
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Victoria Höß is now the Strategic Account Manager with Roche. She previously worked as an Assistant Professor for Health Economics and Politics at the Department of Public Health, UNIT, Austria where she still holds an association. In her research, she focused on hospital incentive schemes and the impact of mergers on costs.

K. Viktoria Stein is a Consultant with the WHO Regional Office for Europe, for which she is coordinating the framework for action towards coordinated/integrated health services delivery (CIHSD) and affiliated with the Medical University Vienna, where she is a Research Assistant. Moreover, she is the Founding President of the Young Researchers in Health Network (YRIHN), and serving on the boards of the International Foundation for Integrated Care (IFIC) and *the International Journal of Integrated Care (IJIC)*.

Susanne Bethge is working as a Research Assistant at the Institute of Health Economics and Health Care Management, Hochschule Neubrandenburg, Germany. The highpoint of her research experience so far is the project 'Patients Needs, Expectations and Preferences for Coordinated Care Programs' at DUKE University, USA. Within this project, she was working at the Duke

Clinical Research Institute and the Fuqua Business School as a research scholar of the International Academy of Life Science. Furthermore, this project is part of her PhD thesis on 'Patient preferences in integrated care programs – a discrete-choice experiment' that she accomplishes at the Hannover Medical School.

This special issue on 'Healthcare research – the status quo and new developments' gives a unique overview over the current discussion on the manifold challenges healthcare systems face around the world. It also gives the interested reader an opportunity to get an insight into innovative and upcoming approaches in the health sciences, as represented by the work of young researchers in health worldwide. The issue aims at capturing the wide variety of disciplines and methodologies used in the health sciences, as well as the internationality of the topic. It also highlights issues that may not otherwise be discussed with a wider audience.

The papers in this special issue can be summarised in one easy and powerful message: health systems face challenges no matter where, but similarities (e.g., in approach, in needs) outweigh the differences. Even though, healthcare related topics are approached from different angles, the necessity of linking different disciplines becomes apparent, and a wide range of viewpoints is covered by all authors. All this is achieved, whilst keeping in mind that the aim of this special issue is to give young researchers in health the possibility to present their work in a cumulative way.

Submissions came from all over the world, covering topics from Africa, Asia and Europe relating to three categories 'health system', 'patient perspectives' and 'health professions issues'. Therefore we chose to order the articles according to their scientific scope, starting with articles on the health system, followed by patient-related topics and ending with articles health professions issues. Within the categories the reader will find articles regarding the African system first, then the Asian ones, and last but not least, articles relating to the European context.

The articles range from 'Scaling-up the development of national immunisation technical advisory groups [...] in West African states', a 'Quantification of cardiovascular disease research in West Africa' to 'Towards cost transparency and patients' attitude in the German healthcare system' ending with a research paper on health microinsurance schemes. It certainly is a balanced mix of timely topics from young researchers in health on different continents.

We believe that, overall, this collection of articles provides an outstanding overview of upcoming research topics, possible methods and a promising research future. But to let this young generation grow to the level of excellent senior researcher, two additional requirements have to be met. Firstly, in order to provide evidence base and state of the art research, it must be ensured, that young researchers will find enough support, sympathy, help and money to be able to grow in the world of scientific research. Secondly, to be able to produce useful knowledge, it must be ensured that interdisciplinary and intercultural communication is possible and fostered by the research environment. And if you are a young researcher in health, maybe you want to join the Young Researchers in Health Network, <http://www.youngresearchersinhealth.net>, which is dedicated to supporting you on during the first steps of your academic career.

We want to thank the Editor-in-Chief and his editorial team at the *International Journal of Behavioural and Healthcare Research* for giving us the unique opportunity to highlight the work young researcher in health around the world, and for their persistent support throughout the process. Publishing this special issue solely with articles from young researchers will hopefully incite other journals to follow suit and dedicate more space to the future.