically to mitigate the effects of the pandemic and to ensure Universal Health Coverage is vital for all countries. The objective of the 2020 Commonwealth Civil Society Policy Forum is to discuss these issues and form recommendations to share with Commonwealth Health Ministers.

This forum is usually conducted in conjunction with the annual Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting (CHMM) and the World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva in May each year. This year in view of the global pandemic it has been decided to hold the event as a virtual event.

The outcome of the forum will be a policy brief that will be widely circulated to Ministries of Health in Commonwealth countries as well international development partners and intergovernmental agencies.

To Register:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0lcOqgpjstEtT11SG8-Gd5JNLPGZMlp4-x
# Commonwealth Health Professions Alliance

## Commonwealth Civil Society Policy Forum 2020

**Program**

Wednesday 6 May 2020 10:00 hrs to 12:00 hours (London GMT +1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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| 10:00 | **Welcome Remarks**  
Professor Tony Nelson, Chair, Commonwealth Health Professions Alliance |
| 10:05 | **Remarks by**  
Baroness Patricia Scotland, Secretary General of the Commonwealth |
| 10:10 | **Remarks by**  
Dr Anne Therese Gallagher AO, Director General, Commonwealth Foundation |
| 10:15 | **The role of digital technologies in the response to a global pandemic**  
Dr Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientific Officer, World Health Organization |
| 10:30 | **Responding to the COVID 19 pandemic with digital technologies**  
Professor Vajira Dissanayake, Past President, Commonwealth Medical Association; and Founder, Commonwealth Digital Health Initiative |
| 11:00 | **Roundtable Discussion: From the Front Line**  
Moderator: Dr Ashley McKimm, Director of Partnership Development and Innovation, British Medical Journal  
Dr Osahon Enabulele, President, Commonwealth Medical Association  
Professor Kathleen McCourt, President, Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation  
Dr Amy Chan, Professional Development and Research Lead, Commonwealth Pharmacists Association  
Dr Stephen Allen, Secretary, Commonwealth Association for Paediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition  
Dr Uday Bodhankar, Executive Director, Commonwealth Association for Health and Disability  
Dr Godfred Boahen, Board Member, Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work  
Mr Anton Ofield-Kerr, Chairperson, Commonwealth HIV and AIDS Action Group  
Professor Tony Nelson, Chair, Commonwealth Health Professions Alliance |
| 12:00 | Close |

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**Baroness Scotland QC**  
**Anne Gallagher**  
**Soumya Swaminathan**  
**Vajira Dissanayake**