

ERSA SYMPOSIUM: CRITICAL CHOICES REGARDING UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

STELLENBOSCH INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCE STUDY

Thursday, 6 February 2014

Time	Session	Topic	Presenter
9h00		Welcome and introduction	
9h05	Towards universal health coverage	South Africa's health system: What are the gaps?	Ronelle Burger, Stellenbosch University
9h25		Economic aspects of universal health coverage	Peter Smith, Imperial College
10h10		<i>Discussion</i>	
10h30		Coffee break	
10h50		Health insurance and equity: Lessons from Asia	Eddy van Doorslaer, Erasmus University
11h30		<i>Discussion</i>	
11h50		Financing framework	Panel discussion: 'How can health financing and regulatory reforms best take advantage of private sector capacity?' Chair: Andrew Donaldson, National Treasury Panellists: Mark Blecher, National Treasury; Nicola Theron, Econex; Brian Ruff, Discovery; Alex van den Heever, WITS
12h50	Lunch		
14h00	Institutional architecture	Strategic institutional choices: a discussion on the competing options	Alex van den Heever, WITS
14h25		<i>Discussion</i>	
14h35		Getting South Africa ready for NHI: critical next steps	Jane Doherty, WITS
15h00		<i>Discussion</i>	
15h10		NHI or UHC? and what governance capacity is required	Jane Goudge, WITS
15h35		<i>Discussion</i>	
15h45		Asymmetric information and the private health care market	Dumisani Hompashe, Fort Hare & Bonginkosi Mamba, Pretoria University
16h10		<i>Discussion</i>	
16h20	Concluding remarks		



Ronelle Burger is an associate professor at the Economics Department of Stellenbosch University and a researcher at Research on Socio-economic Policy (ReSEP). She is also a research fellow at the Centre for Research in Economic Development and International Trade at Nottingham University in the UK. She works on questions relating to poverty dynamics in African countries, with a particular interest in the role of service delivery, increasingly focusing on health delivery. She has consulted for various local and international organisations including National Treasury, UNICEF and the World Bank. She holds an MPhil in Economics from Cambridge University and a PhD in Economics from Nottingham University.



Jane Doherty is a South African health systems and policy researcher with twenty-five years' experience. She specialises in issues affecting the equity and effectiveness of the South African public health sector. Between 1989 and 2001 Jane worked at the Centre for Health Policy at the University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa) where she eventually became Deputy Director. Since 2001 she has worked independently but remains a part-time lecturer in the School of Public Health and at the Centre for Rural Health at the University of the Witwatersrand. She has written 45 reports, 12 book chapters and 20 journal articles, amongst other outputs such as policy briefs.



Andrew Donaldson studied at the University of Stellenbosch, UNISA and Cambridge University. He taught Economics at the former University of Transkei, Rhodes University and the University of the Witwatersrand. He joined the then Department of Finance in 1993, and is currently Deputy Director-General responsible for Public Finance in the National Treasury. He oversees the Treasury's work on spending policy, social development and public service delivery, and has played a leading role in the reform of the budget process and reshaping of budget documentation. He contributed to the work of the Katz Commission on tax policy, served on the Committee of Inquiry into a National Health Insurance System, was a member of the team that drafted the 1996 macroeconomic strategy and is currently involved in the Interdepartmental Task Team on Social Security and Retirement Reform.



Nicola Theron has been involved right from the start with the new competition dispensation in South Africa. She was the expert economist for the first large merger handled by the competition authorities at the end of 1999 (Santam and Guardian National Insurance). Since then, she has provided expert witness and numerous economic reports for various large clients in proceedings before the Competition Commission and the Competition Tribunal. She also previously served as a part-time member of the Competition Tribunal. Dr. Theron has also worked in other regulatory fields, such as health, energy and telecommunications. She was involved as an economist in the regulatory battle around the new medicine pricing regulations. More recently, Dr. Theron was involved in a project aimed at providing cost estimates for the proposed National Health Insurance (NHI) scheme.



Jane Goudge, the Director of the Centre for Health Policy, has been conducting research in the field of health systems and policy research for 12 years. She has a PhD in development economics from the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University. She is the South African research coordinator of a United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)-funded international collaborative knowledge programme on health systems and financing (2011-2016). Dr Goudge has worked on a range of issues: geographical inequities, national health accounts, public-private mix issues, pharmaceutical regulation, comprehensive primary health care, community health workers, and contracting with NGOs.



Dumisani Hompashe is a Lecturer of Economics at the University of Fort Hare in Alice in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa. Dumisani holds a Master of Commerce degree in Financial Markets from Rhodes University, a Bachelor of Arts degree from UNISA and a Secondary Teachers Diploma from Griffiths Mxenge College of Education. He has published a book entitled “Is inflation targeting a viable option for developing countries?”.



Bonginkosi Mamba holds a Masters degree in Development Economics from the University of Birmingham (United Kingdom) and he also hold another Masters degree in Financial Markets from Rhodes University (South Africa). He is currently employed by the national department of Trade and industry as an economist whilst also doing a Phd in Economics with the University of Pretoria (South Africa). His research interests are Growth, Development Economics and International Trade.



Brian Ruff is a General Manager of Discovery Health and the head of Risk Intelligence, which is responsible for clinical data analysis and health information report generation. Brian’s current focus is on assisting high needs members navigating the system, and on understanding the role a funder should play in assisting the providers of care in their provision of integrated quality care. In 1994 Brian was involved in the transitional arrangements via the Gauteng Province Strategic Management Team and the Hospital Strategy Project, in 1996 he then moved full time to the Gauteng Health Department, where he ran the Hospital Task Team.



Peter Smith is Emeritus Professor of Health Policy at Imperial College London. He has worked and published in a number of disciplinary settings, including statistics, operational research and accountancy. However, his main work has been in the economics of health and the broader public services, and was a previous Director of the Centre for Health Economics at the University of York. At Imperial he launched and co-directed the Centre for Health Policy in the Institute of Global Health Innovation. Peter has acted in numerous UK governmental advisory capacities and advised many overseas governments and international agencies.



Alex van den Heever holds the Chair of Social Security Systems Administration and Management Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand. He holds a Masters in economics from the University of Cape Town and has worked in the areas of health economics and finance, public finance and social security in various capacities over the past 24 years. This includes participation in the Melamet Commission of Inquiry into Medical Schemes, the Taylor Committee of Inquiry into Comprehensive Social Security, and the Ministerial Task team on Social Health Insurance.



Eddy Van Doorslaer is a Professor of Health Economics at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam. He holds a joint appointment at the School of Economics and the Institute of Health Policy and Management. He has published widely on the measurement of equity in health and health care, with many applications in high, low and middle income countries. Recently, much of his research has focused on the impact evaluation of health insurance reforms in Asian countries. He is currently visiting the University of Cape Town.