

PAHAL Leads a Panel at the Duke University India Health Forum: Innovation, Policy & Research



Panel Discussion on “Health Innovation for Impact.” Left to Right: Mr. LM Singh, IPE Global; Mr. Eric Savage, Unitus Capital; Mr. Gautam Chakraborty, USAID; Mr. Shoumik Guha, WISH Foundation and Mr. Sandeep Ahuja, Operation Asha

Duke University India creates new opportunities for the Duke community to engage with partners in India, and facilitates research, partnerships, alumni connections, student learning and other Duke activities across the country.

Duke University India hosted the “Duke University India Health Forum: Innovation, Policy & Research” on 13th-14th December 2018 at The Le Meridien, New Delhi.

The forum focused on Health Innovation, Policy, and Research in India and brought together key local and global stakeholders to discuss emerging health priorities in India, highlight innovative approaches to developing and implementing evidence to improve health policy and practice, and facilitate collaborations among diverse stakeholders from the public and private sectors.

LM Singh, Head, USAID PAHAL and Impact Investments at IPE Global, led the session on “*Accelerating Health Innovation for Impact*” at the conference. The session brought out the challenges, best practices, and opportunities to help facilitate the adoption of transformative innovations throughout health systems and communities. The panel included *Mr. Gautam Chakraborty, Senior Advisor Health Finance at USAID, Mr. Sandeep Ahuja, Co-Founder and CEO at Operation Asha, Mr. Shoumik Guha, Head of Partnerships at WISH Foundation and Eric Savage, Co-Founder and CEO at Unitus Capital.*

Panel Discussion: Accelerating Health Innovation for Impact

Mr. Chakraborty discussed the transition that donor agencies are making by moving from traditional grant making to strategic social investing, and the key role that they can play to catalyse market-based innovations. Mr. Ahuja elaborated on the role of artificial intelligence to reduce costs and optimize resources in healthcare, discussed the need for government support to scale up innovations for long

term impact. Mr. Guha shared his experience of working with the government for last mile healthcare delivery, and elaborated on the need to demonstrate the field value of innovations to have government buy in. Mr. Savage highlighted the potential of impact investments to open up mainstream capital to flow for development impact, and the need to create a language that is common to both, investors and social sector players.

The panel discussion concluded with an agreement for the need for all stakeholders in the ecosystem to work together and draw synergies from each other. This collaboration can catalyse innovations in healthcare and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals.

About USAID: USAID is the lead U.S. Government agency that works to end extreme global poverty and promote resilient, democratic societies. It has been playing a key role in strengthening the impact ecosystem to achieve sustainable development goals. PAHAL, managed by IPE Global, is USAID's flagship initiative

About PAHAL: PAHAL (Partnerships for Affordable Healthcare Access and Longevity) is USAID and IPE Global's flagship innovative financing platform to promote health financing models and provide catalytic support to social enterprises for improving access to affordable and quality healthcare solutions for the urban poor.

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