

*HTA for Health System Sustainability*  
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**Using research to inform  
health systems strengthening**

**Chair:**  
**Dr Ulysses Panisset**  
**WHO**

# Panel: Using research to inform health systems strengthening

- Cochrane Collaboration's work on producing systematic reviews on health systems issues. Experiences from the EPOC review group. *Professor Jeremy Grimshaw, Department of Medicine, University of Ottawa*
- The need for systematic and collaborative approaches in synthesizing health systems research. Experiences from the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research. *Professor John-Arne Røttingen, Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services*
- Bridging the gap between systematic reviews and policy making processes. Experiences from the SUPPORT Collaboration. *Dr Sebastian Garcia Marti, Institute for Clinical Effectiveness and Health Policy, Buenos Aires*
- Approaches to making guidance for health systems strengthening. Presentation of recommendations from a WHO Task Force. *Professor Andy Haines, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine*

HTA has been successful in informing clinical policy making, reimbursement decisions and guidelines development in many countries when it comes to drugs, vaccines, devices, clinical interventions and some public health programs like screening and vaccination. However, studies have demonstrated that a rather low proportion of HTA reports are evaluating the “higher level” health management and health system interventions which are essential to ensure equitable uptake of safe, effective and cost effective technologies, even if the broad definition of “health technologies” also include such interventions. Lessons from using HTA as an approach to informing policy making based on the best available research evidence should also be utilized for improving the health system on meso and macro levels. This session will discuss the challenges of doing so, and present experiences from different initiatives and approaches that have been established which aim to strengthen the health of populations and the robustness of national health systems through evidence informed health policy making in low- and middle income countries.