

Sub-theme 2.2. Advances in Curative and Rehabilitative Health Services and Disease Management

Rationale

Components of health are multiple and their interactions are complex. The health of an individual is strongly influenced by genetic make-up, nutritional status, access to health care, socio-economic status, relationships with family members, participation in community life, personal habits, and lifestyle choices. Good health is fundamental to living a productive life, meeting basic needs, and contributing to community life. It is also an enabling condition for the development of human potential and sustainable growth.

In Ethiopia, though the majority of the health problems are communicable diseases, there is strong evidence supporting epidemiological transition of diseases to chronic and degenerative diseases, cold rather than hot cases, cancer and metabolic disorders, and accidents from machinery and traffic. Other health conditions like eye problems, mental health problems, and disabilities have been on the rise. Yet, these health problems have not been given due attention. As a result, both health facilities and professional are not in place to tackle these alarming epidemics.

Available evidence suggests that there are high rates of changes in disease causing organisms, strains, and a huge burden of drug resistance. On top of this, the skyrocketing prices of the latest effective drugs have exacerbated the persistence of ill-health.

Ethiopian traditional drugs are known among the public for their potency for many diseases. However, there is insufficient knowledge on identification and extraction of active ingredients, and little work has been done to introduce the drugs into the modern therapy.

Aim

The aim of this sub-theme is to carry out research geared towards improving the health and quality of human life with a particular focus on disease management and rehabilitative care. The sub-theme also emphasises on emerging but neglected health problems.

Description

This sub-theme investigates the biopharmaceutical and pharmacological aspects of herbal medicines, development of diagnostics and diagnostic technologies, therapeutics, vaccines and biologicals. It also examines ways to enhance the quality and efficiency of human health care service delivery. In addition, it also focuses on studies related to epidemiological patterns, diagnostic, preventive, curative and control strategies for common cold and emergency cases at paediatric, surgical, medical, and obstetrics/gynaecology cases. It also focuses on chronic and degenerative diseases. This sub-theme also encompasses studies on emerging but neglected non-communicable human health problems.

Expected Output

- New diagnostics, therapeutics, vaccines and biologicals
- Improved service delivery methods and approaches for common human health problems identified, introduced, monitored, and evaluated under clinical settings
- Improved service delivery methods and approaches for emerging but neglected human health problems identified, introduced, monitored, and evaluated under clinical settings

Potential Collaborators

National and international drug factories, patient advocates, vaccine producers, federal and regional health offices, professional associations, multicounty study groups

Research Areas

2.2.1. Development and evaluation of therapeutics, diagnostics, and biologicals

The research area focuses on biopharmaceutical and pharmacological aspects of herbal medicines, development of diagnostics and diagnostic technologies, medical therapeutics, indigenous therapeutic practices, vaccines and biological as well as examining ways to enhance the quality and efficiency of human health care service delivery.

2.2.2. Human health care delivery system for health problems

This research area deals with issues related to improving the quality of care (surgical, medical, paediatric, etc.), pain management, control or prevention of infectious or non-infectious diseases, care for the elderly/health need/long term care, patient education, cancer care, dental health, treatment compliance, comfort measure, palliative care, geriatric care, end of life care, and care for chronic illnesses, method evaluation (diagnostic kits, procedures), tumour marker evaluations in patients with gynaecological cancer, infection intensity evaluation, etc.

The sub-theme also focuses on efficiency and effectiveness of health care delivery systems from the perspective of clients, health professionals, and the system. Productivity, work and professional performance, life expectancy, saving and investment, and debt and expenditure, equity, health-care financing, economic return, and social and political justice in health care are also some of the areas of investigation.

2.2.3. Service delivery methods and approaches for emerging but neglected human health problems

This research area encompasses studies on non-communicable diseases (e.g. diabetic, cardiovascular diseases, cancer, mental illness, asthma, chronic liver diseases, gastric ulcer, renal diseases, restrictive lung diseases, blindness and visual impairment, dermatovenereologic problems and etc.). It also includes studies on common types of injuries and contributing factors, impact of injury and intervention mechanism, home care service awareness, hospice service awareness, physiotherapy (rehabilitative services), long term care, dental problems and hormonal changes and immunological responses.

Beneficiary

Federal and regional health offices, Industries, policy makers, and the wider public