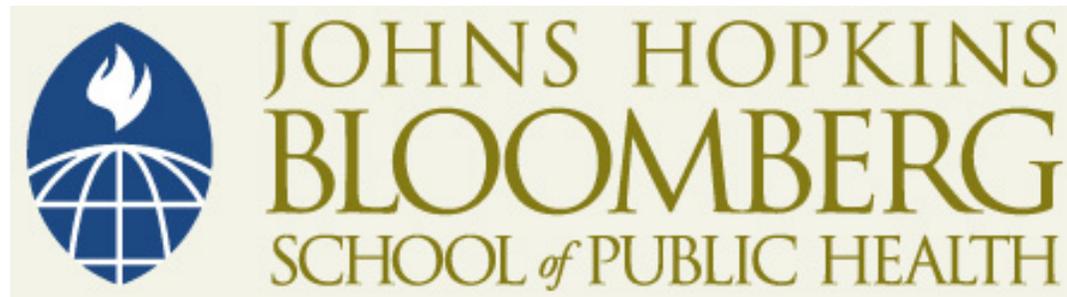


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Case Studies in Primary Health Care: Lessons Learned

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Sharing of Ideas: Carl Taylor and Bob Lawrence

- Looking back can reveal what is really important for today
- Carl is very concerned about the growing disparities in health
- *Equity* is emerging as the key ethical issue in primary health care

Importance of Equity Continues to Be an Issue Globally

- Virchow in the early 1800s said that the fundamental mission of health care is to afford everyone an equal opportunity to fulfill the natural lifespan
- Internationally, the U.S. health system is viewed as being the best in terms of its technical achievements
 - However, it is a very distorted system when disparities are considered

Failings of U.S. Health Care—and What Can Be Done

- Disparities can be addressed at many different levels
 - Including uninsured and underinsured
- Failure of the system to utilize the resources of the community to address the fundamental social determinants of health—problems for which there is not a simple technical fix
- Pierre Trudeau, as Prime Minister of Canada, initiated the LaLonde Commission to examine health disparities; it found that:
 - Health care access accounted for 20%
 - Unanswered questions in biology were 20%
 - Environmental issues were 20%
 - Lifestyle and behavioral factors accounted for 40%
- Community resources can be mobilized to:
 - Help people understand and implement dietary and behavioral changes
 - Obtain social support
 - Provide access

Halfdan Mahler (WHO) and Jim Grant (UNICEF)

- In preparation for the Alma Ata conference, there was a total mismatch between what the experts were thinking and what was really going on in countries
- There was very little evidence to support planning decisions
- Argument between developed and developing countries about:
 - “HEALTH for all”
 - “Health FOR ALL”
- Are we ready to be more realistic in reviewing current evidence?

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- It is time to bring these perspectives together
 - Some vertical programs are necessary
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 - Empowerment of women and social determinants of health
- Mothers are the most important health care workers in the world

Appropriate Technologies for Health

- Profit motive drives the technical fixes over the others
- Since World War II, there has been more emphasis on “the right for participation” at the household, workplace, or national level
- However, no similar studies have been done with low-income groups
- From a human rights framework, the emphasis on universal access addresses this right for participation

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- **Martin Luther King said “The moral arc of history is long, but it bends towards justice”**

“Health for All by the Year 2000”

- “Health for all by the Year 2000” can now be viewed as one of the first millennium development goals