

THINKING OUTSIDE OF THE BOX

— With —

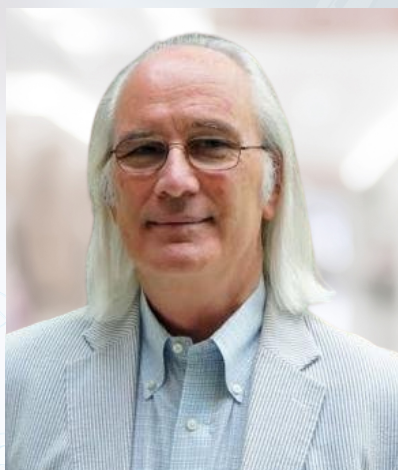
DR. DENNIS CARROLL

The School of Global Health (SGH), Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University (MDCU) was host to a special informative series with two thought-provoking virtual talks entitled Reshaping the Global Health Landscape-Megatrends of the 21st Century and Global Health Security: Threats and Ways Forward earlier this year.

With Dr. Dennis Carroll, Former Director of USAID Pandemic Influenza and other Emerging Threats and Chair of the Global Virome Project Leadership Board as the keynote speaker for both events, he emphasized the critical role that universities and higher learning institutions, such as the SGH, will be playing to address future megatrends in global health challenges.

Dr. Carroll has identified the following challenges; explosive population growth in both Asia and Africa towards the middle of the century; environmental damage and wildlife encroachment that leads to profound species extinction as a result of the population surges, hotter extreme weather, new emerging infectious diseases; and a technological revolution that will utilize transformative technology and artificial intelligence (AI) to aid in more effective and efficient approaches to seek out solutions for global health concerns.

As an integral member of the SGH Scientific Advisory Committee, Dr. Carroll, also shared his thoughts on how the challenges of today force us to think outside the box. Especially when it comes to global health security and more proactive health surveillance, Dr. Carroll stresses the importance of a collaborative effort across every sector to develop regular surveillance systems to promote more earlier, systematic monitoring with high interfaces to better detect, prevent and address future threats.



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“Institutions have a central role to establish early global surveillance fueled by evidence based findings to validate health regulations and evaluate each approach with clear metrics for future generations” remarked Dr. Carroll. “In order to do so, future health care leaders must be able take a transformative approach to develop a database that links between humans, animals and the environment, harness the power of AI with transparent data use and open management systems that works to everyone’s advantage, forge multi-sectoral collaborations to open up high-level dialogue with different sectors outside health care including, government and political entities to help guard against future viral threats.”

Despite technical challenges, governance and coordination barriers that may exist, Dr. Carroll has identified that the SGH is one beacon of hope that provides an “intellectual space to think outside the box—where One Health policies can be taught and fostered through to the next generation of leaders.” To add, evolving economic, social, and environmental risks can all be managed with better investment in human capital, infrastructure on local, national, regional and global levels.

Therefore, with the innovative clinical and research-based programs at the SGH, post graduate students from around the world can gain many unique opportunities to develop skills that go beyond. From bench to field research and clinical attachments, all of our students are able to work with world-renowned clinical and research experts in over 20 different research areas. Together, the SGH offers strong networks with a human-inclusive approach to make the environment healthier, population stronger, and shape the future leaders of tomorrow.— S.P.