THE OXFORD ROUND TABLE · EST. 1989

# The Future of *Global Health*

*Themes & Areas of Inquiry*

Harris Manchester College
University of Oxford

**15–17 March 2027**

OXFORDSYMPOSIUMS.CO.UK

# Ten Themes

Presentations may address any of the themes below, or any related question in health and medicine. Research, clinical or public health initiatives, case studies, policy work and professional experience are all welcome. A completed paper is not required.

| | |
|---|---|
| I | Infectious Disease and Vaccines |
| II | Health Equity and Social Determinants of Health |
| III | Artificial Intelligence and Digital Health Transformation |
| IV | Pandemic Preparedness and Health Security |
| V | Climate Change and Planetary Health |
| VI | Mental Health as a Global Crisis |
| VII | Non-Communicable Diseases: The Silent Epidemic |
| VIII | Health Professions Education and the Global Workforce |
| IX | Health Systems Leadership, Quality and Patient Safety |
| X | Health Law, Ethics and Human Rights |

Abstracts (200 words maximum) are due 31 January 2027.
Submit at oxfordsymposiums.co.uk/2027springabstractform

THEME I · FEATURED

## Infectious Disease and Vaccines

*Oxford gave the world penicillin and, more recently, vaccines against COVID-19 and malaria. This theme looks at what comes next.*

- Malaria, tuberculosis and HIV: where progress has stalled and why
- Antimicrobial stewardship in hospitals and communities
- Vaccine development, from laboratory to licensed product
- Neglected tropical diseases and the populations they affect
- Emerging and re-emerging pathogens
- Zoonotic disease and the One Health approach
- Infection prevention and control in healthcare settings
- Travel, migration and the spread of disease across borders

THEME II

## Health Equity and Social Determinants of Health

- Racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare access and outcomes
- Gender-based health inequities globally
- Indigenous peoples' health rights and traditional medicine
- Poverty, housing instability and chronic disease
- The impact of education on health outcomes
- LGBTQ+ health disparities in conservative health systems
- Universal health coverage: progress and barriers
- Child mortality and maternal health in sub-Saharan Africa

THEME III

## Artificial Intelligence and Digital Health Transformation

- AI-driven diagnostics in low-resource settings
- Electronic health records and interoperability across borders
- Telemedicine expansion in rural and underserved communities
- Ethical implications of AI in clinical decision-making
- Big data and predictive analytics in disease prevention
- Digital health equity: who gets left behind
- Wearable technology and remote patient monitoring
- Cybersecurity threats to health infrastructure

THEME IV

## Pandemic Preparedness and Health Security

- Lessons learned from COVID-19: what worked and what failed
- Building resilient national health systems
- The role of the WHO in global health emergencies
- Vaccine equity and distribution in low-income countries
- Surveillance systems and early warning technologies
- Antimicrobial resistance as the next pandemic threat
- Cross-border health security agreements and treaties
- Mental health impacts of pandemic response policies

THEME V

## Climate Change and Planetary Health

- Heat-related illness and mortality in urban populations
- Vector-borne diseases expanding due to climate shifts (malaria, dengue, Zika)
- Food insecurity, malnutrition and crop failure
- Air pollution and respiratory disease burden
- Climate refugees and health crises in displacement camps
- Mental health impacts of climate anxiety and disaster trauma
- Health system sustainability and carbon footprint reduction
- Clean water access and waterborne disease prevention

THEME VI

## Mental Health as a Global Crisis

- The global burden of depression and anxiety post-pandemic
- Suicide prevention strategies across different cultural contexts
- Mental health in conflict zones and refugee populations
- Integrating mental health into primary care systems
- Adolescent mental health and the social media connection
- Workforce burnout among global health professionals
- Substance use disorders as a public health emergency
- Stigma reduction and community-based care models

THEME VII

## Non-Communicable Diseases: The Silent Epidemic

- The global diabetes epidemic and prevention strategies
- Cardiovascular disease burden in low- and middle-income countries
- Cancer screening access and treatment equity
- Childhood and adult obesity as a systemic public health failure
- Tobacco, alcohol and substance control policies globally
- Chronic kidney disease and dialysis access in developing nations
- The role of the food industry in driving NCD risk
- National NCD strategies: comparing global policy approaches

THEME VIII

## Health Professions Education and the Global Workforce

- Training the next generation of physicians, nurses and allied health professionals
- Simulation, technology and new models of clinical teaching
- Global shortages of nurses and doctors and the ethics of international recruitment
- Competency-based education and assessment
- Interprofessional education and team-based care
- Retaining and supporting early-career health professionals
- Continuing professional development across a career
- Preparing students for global and low-resource practice

THEME IX

## Health Systems Leadership, Quality and Patient Safety

- Leading hospitals and health systems through financial pressure
- Patient safety, clinical error and a culture of learning
- Quality improvement and measuring what matters
- Access to safe surgery and anaesthesia worldwide
- Health financing models and their trade-offs
- Access to essential medicines and pharmaceutical supply chains
- Value-based care and outcome-driven healthcare
- Lessons from health system reform in different countries

THEME X

## Health Law, Ethics and Human Rights

- Health as a human right in law and practice
- Informed consent, autonomy and end-of-life decision-making
- Medical liability, malpractice and professional regulation
- Ethics of research involving vulnerable populations
- Public health powers versus individual liberties
- Intellectual property, patents and access to medicines
- Data privacy and the protection of health information
- Rationing, triage and the ethics of scarce resources

# Participants May Include

*Whether you are presenting your work or attending to join the discussion, the Symposium welcomes professionals whose work intersects with health and medicine.*

### Clinical Practice & Public Health

Physicians, Surgeons & Medical Specialists

Nurses, Nurse Practitioners & Nursing Professionals

Epidemiologists & Infectious Disease Specialists

Public Health & Global Health Professionals

Mental Health Professionals

### Research & Education

Medical & Health Sciences Educators

Scientists, Biomedical & Vaccine Researchers

Professors, Faculty & Academic Researchers

Graduate & Doctoral Students

### Leadership, Industry & Global Impact

Health Policy, Law & Ethics Professionals

Hospital & Health System Leaders

Healthcare Administrators

NGO, Foundation & Humanitarian Leaders

Government & Public Health Officials

| SYMPOSIUM | EARLY REGISTRATION | ABSTRACTS DUE |
|---|---|---|
| 15–17 March 2027 | By 30 November 2026 | 31 January 2027 |

Register or submit an abstract at oxfordsymposiums.co.uk

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