

National Conference on “Health Inequities in India: Transformative Research for Action & AMC-CON 2018”

Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology organized a National Conference on *Closing the Health Equity Gap in India: Transformational Research for Action* between 8th and 11th January 2018. The Conference aimed to “*contribute to the advancement of a sound, actionable and measurable evidence- base on inequities in health in India with a view to influencing government and civil society initiatives to prioritize the reduction of health inequities*”. A key outcome of the Conference was a list of priority areas for health equity research process in India, a consensus-document based on a two-year process involving a wide-range of stake-holders, which was finalized through a consultative session in the conference.

The Conference was organized as part of a larger project on the theme of “*Closing the Gap: Health Equity Research Initiative in India*” that was initiated by the Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies (AMCHSS). It was inaugurated on 8th January, 2018 Sri. Vijayanand, former Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala, and featured a key-note address by eminent scholar and social-epidemiologist Professor Jaime Breilh, Rector of the University of Andina Simon Bolivar in Quito, Ecuador. Another highlight of the session was a panel show-casing Kerala’s contributions to addressing inequities in health, moderated by Sri. Vijayanand.

In addition to this, across the next three days (9th -11th, January, 2018), six plenary sessions with invited eminent speakers from India and abroad, spoke in depth on many topics relevant to health equity. The Conference also doubled as the 2018-edition of AMC-CON, the Annual Public Health Conference of Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies. Twelve parallel sessions during 9 and 10 January featured more than 50 presentations from public health students and early career researchers.

The concluding session featured a key note address by Professor T. Sundararaman, currently with Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, and former director of National Health Systems resource Centre, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Delhi. He spoke on the way ahead for transformational research that can bridge the health equity gap in India. Prizes for oral and multi-media presentations for the best papers were awarded by Professor K R Thankappan.

Date: 15.01.2018

Inauguration by Sri. Vijayanand, former Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala



Key-note address: Professor Jaime Breilh



Plenary sessions



The concluding session - Key note address by Professor T. Sundararaman



Prizes for oral and multi-media presentations for the best papers

