PMAC PRINCE MAHIDOL AWARD CONFERENCE 2021

WS203

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

| BACKGROUND

The social determinants of health have been increasingly acknowledged as crucial to creating healthy populations particularly since the work of the WHO's Commission on the Social Determinants of Health and health equity (CSDH, 2008). This Commission conceptualised the social determinants as the conditions of everyday life and the ways in which the distribution of power and resources in society shape the distribution and nature of these conditions. Estimates are that the contribution of sectors outside health to population health outcomes outstrips the contribution from the health sector. The COVID pandemic has confirmed this as its impact has been felt most acutely by groups who lives are blighted because they experience all or some of factors such as living in unhealthy environments, having insecure jobs, poor housing, low income, being subjected to racism and have little access to education. These adverse socio-economic conditions are often experienced most by women, people with disabilities, people of colour and Indigenous peoples and most people in lower and middle income countries. The COVID-19 pandemic acted as a magnifying glass on these existing inequities, and has highlighted the larger pandemic of social and health inequities in health across the world. Mental health issues have been exacerbated especially in economically poorer countries linked with poverty, living conditions and lack of resources for taking precautions against Covid-19. There is huge stress on how to live with the virus in these circumstances and people are frustrated and angry with governments and the politics of Covid-19 response.

This session will also examine sectors beyond the health sector that will have a big impact on health in the post-COVID world and consider how different sectors can contribute to a post-COVID world which is fairer and more sustainable. It will take as its starting point the 2008 report of the WHO Commission on the Social Determinants of Health and ask for each sector covered in the report whether more can be done post-COVID to achieve the Commission's goal of closing the gap in life expectancy.

| OBJECTIVES

- Review of the evidence on health inequities globally and within selected countries
- Review of the trends in the distribution of wealth and power
- Contributions concerning changes that are needed in the following sectors: employment, housing, urban planning, welfare systems which will each look at examples of best practice and ask how this could be extended to other settings
- Anti-racism movements including Black Lives Matter protests and measures
- Proposals that would redistribute wealth (taxation reform (including progressive income tax, crack down on tax evasion)



Moderator / Moderator / Panelist

Fran Baum

Co-Chair Global Steering Council,

People's Health Movement, Flinders University
Australia

Fran Baum is Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor of Public Health, Foundation Director of the Southgate Institute for Health, Society and Equity and Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre on the Social, Political and Commercial Determinants of Health at Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia. She has been appointed to the Lancet Commission on Gender and Global Health (2020-22). She was named in the Queen's Birthday 2016 Honours List as an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for "distinguished service to higher education as an academic and public health researcher, as an advocate for improved access to community health care, and to professional organisations". She is a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences and of the Australian Health Promotion Association. She is a past National President and Life Member of the Public Health Association of Australia. She co-Chair of the Global Steering Council of the People's Health Movement – a global network of health activist (www. phmovement.org). She also served as a Commissioner on the World Health Organisation's Commission on the Social Determinants of Health from 2005-08.

She is a passionate advocate for health equity and social justice and uses her research program on the social and economic determinants of health as a basis for this advocacy. She holds grants from the National Health & Medical Research Council and the Australia Research Council which are considering health inequities and public policy, social determinants of health and Health in All Policies. Her grants include an NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence on Policies for Health Equity of which she is one of the two co-Directors. Her book, The New Public Health (4th ed. published January 2016 Oxford University Press), is widely cited and used in many public health courses. Her latest book Governing for Health (Oxford University Press, New York, January, 2019) examines how a society can be best organised to promote health and equity.