“Research on Research” in the Arab Region
The Case of Non-Communicable Diseases
AUB, Beirut, Lebanon, 20 January, 2017
Headlines

• WHO/EMRO
• Review objectives
• Review methods
• Outcomes
• Conclusion & recommendations
WHO/EMRO Departments

• Non-communicable Diseases & Mental Health (NMH)
• Information, Evidence & Research (IER)
• Health Systems Development (HSD)
• Communicable Diseases Control (DCD)
• Health Protection & Promotion (DHP)
• WHO Health Emergencies (WHE)
IER teams

• Research Development & Innovation (RDI)
• Knowledge, Languages & Publications (KLP)
• Health Information & Statistics (HIS)
Research Development & Innovation (RDI) Units / Areas of Work

• Research Promotion & Development (RPD), including Tropical Disease Research (TDR)
• Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal (EMHJ)
• Innovation & E-Health (IEH), including mHealth
Research Promotion & Development (RPD) 1

- Secretariat of:
  - Advisory Committee for Health Research (ACHR)
  - Research Ethics Committee (ERC): for ethical review of WHO-funded research on human subjects (HQ, EMR)

- Coordination of WHO Research Grants in EMR:
  - EM Research in Priority Areas of Public Health (RPPH)
  - Improving Program Implementation through Embedded Research (iPIER) in collaboration with the Alliance for Health Policy & Systems Research
  - Tropical Disease Research (TDR) Small Grant Scheme (SGS) Grants in collaboration with TDR/HQ
• Secretariat of the EM WHO-Collaborating Centers: currently have 44 designated CCs
• Capacity building in good health research methods & ethics, guideline development / adaptation, policy briefs development
• EMR health research mapping (input-output)
• Support for the Evidence-Informed-Policy-Network (EVIPNet) and bioethics in the EMR
Innovation & eHealth (IEH)

• **General goal:** Support innovation & development of technology, including e-Health and biotechnology solutions that lead to improving the performance of health systems and population health outcomes

• **Priorities:**
  - Promote sustainable eHealth solutions by promoting national eHealth strategies
  - Support member states in establishment of reliable and operational national health networks (HealthNet)
  - Support member states in designing and implementing eHealth applications and services (HMIS, Telemedicine, mHealth, eSurveillance, eLearning)
EMHJ BACKGROUND
EMHJ: Background

The Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal (EMHJ) is the flagship health periodical of WHO/EMRO. It was established in 1995 (now into its 23rd year) to provide a peer-reviewed platform for EMR public health researchers to share their research work with the scientific community.
EMHJ: Governance & People

EMHJ has:

• A regional editorial board of 8 members
• An international advisory panel (14 members)
• A global group of peer-reviewers (400+ reviewers)
• An in-house editorial office (4)
• Support of external editors (4 E / 1 F) / translators (2 A / F)
EMHJ Editorial Board

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- Ms Yasmeen Sedky
**Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal**

**Current Issue: October 2016**

The Journal's mission is to contribute to improving health in the Eastern Mediterranean Region by publishing and publicizing quality health research and information with emphasis on public health and relevance to the Region.

**Editorial**

Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 thrives on health
Z. Mirza

**Research articles**

- Iranian public trust in health services: evidence from Tabriz, Islamic Republic of Iran
  J.S. Tabrizi, M. Saadati, H. Sadeghi-Bazargani, L. Abedi and R. Alibayes

- Tobacco chewing and risk of gastric cancer: a case-control study in Yemen
  F.A. Al-kadi, S.A. Shah, H.F. Ohazi

- Job satisfaction and its relationship to Radiation Protection Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (RPKAP) of Iranian radiation workers
  S.S. Alavi, S.T. Dabbagh, M. Abbas and R. Mehrdad

- Turkish version of the SPAN questionnaire for high school students: reproducibility and validity
  F. Öz, S. Metintas, R. Aydin and Ö. Özay
EMHJ IN REVIEW (1995-2014)
Objectives

The EMHJ review had 2 objectives:

• To examine public health research (PHR) trends in the EMR as reflected by EMHJ publications in 20 years (1995-2014)

• To give some insight to future PHR in the Region
Methods

• Using a secondary data analysis approach, this review covered published articles over 20 years: 1995 - 2014; was conducted by WHO staff with the “Research Development & Innovation” and “Knowledge Sharing & Production” teams.

• The main data source was the EMHJ section of the Index Medicus for the Eastern Mediterranean Region (IMEMR).

• According to the Strategic Health Priority Areas (SHPA), published articles were sub-classified according to a specially-compiled: “Subject Classification Scheme”
WHO Index Medicus for the Eastern Mediterranean Region (IMEMR)

- **Content:** includes more than 157,000 bibliographic citations of health and biomedical sciences literature published in 598 peer-reviewed journals from 20 countries from the Region.

- **Coverage:** 1966 to present

- **Updated:** Online version updated continuously

- **Access to full text:** Links to online full text are provided, whenever available
IMEMR Metadata Element Set

- Title
- Creator
- First author affiliation
- Publication Date
- Language
- Publication Type
- Major Subject (MeSH)
- WHO Five Strategic Health Priority Areas (SHPA)
- Geographic Descriptors “Country of Research”

*The geographical term “Eastern Mediterranean” was used in case the research covered more than one country in the Region*
WHO Strategic Health Priority Areas (SHPA)

- Health system development (HSD)
- Non-communicable disease prevention and control (NCD)
- Communicable disease prevention and control (DCD)
- Emergency preparedness and response (EPR)
- Reproductive, maternal, child, adolescent health & nutrition (RMCHN).
### WHO/IER/KSP SHPA Subject Classification Scheme

#### Health System Strengthening (HSS)
- Community Health
- Essential Medicines
- Health and Biomedical Devices
- Health Economics
- Health Financing
- Health Manpower
- Health Planning
- Health Policy
- Hospital Care
- Midwifery
- Nursing
- Patient Safety
- Pharmaceutical Policies
- Professional Education
- Epidemiology
- Human Rights
- Health Research
- Health Surveys
- Statistics

#### Maternal, Reproductive and Child Health and Nutrition (MCRHN)
- Adolescent Health
- Child Health
- Gender Issues
- Health Education
- Health Protection and Promotion
- Human Rights
- Maternal Health
- Nutrition
- Reproductive Health
- Social Determinants
- Violence
- Women's Health
- Epidemiology
- Health Research
- Health Surveys
- Statistics

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EMHJ, 1995-2014
### Non-communicable Diseases (NCD)
- Alzheimer Disease
- Cancer
- Cardiovascular Diseases
- Diabetes
- Epilepsy
- Hypertension
- Mental Health
- Smoking
- Substance Abuse
- Tobacco
- Oral Health
- Hearing Loss
- Disability and Rehabilitation
- Health of the Elderly
- Wounds and Injuries
- Blindness
- Physical Activity
- Epidemiology
- Human Rights
- Health Research
- Health Surveys
- Statistics
- Food Safety

### Communicable Disease Control (CDC)
- Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome - AIDS
- Blood Safety
- Epidemic Diseases
- Epidemiology
- Health Regulations
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus - HIV
- Immunization
- Laboratories
- Malaria
- Pandemic Diseases
- Poliomyelitis
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases - STD
- Tropical Diseases
- Tuberculosis
- Vaccines
- Zoonoses
- Cholera
- Leprosy
- Measles
- Rubella
- Lymphatic Filariasis
- Human Rights
- Health Research
- Health Surveys
- Statistics
- Ebola
Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR)

- Accident Prevention
- Disasters
- Emergency Preparedness
- Road Safety
- Epidemiology
- Human Rights
- Health Research
- Health Surveys
- Statistics
RESULTS
# EMHJ Articles (1995-2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EMHJ articles</th>
<th>Total no. of articles</th>
<th>EMR Countries</th>
<th>Non-EMR Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Distribution of EMHJ articles per country of research</td>
<td>2704</td>
<td>2097</td>
<td>607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution of EMHJ articles as related to the WHO Strategic Health Priority Area (SHPA)</td>
<td>2521 (93 %)</td>
<td>1964 (94 %)</td>
<td>557 (92 %)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text Language</th>
<th>Total (n=2704)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>57 (2 %)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>2542 (94 %)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>105 (4 %)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Articles by Number of Authors, EMHJ, 1995-2014
Articles by Country of 1st Author, EMHJ, 1995-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Articles</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Islamic Republic of Iran</td>
<td>499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>173</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>159</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>137</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>58</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
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<td>Palestine</td>
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<td>Libya</td>
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<td>Oman</td>
<td>48</td>
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<tr>
<td>Syrian Arab Republic</td>
<td>43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Articles by Country of Research, EMHJ, 1995-2014 (n = 2704)
Articles indexed in IMEMR, by EMR country of research, 1995-2014 (n = 11724)
Articles indexed in PubMed, by EMR country of research, 1995-2014 (n = 25044)
Articles by Strategic Health Priority Areas (SHPA), EMHJ, 1995-2014

- Communicable Diseases: 19.01%
- Noncommunicable Diseases: 18.71%
- Health System Strengthening: 17.83%
- Maternal, Reproductive and Child Health and Nutrition: 16.01%
- Emergency Preparedness and Response: 1.07%
Trends of Published Articles by SHPA and 5-year interval, EMHJ, 1995-2014

Published articles by SHPA in EMR countries compared with other countries, EMHJ, 1995-2014
Published Articles by EMR Country of research on WHO SHPA, EMHJ, 1995-2014

EMHJ, 1995-2014
Published articles related to Non-communicable Diseases, by country of research, EMHJ (1995-2014); n = 506
Published articles related to Communicable Diseases, by country of research, EMHJ (1995-2014); n = 514
Published articles related to Health System Strengthening by country of research, EMHJ (1995-2014); n = 482
Published articles related to Reproductive, Child Health and Nutrition, by country of research EMHJ (1995-2014); n = 433
Published articles related to Emergency Preparedness, by country of research, EMHJ (1995-2014); n = 29

- Islamic Republic of Iran: 7 articles
- Saudi Arabia: 7 articles
- Pakistan: 5 articles
- Eastern Mediterranean: 5 articles
- Bahrain: 2 articles
- Lebanon: 1 article
- Morocco: 1 article
- Yemen: 1 article
Conclusion

• Half EMHJ publications during 1995-2014 came from 4 countries only (Iran, Egypt, KSA, Jordan). This calls for further study to evaluate why other 18 EMR nations are less well represented and how to encourage greater contributions from them (? publishing elsewhere)

• While almost equal publications were on CD, NCD, HSD, RMCHN (22-26 %), much more research / publications are needed in the very vital EMR field of EPR (? published elsewhere)

• Encourage top EMR scientists to publish in the EMHJ (comparing with PubMed / IMEMR)
Acknowledgements

• Editorial Board(s)
• International Advisory Panel(s)
Thank you