

Disparities in Health in America:

Working Toward Social Justice

Global Action on Social Determinants of Health: National Approaches to Addressing Health Disparities

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Alexandra (Lexi) B. Nolen, Ph.D., M.P.H., is Director of Health Policy and Planning at the Center to Eliminate Health Disparities at UTMB. Dr. Nolen holds a doctorate in Medical Humanities, with a focus on ethics and public policy. She has spent several years working with the World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization on issues of health equity, including chairing the Equity Working Group of the Health Metrics Network, and most recently served for two years on the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health. Dr. Nolen was the Coordinator of the Global Equity Gauge Alliance, a South Africa-based non-governmental organization focused on health equity initiatives in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Dr. Nolen has experience in coordination of community-based research and interventions as well as policy development on issues of health disparities and public health. Her work also encompasses issues of health information systems, advocacy strategies for health equity, the impact of globalization and trade on health in Africa, and development of training materials on health equity. Dr. Nolen is currently working to develop a Global Health Program at UTMB, and coordinates an initiative to reduce lead poisoning in children in Galveston.

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ABSTRACT

Presentation Title: Global Action on Social Determinants of Health: National approaches to addressing health inequities

Strategies to address health disparities, including through a social determinants approach, vary according to stakeholders' principles, defined priorities, partners, evidence base, and understanding of pathways, not to mention political and economic factors. This presentation will look at the experiences of the Global Equity Gauge Alliance and the World Health Organization Commission on Social Determinants of Health in supporting local and national initiatives in Latin America, Africa and Asia to reduce disparities. The presentation will describe the frameworks proposed by GEGA and the WHO CSDH, present the initiatives adopted by several countries, explain how strategies were adapted to fit local and national priorities and conditions, and look at some of the common lessons learned.

