

SGH, MDCU PROUDLY PRESENTS

GAME—SET—MATCH

FOR

GLOBAL HEALTHCARE



**A Special
Interview with
Dr. Dennis Carroll
at his SGH
Megatrends in
Healthcare
Workshop on
May 2, 2022**

DR. DENNIS CARROLL, AN INTEGRAL MEMBER OF THE SGH SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE AT THE SCHOOL OF GLOBAL HEALTH, FACULTY OF MEDICINE, CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY, FORMER DIRECTOR OF USAID PANDEMIC INFLUENZA AND OTHER EMERGING THREATS AND CHAIR OF THE GLOBAL VIROME PROJECT LEADERSHIP BOARD



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**THE NAME OF THE
 GAME IS GLOBAL
 HEALTH EQUITY
 WITH SIGHTS SET ON
 A COLLABORATIVE
 EFFORT TO REDUCE
 HEALTH DISPARITY
 THROUGH
 STRATEGIES THAT
 MATCH PRESENT
 AND FUTURE
 DEMANDS.**
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Constantly on the go from one country to the next, Dr. Dennis Carroll, an integral member of the SGH Scientific Advisory Committee at the School of Global Health, Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University, Former Director of USAID Pandemic Influenza and Other Emerging Threats and Chair of the Global Virome Project Leadership Board, made a quick stop into Bangkok to conduct a special Emerging Trends in Healthcare Workshop for MDCU. I had the time to catch up with Dr. Carroll before leaving to his next country destination and here's what he had to say about how global trends of the future must be addressed today.

SP: Thank you again for joining us at the SGH, MDCU. You speak all around the world, what is it that draws you to Thailand?

DC: It's great to be back in Bangkok, thank you. My former post at USAID Pandemic Influenza and Other Emerging Threats (PIOET) allowed me to really get to understand Thailand and the region. It was all a part of the job and I really feel that Thailand is a magical place that is so welcoming every time I'm here.

SP: We're very honored to have you always. In your workshop, you spoke of how global healthcare trends must be addressed today. To you, what are the most critical trends to improving healthcare in Thailand?

DC: Certainly, there are many trends but the most crucial are: climate change, population growth and artificial intelligence (AI).

Since the world is currently experiencing climate change, you can see how extreme

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weather affects crops and our ability to cultivate food for the next trend which is population growth. With exponential growth in Asia at the moment and trends for spikes in population growth in Africa within the next 3-5 decades, it will have direct consequences to health e.g., food shortages and forced migration with larger number of refugees.

Although the first two trends pose great threats, AI will give us the agility to address these issues through the development of designer medicine and faster diagnostics. Technology that will come over the next few decades will open opportunities to be more creative with the approach to resolving these challenges.

SP: It's fascinating how technology can help fill many gaps. Do you think we can rely solely on these advancements to create change?

DC: Actually, technology will only be a tool used to enhance working output to be able to better handle the effects of over population and extreme climates. This is why I advocate that we must get together to identify what we can do now to better prepare ourselves for the future.



For example, when I was asked to conduct a workshop here at the SGH, it really shows me that this organization is looking for opportunities to develop our future leaders in healthcare. During the workshop, many of the participants, both foreign and Thai, were able to understand that it's not just talking about problems— rather, we must talk about *what to do* to solve the problems.

SP: That's so true. So, perhaps it's about shifting towards a more action-based approach?

DC: That's exactly what it means. You see, “the world we live in now is not the world that we will be responsible for.” So, we must understand that all of the preparation is not to solve the problems that we're currently experiencing. We must take the knowledge of these global healthcare trends into account now in order to face these future challenges head-on. It's up to us. It's up to the SGH to help foster these concepts for our healthcare leaders to go wherever they may go in the world.

SP: Poignant indeed. Thank you for being such an inspiration for our participants and for the SGH—looking forward to your next visit in Bangkok.—SP