

Starfield Summit Issue Brief

DISCUSSION TOPIC:

- The Power of the Right Questions

Why This Is Important (*brief description*):

- Too often the conversation of improving health and lowering cost devolves into a conversation of behavioral economics. This line of thinking assumes that shifting payment and remuneration and making costs transparent will lead to better health. Bending the cost curve is only one of the available tools for improving health and reducing disparities. Another tool is bridging the one-hundred year chasm between medicine and public health, but to do so, we must become less path-dependent in our change efforts and begin anew by asking better and more insightful questions. It is important to recognize the difference and connection between a complex problem such as improving health versus and an ambiguous challenge such as mitigating the impact of poverty on one's health. This talk will illustrate how asking the right question alters the course of discussion and unleashes the imagination required to address ambiguous problems.

What We Think We Know (*bulleted evidence + seminal references*):

- Trainees need more exposure to public health principles.
- Bridging the gap between public health and medicine and embracing diversity are key strategies in achieving the triple aim.

Fraser D. Epidemiology as a liberal art. *N Engl J Med*. 1987; 316(6):309-314.

National Academy of Medicine. Preparing Health Care and Public Health Professionals for Team Performance: The Community as Classroom; 2016. <http://nam.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Preparing-Health-Care-and-Public-Health-Professionals-for-Team-Performance-The-Community-as-Classroom.pdf>.

Berinato S. A framework for understanding VUCA (volatility, uncertainty, complexity, ambiguity). <https://hbr.org/2014/09/a-framework-for-understanding-vuca>. Published September 5, 2014. Accessed April 13, 2016. (This leads to a video about VUCA)

Nivet MA. Commentary: Diversity 3.0: A Necessary Systems Upgrade: *Acad Med*. 2011;86(12):1487-1489. doi:10.1097/ACM.0b013e3182351f79.



QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION (*PRECONFERENCE*)

Questions for Group Discussion (*add brief answers post-conference*)

- ▶ Who should be held accountable for bridging the gap between public health and medical training? What are the tactics for bridging this gap?
- ▶ What is primary care's role in addressing poverty?
- ▶ What will it take to move from a conversation of inter-disciplinary education and practice to trans-disciplinary?
- ▶ Why will individual diversity of experience, background, and attributes be required to make improvement in health outcomes for all?

Ideas Worthy of Policymaker Attention (*lists ideas for policy preconference, refined ones post-conference*)

- ▶ Health in all policies must move from a good tagline to execution.

Important Unanswered Questions & Ideas Worthy of Research Community Attention

- ▶ How do we bend the culture curve and not just the cost curve in organized health care?
- ▶ What other disciplines must be added to the table and discussion to address health disparities?
- ▶ We are stuck in a search for scalable efficiency in healthcare but, our ability to improve requires scalable learning across many disciplines and systems - education, engineering, and law to name a few. How do we do this?
- ▶ Stocks of knowledge are rapidly becoming less important for health practitioners, but we are still educating in a stock of knowledge paradigm. How do we shift to a flow of knowledge paradigm across multiple disciplines beyond health professionals?