Research Theme
Health Systems and Population Health

Research Project Title
When “good” can be Made “Better” – Innovating Delivery of Primary Care in Singapore

Principal Investigator
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Project Description

Background
Healthcare systems around the world are facing great challenges. Existing models of healthcare delivery are not keeping up with the rapidly increasing demands generated by non-communicable diseases, multiple morbidities and rapidly aging populations. To tackle this, governments are pouring more into their healthcare budgets - over the last 10 years healthcare expenditure per capita has risen by 20% in the United Kingdom; around 40% in the United States, and a staggering 200% in Singapore (Source: The World Bank).

Yet tackling these issues through funding alone can only serve as an interim solution given a finite resource pool and the unsustainability of perpetual funding from the government. Unless new innovative health systems designs and models of care delivery are developed, healthcare systems would not be viable in the long term.

This is an opportunity for a true convergence and cross-breeding of health, technology, digital, genetics, business, economic, psychological and sociological innovations, advances and paradigm shifts with care of both individuals and populations. Countries and health systems can only continue to provide universal health coverage via novel solutions through P4 medicine (predictive, preventive, personalised, and participatory) and combined individual and population health approaches, based on inter-, trans-, and cross-disciplinary strategies, and employ disruptive innovations to change existing healthcare models.

Proposed work
Central to an evolution of the healthcare system is a paradigm shift from episodic and specialist care services in acute hospitals to that of Population Health - a whole system integration that focuses on health promotion, disease prevention and integrated healthcare provided in the community. In particular, there is a significant untapped potential for primary healthcare to take a lead and contribute to this evolution. What we know about disruptive innovations in primary healthcare is that it have been shown to reap significant benefits, including improving quality of life, and reducing costs to the healthcare system outside of Singapore; what we don’t know is, will this work here?
The aim of this project is to identify ways of improving primary care in Singapore. Its objectives are to understand issues around population health, including innovative, ground-breaking, first-of-its-kind sustainable approaches in delivering primary care to meet the needs of the population.

This research work is highly multi-disciplinary, and will take the candidate through the fields of clinical sciences, public health (policy) research, health psychology, modern epidemiology of chronic diseases, and health economics. The candidate will also experience and undertake other fields in population health, including the eHealth research, trials methodology, statistics and multi-method approaches. The candidate will also get involved in stakeholder engagement, including research teams across LKCMedicine; healthcare providers including the National Healthcare Group (NHG), Singapore; industry partners; and policy makers.

**Contact Us**

If you have questions regarding this project, please email the Principal Investigator.

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