

Urban Medicine – Berlin's contribution to the Cities Programme within the United Nations Global Compact

Urban areas – face specific medical problems associated with the living conditions in major urban areas

Urban areas – develop solutions for medical challenges

Berlin – makes it possible for medical policymakers from major urban areas around the globe to share their experience on the basis of the United Nations Global Compact

1st International Conference

September 19th, 2007
Town Hall, Berlin, Germany

Partners

Senate Chancellery Berlin
Vivantes – Network for Health
Charité – University Medicine Berlin

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**Urban Medicine and
Metropolitan Health**

1st International Conference
Berlin, September 19th, 2007



1st International Conference on Urban Medicine and Metropolitan Health

- 16:00 – 16:05 **Welcome**
Katrin Lompscher, Senate of Berlin
- 16:05 – 16:15 **Urban Medicine and Metropolitan Health as elements in the UN's Global Compact**
Dr. Hartwig Jaeger, Vivantes Berlin
- 16:15 – 16:45 **Health challenges in metropolitan areas – Infectious diseases**
Dr. Bernhard Schwartlander, WHO/UNAIDS, Geneva
- 16:45 – 17:15 **Epidemiology in metropolitan areas**
Prof. Stefan Willich, Charité Berlin
- 17:15 – 17:45 **Cross culture psychiatry in metropolitan areas**
Prof. Samuel Noh, University of Toronto
- 17:45 – 18:15 **Environmental challenges in metropolitan areas**
Prof. Alfred Spira, INSERM Paris
- 18:15 – 18:45 **Urban health – examples from Asia**
Jade del Mundo, Deputy Minister Department of Health, The Philippines
- 18:45 – 19:00 **Wrap up**
Dr. Lutz Fritsche, Charité Berlin

Urban Medicine – The challenge in Metropolitan Health

Urban areas are different – in terms of medicine, too.

When large numbers of people live in close quarters with one another in a restricted geographical area, this poses particular challenges for medical care. Urban areas attract poverty, and poverty creates sickness.

“Urban Medicine” refers to the patterns of disease that are found more often in major urban areas than elsewhere. HIV/AIDS, infectious diseases, or psychiatric illness in citizens of immigrant origin all require special provision of treatment.

The contamination of drinking water supplies with antibiotics is one example of how medicine interacts with other areas of life in major urban areas.

Urban Medicine – Finding solutions in Metropolitan Health

Together with Vivantes and the Charité, the Berlin Senate is currently developing a project on the subject of urban medicine. The project will form part of the Global Compact Cities Programme coordinated by the city of Melbourne.

The project aims to give interested partner cities access to Berlin's experience in the urban provision of medical care, making this the basis for an exchange of information. By helping to identify and establish best practice models in the area of sustainable public health care provision and disease prevention, the cosmopolitan city of Berlin hopes to contribute to the creation of a socially engaged and responsible framework for urban development.

Berlin and the Global Compact

At the World Economic Forum in Davos in February 1999, the then United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan first presented his initiative for a Global Compact between the United Nations and companies. His idea was to strengthen the cooperation between the UN, business and civil society and use this to support the implementation of central UN aims.

Since then, more than 3,000 companies from over 100 countries around the world have signed up to the Global Compact. In Germany, more than 80 companies, Federal Ministries, trade associations, charitable foundations, NGOs and science and research institutes have become members of the Global Compact so far.

In 2005, Berlin became the first capital city in the world to join the Global Compact.

Through their membership, members of the Global Compact demonstrate a commitment to ten principles derived from the UN Charter, focusing on the areas of human rights, social responsibility, environment and anti-corruption.

