PANEL: Post Reconstruction Iraq Health Policy Challenges

Cosponsors: Center for the Study of International Medical Policy and Practice [CSIMPP/SPGIA/GMU], and the World Medical Health Policy Journal [PSO/Wiley Publisher].

Background

Iraq, and several Middle East and Central Asia countries continue to suffer from unresolved political and socioeconomic challenges for the last three decades. The medical and epidemiological situation of Iraq continues to deteriorate following intervention by US led Coalition Forces and years of economic sanctions, compounded by the pre Gulf War ruling regime neglect. According to the World Bank indicators, Iraq’s life expectancy at birth downward trend compared to the region, continues. Despite the humanitarian assistance in the post intervention reconstruction era, the epidemiological trends show a rise in vaccine preventable illnesses, increased smoking, inadequate nutrition and acute traumatic injuries. The number of individuals suffering from post-traumatic stress disorders are difficult to estimate. Many provincial area residents suffer from medical and health constrained services. Corruption and poor management of scarce resources, impediment to investment strategies, further contribute to the problem. Strategic investments in Lack of reliable statistics further hinders the planning process. The panel will examine the prevailing epidemiology situation, and explore potential political and practical remedial policies, relevant to regions experiencing chronic disaster situations.

Learning objective: Address the complex national and international policies and challenges in regions suffering from protracted humanitarian crisis.

Organizers: Arnauld Nicogossian, George Mason University and Shakir Jawad, Senior advisor for international health Systems at The Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine

Moderator: Arnauld Nicogossian,

1. Introduction and framing the issues: Arnauld Nicogossian, [5 minutes]
2. Review of the Iraq epidemiology of health challenges: Shakir Jawad [30 minutes]
3. Review of Iraq’s management and policies toward investment in health: Adel Saidely [30 minutes]
4. Lessons Learned and Conclusions, Presenters (10 min)
5. General Discussion [5 minutes]
PANEL BIOGRAPHIES

Arnauld Nicogossian, MD, FACPM, FACP - George Mason University

Arnauld Nicogossian is a Distinguished Research Professor and Director of the Center for Study of International Medical Policies and Practices, at the School of Policy, Government and International Affairs, George Mason University (CSIMPP/SPGIA/GMU). He conducts research in medical and health policy, and teaches the concentration and certificate “Global Challenges and Threats and Medical Policy” graduate courses that he helped create at GMU. He is also the Director of Public Policy for the International Society of Microbial Resistance (ISMR). Dr. Nicogossian served as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Associate Administrator for Life and Microgravity Sciences, Designated Agency Health and Safety Official, Chief Medical Officer and Senior Advisor for Health Affairs. Dr. Nicogossian is a diplomate of the American Board of Preventive Medicine (Aerospace), holds a Masters in Science degree from the Ohio State University. He is licensed to practice medicine in four States. He served as President of three professional societies. He is a fellow of the American College of Physicians, American College of Preventive Medicine, Aerospace Medical Association, and the American Astronautical Society and is a full member of the International Academy of Astronautics. Dr. Nicogossian is a Foreign Member of the Armenian Academy of Sciences and a Distinguished Lecturer at the Moscow State University, Russia. He is the recipient of numerous awards and medals from the U.S. and foreign governments for contributions to space medicine, medical education and humanitarian assistance using telemedicine. Dr Nicogossian research interest is in program management, strategic planning, health and medical policy analysis and evaluation, global public health, aerospace and extreme environments [including disaster response] and internal medicine. His work has been cited 1,164 times (h-index 17 and i10-index 35).

Shakir Jawad, MD - Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine

Dr. Jawad joined the Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine (CDHAM) in July 2008 as a senior analyst for international health where he serves as Medical Stability Operations consultant at the International Health Division in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. Prior to coming to CDHAM, Dr. Jawad joined Project Hope as a senior technical advisor. He was later detailed to work as an assistant professor in the Department of Military and Emergency Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. Dr. Jawad is also an affiliate professor and a distinguished senior fellow at School of Public Policy, George Mason University, and a member of the editorial board of the World Medical and Health Policy Journal. Before that Dr. Jawad worked for the Iraqi government; starting May 1, 2003 he assumed senior leadership positions at the Iraqi Ministry of Health as the Director General (Assistant Secretary) for military medical affairs. In 2004, he was appointed as the Director General for Operations and Technical Affairs at the Ministry of Health. Before April 2003, Dr. Jawad was serving in the Iraqi Ministry of Defense; he held the rank of Brigadier General and was the director and chair of the orthopedic surgery department at Hammad Shihab Teaching Military Hospital. He spent most of his career prior to 2003 as an orthopedic surgeon in various Iraqi Hospitals and teaching centers in addition to his private practice.

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Adel Sidely - Arc-P Consult LLC.

Adel Sidely holds a doctorate in engineering, is an architect, investor and an entrepreneur. He is the President of the Council for Iraqi American Relations and CEO of the Arc-P Consult LLC., an international corporation.