



PROFESSOR
JEFFREY BRAITHWAITE

Healthcare systems: future predictions for global care

Towards progress, avoiding pitfalls and achieving sustainability.

Global healthcare systems are constantly under pressure through rapid and unprecedented changes—in IT, via the genomics revolution, through new forms of diagnostic technology, and novel treatment modalities, for example. The question as to how we might induce sustainable change in our healthcare systems over time, is a thorny but an increasingly necessary one to address.

I have recently edited a third book in a series on international health reform, which will be published this year.

In *Healthcare systems: future predictions for global care*, chapters from 152 countries and territories were compiled. This is the most far-reaching compendium ever assembled, bringing together 146 thought leaders from across the world, focusing their minds on how to create better healthcare for the world's population.

The book's aims are to:

- predict the profiles of health systems over the next 5-15 years in low-, lower-middle-, higher-middle- and high-income countries
- identify aspects of health systems improvement that show promise and can be transferable to other countries
- address five pronounced trends in the healthcare literature: the question of sustainability, the genomics revolution, technology-based solutions, shifts in population demands, health and services change, and alternative modes of care

My upcoming keynote address at the 2018 World Hospital Congress in Brisbane draws on the treasure trove of information in the book. I will discuss the following initiatives:

- large-scale trends recurring across the current health systems improvement literature, affecting the delivery of care globally
- an analysis of where health systems are heading
- the ways in which our collection of far-sighted authors are predicting what health systems need to do, in order to get there
- how health systems are heading towards, and dealing with, common issues which are by no means easy to implement:
- universal healthcare
- affordability of healthcare and resource allocation
- coping with shifting population dynamics such as: the aging population, the refugee crisis, multiple conflicts and global warming

The future implications of this work for policy-makers, ministers, managers, clinicians, patients and patient groups, and others, will be discussed. There will be a question-and-answer session, and interaction with the audience, so we end up as a think-tank, re-imagining how health systems could be more responsive and adaptive in meeting the needs of future populations.

The plain fact of the matter is that the capacities of the health system are outstripping the amount we have allocated to pay for healthcare, and patient demands are accelerating as people's needs for healthcare increase. This challenge is often described as a wicked problem. It is not something we can run away from. Burying our heads in the sand is not a solution. Quite simply, if we are going to have fairer, more equitable and appropriate healthcare for all, we must build sustainable health systems and offer their services to as many of the world's 7.4 billion people as we possibly can.

That is the true nature of the task before us. We are all in this together and the forthcoming World Hospital Congress is the ideal place, with some of the world's best stakeholders in the room, to be able to respond and add to the solutions we are suggesting in *Healthcare systems: future predictions for global care*.

Professor Jeffrey Braithwaite will be talking about future predictions for global care and taking part in a discussion on the bright future for healthcare at 1:45pm on Friday 12 October 2018 during day 3 of the World Hospital Congress.

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