

DECLARATION ON ENGAGEMENT FOR GLOBAL HEALTH

I/We believe that the solutions to the health challenges of today and tomorrow will depend on building effective partnerships and harnessing the underutilized power of ordinary people who care about improving their health and, therefore, I/we support engagement at all six levels of the Global Health Partnership Framework.

I/We pledge to implement and/or support one or more of the following engagement strategies and to continue building the knowledge base on engagement by sharing my/our experiences with the global community.

1. EDUCATION

Education of Patients and Families:

- Develop and implement programs to improve the health literacy of the population, including enhancing primary and secondary education curricula to incorporate content related to physical and mental wellbeing, health literacy, statistical and risk literacy, self-care, and skills to enhance partnering with healthcare professionals.

Education of Healthcare Professionals:

- Create patient and family faculty programs to educate healthcare professionals about the experience of illness and the patient and family perspective on what constitutes high quality care.

2. COMMUNITY HEALTH

- Offer evidence-based sources of health information and decision support tools to people through effective dissemination strategies such as electronic portals, cell phones, and alternative low-tech tools (paper-based, for instance).
- Partner with community organizations to improve health literacy, raise awareness of common health threats, and to enhance access to necessary health services.

3. DIRECT CARE

- Set public expectations that every healthcare professional will routinely invite them to participate in informed decision-making, and will partner with patients and families to support their goals, as they define them.
- Promote self-management of medical conditions, through the use of effective materials and through coaching, support, and connections to community resources.

4. ORGANIZATIONAL DESIGN AND GOVERNANCE

- Engage patients and family members in developing and reviewing all communication and educational materials designed for patients and families, to ensure that they are relevant and clear.
- Mandate that all healthcare organizations will engage patients/families as partners in quality improvement, care design and redesign, and policy-setting through development of patient and family advisors and programs that have sufficient resources and training to be effective.

5. PUBLIC POLICY

- Directly engage the public in policy-making, using methods such as in-person consultation and placement on decision-making boards, and through the use of emerging methods such as social media and crowdsourcing.
- Examine and align incentives for the public, healthcare organizations and governmental agencies to promote engagement of the public.

6. RESEARCH

- Require research funding entities to set the expectation that patients and families will be involved in all aspects of research activities they fund, including establishing study aims, design and methodology, and outcome measures.
- Continue to build the evidence base for effective engagement strategies across different cultures by integrating evaluation plans into the design of any engagement initiative.

Name

Organization

Signature

Date