

“The Charité has been at the spearhead of Germany’s academic medicine for more than 300 years and is therefore extremely proud to host the World Health Summit.”

Karl Max Einhüpl, CEO, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany

Dear Friends, Dear Colleagues,



Michael J. Klag

“Research for Health and Sustainable Development,” the theme of the 2012 World Health Summit, articulates this year’s focus on finding novel solutions for non-communicable diseases and conditions of global concern, like obesity, diabetes, and mental illness. Unhealthy lifestyles are a main cause of these new epidemics. Greater awareness of the global economic risks and human suffering related to the epidemiologic transition, as well as sustainable solutions for healthcare systems to meet the challenge of non-communicable diseases and conditions, are urgently needed.

This year, the world met in Brazil for the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Although health and research are the basis for development, these issues do not figure prominently in the agenda. We strongly believe that research for health has to be an essential part of the development agenda.

Governments around the world are already struggling with the challenge of providing quality healthcare, despite increasing financial constraints. The economic crisis poses many challenges, but also represents an opportunity to reform health systems and to rethink the direction and nature of financing for research and health, resulting in more money for health and more health for the money. Science must be sensitive to financial realities, so that scarcity of resources will be considered an enabler of, not an impediment to, sustainable innovation. Maximizing the benefits from limited resources will ensure that the gains

of medical progress reach as many people as possible. Important topics that need to be discussed are priorities for research, public and private sector partnerships, intellectual property rights, regulatory procedures for health products and conventions on biomedical research and development.

Academic institutions worldwide must take more responsibility in all health sectors and provide governments with the knowledge, evidence and advice to effectively translate scientific evidence into rational policy and effective solutions. To accomplish this goal, research is fundamental. We must also increase the quality and quantity of diverse health professionals to strengthen their impact on population health.

The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health is proud to share the presidency of the World Health Summit 2012. The School has funded projects in over 120 countries worldwide and our mission is to protect populations from illness and injury by pioneering new research, deploying our knowledge and expertise in the field, and educating scientists and practitioners in the global defense of human life.

We invite you to the 4th World Health Summit in Berlin to jointly search for sustainable solutions for research, health and development in the 21st century.



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