

# MMI Thomas Schwarz

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FW: MMI News Briefing, 30th September 2008

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Dear Friends,  
Dear Madam/Sir,

For Medicus Mundi International, all ways lead to Rome where the Executive Board and the existing two working groups will come together for their third meeting this year, where colleagues and friends, stories and ideas, ambitions and resources will meet, and where plans and commitment for our Network will be reviewed and renewed.



We contacted the Network Members early September regarding accommodation at the Fatebenefratelli General Curia. Therefore we already know more or less whom we will meet in Rome, but “last minute registrations” are possible – and welcome.

See you soon! With best regards,

Thomas Schwarz, Executive Secretary  
Medicus Mundi International Network

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**MMI Network News: Executive Board, Secretariat, Members and Partners**  
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MMI EB meeting in Rome, 10th October 2008  
**Reporting, discussing, and leveling the field...**

The Executive Board meeting will focus on reviewing and discussing this year’s activities and next year’s plans of the Medicus Mundi International Network and will be hosted by the Fatebenefratelli General Curia. The meeting's documentation is available online in the internal section of the draft MMI ePlatform (for MMI members only; if you have access problems, please contact the MMI webmaster).

> <http://mmi.4teamwork.ch/en/contributions/events/2008/mmi-executive-board-meeting-in-rome>  
> Fatebenefratelli: [www.oh-fbf.it](http://www.oh-fbf.it)

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MMI Network: Electronic Platform  
**Still under construction...**

For several reasons, the development of the Medicus Mundi International ePlatform takes longer than expected. Also today the ePlatform is not finished



(layout, translations, other features), but at least we can invite you now to take a sightseeing trip over the draft to see what is already available.

If you like to see the "internal" section of the ePlatform and if you have not yet registered as a MMI ePlatform user, please contact the MMI secretary in order to obtain the login name and the password for the "guest access".

> MMI ePlatform: <http://mmi.4teamwork.ch/en>

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MMI Network events: Medicus Mundi Switzerland  
**30 Years after Alma Ata: The future of Community Health  
Symposium in Basel, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

The Declaration of Alma Ata and the concept of primary health care that it propagates are a key point of reference for all organizations working in healthcare provision. The seventh Swiss Health Cooperation Symposium organized by Medicus Mundi Switzerland will be focusing on the question of what impact the Declaration of Alma Ata has had on community health projects and what the future is for community health.



> Program: [www.medicusmundi.ch/mms-en/services/events/meeting20081111](http://www.medicusmundi.ch/mms-en/services/events/meeting20081111)

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MMI Network Events: Swiss Tropical Institute, Member of Medicus Mundi Switzerland  
**Health System Strengthening: Role of incentives?  
Symposium in Basel, 27-28 November 2008**

In the past year there has been a rapid increase in interest and application of cash transfers and other incentives intended to strengthen health systems in developing and transition countries. The Swiss Tropical Institute (STI), a member of the Medicus Mundi Switzerland Network, is organizing its 12th Symposium assembling researchers as well as policy and decision makers interested in international health to examine this experience.

> Program: [www.sti.ch/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Pdfs/STI\\_Systems\\_Symposium\\_08\\_1.pdf](http://www.sti.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/Pdfs/STI_Systems_Symposium_08_1.pdf)

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MMI Network Events: Novartis Foundation, Member of Medicus Mundi Switzerland  
**Dare to dialog? Conditions for constructive stakeholder relations  
Basel, 5th December 2008**

"The reason for choosing this theme is that many companies, institutions or social groups have the tendency to be too self-absorbed in their own activities. Thus it is important for them to get out and engage in dialog with other groups. But this dialog can often be unfruitful if ideological thinking gets in the way of facts, as companies, institutions or groups sometimes look for reasons why their own ideas must be true. When that happens, the effort to prove that their ideas are correct turns into an ideological spiral, with the effort itself becoming the reason for their reasons. We want to present experiences from various sections of society at the symposium, including politics, economics and research. In addition, we also plan to make an attempt at formulating the conditions and limits of a fruitful public dialog."



> Program: [www.novartisfoundation.org](http://www.novartisfoundation.org)

*MMI Network members and thematic partners are invited to start right now publishing their news and announcing their upcoming events on the new MMI ePlatform.*

> Network News: <http://mmi.4teamwork.ch/en/news>

> Network Events: <http://mmi.4teamwork.ch/en/events>

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**MMI Key Issues and Network Topics:  
Reports, Events, Resources**  
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MMI Key issues and Network topics  
**Thematic Guides on the MMI ePlatform**

*"The need for accessible information on appropriate technology and the management of its use in basic health care (including training, procurement and maintenance) remains high."*

*"In the international debates on Human Resources for Health, the discussion concentrates on the role of national governments, international organisations and multi lateral funds. In general, the role of smaller private not-for-profit organisations, which play a crucial role in health provision in many countries and struggle to become a fully integrated actor within the public health system, are overlooked."*



*"How can the private not-for-profit organisations raise their voice and get involved in Global Health Initiatives? How do they define their role between advocacy and cooperation?"*

Our new thematic guides to internet resources lead you beyond the limits of the Medicus Mundi International Network. Are you interested to edit one of these guides? Or to add to the draft MMI ePlatform a guide related to your particular area of concern and/or expertise? Please get in touch with the MMI Secretariat.

- > <http://mmi.4teamwork.ch/en/topics/appropriate-technology/thematic-guide>
- > <http://mmi.4teamwork.ch/en/topics/human-resources/thematic-guide>
- > <http://mmi.4teamwork.ch/en/topics/pnfp-sector-and-global-health-initiatives/thematic-guide>
- > MMI Network Topics: <http://mmi.4teamwork.ch/en/topics>

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MMI Network topic: Access to health  
**Public interventions targeting the poor: an analytical framework**

Eldis | "Targeted interventions are a key strategy in the toolbox of governments. Their design, implementation and assessment set several challenges. The authors propose an analytical framework for interventions targeting the poorest. The framework presented splits the intervention into sub-components. For each sub-component, key issues and options are identified and roles of different actors are reviewed. The authors illustrate the framework with an example from the health sector, the experience of the health equity funds in Cambodia. ( B. Meessen; B. Criel: An analytical framework for interventions targeting the poor. In: Health and social protection; experiences from Cambodia, China and Lao. Publisher: Studies in Health Services Organisation and Policy, 2008)

> Source/Link: [www.eldis.org/go/display&type=Document&id=39285](http://www.eldis.org/go/display&type=Document&id=39285)

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MMI Network topic: Social determinants of health  
**Health equity through action on the social determinants of health**

WHO media release, 28 August 2008 | "A child born in a Glasgow, Scotland suburb can expect a life 28 years shorter than another living only 13 kilometres away. A girl in Lesotho is likely to live 42 years less than another in Japan. In Sweden, the risk of a woman dying during pregnancy and childbirth is 1 in 17 400; in Afghanistan, the odds are 1 in 8. Biology does not explain any of this.



Instead, the differences between - and within - countries result from the social environment where people are born, live, grow, work and age.

These 'social determinants of health' have been the focus of a three-year investigation by an eminent group of policy makers, academics, former heads of state and former ministers of health. Together, they comprise the World Health Organization's Commission on the Social Determinants of Health. Today, the Commission presents its findings to the WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan.

'(The) toxic combination of bad policies, economics, and politics is, in large measure responsible for the fact that a majority of people in the world do not enjoy the good health that is biologically possible,' the Commissioners write in *Closing the Gap in a Generation: Health Equity through Action on the Social Determinants of Health*. 'Social injustice is killing people on a grand scale.'

> Report: [www.who.int/entity/social\\_determinants/final\\_report](http://www.who.int/entity/social_determinants/final_report)

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MMI Network topic: Combating priority diseases

**The Lancet: "Health for all need not be a dream buried in the past",**

MMS News | 30 years ago health experts from 134 WHO member states convened to attend a conference on primary health care. On Sept 12, 1978, the Alma-Ata Declaration was signed with the target of achieving "Health for All by 2000". A Lancet Editorial asks what the relevance of the Declaration is in 2008, and looks forward to 8 papers published in The Lancet that revisit, update, and re-launch the key messages from Alma-Ata. (free registration required)

> Editorial : [www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/issue?issue\\_key=S0140-6736\(08\)X6039-8](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/issue?issue_key=S0140-6736(08)X6039-8)

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MMI Network topic: Combating priority diseases

**Global Malaria Action Plan (GMAP): Eliminate malaria deaths by 2015**

Afro-Nets | "Government, business and civil society leaders gathered at the United Nations today to launch a global campaign to reduce malaria deaths, currently at more than 1 million each year, to near zero by 2015, with an initial commitment of nearly a \$3 billion. The Global Malaria Action Plan (GMAP) aims to cut deaths and illness by 2010 to half their 2000 levels by scaling up access to insecticide-treated bed nets, indoor spraying and treatment, and achieve the near-zero goal through sustained universal coverage. Ultimately it seeks to eradicate the disease completely with new tools and strategies.

> Campaign: <http://rbm.who.int/gmap>

> World Malaria Report 2008: [www.who.int/malaria/wmr2008](http://www.who.int/malaria/wmr2008)

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MMI Network topic: Health in emergency

**Public health in crisis-affected populations: a practical guide for decision-maker**

Eldis | "Never before has it been clearer what interventions must be implemented to mitigate the adverse health consequences of wars and natural disasters, and what standards those interventions must strive to achieve. Political considerations often obstruct the delivery of appropriate relief. This network paper by the Humanitarian Practice Network, presents a bird's eye view of the risks to health inherent in crises, and the potential for impact of health interventions. Five crisis conditions, brought about by war, are considered: loss of livelihoods and services, mass internal displacement, displacement into neighbouring host communities, loss of livelihoods due to environmental change and food crises." (F. Checchi et al, Humanitarian Practice Network, ODI, 2007)

> Source: [www.eldis.org/qo/display&type=Document&id=37792](http://www.eldis.org/qo/display&type=Document&id=37792)

> Guide: [www.odihpn.org/documents/networkpaper061.pdf](http://www.odihpn.org/documents/networkpaper061.pdf)

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**About the MMI News Briefing**  
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This MMI News Briefing was sent to you by the secretariat of Medicus Mundi International. The next news briefing is scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> October 2008 – please send us your eventual contributions until mid-October. Feel free to transmit the MMI News Briefing to others who might be interested to get regular news from Medicus Mundi International – they can subscribe to the News Briefing by sending a simple “subscribe” message to the secretariat. Please contact us if you do not want to be included in our mailing list.

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*"We fight global poverty by promoting health.  
Within the Medicus Mundi International Network,  
we share our know-how and our commitment for  
accessible, equitable and sustainable health care."*