



OCTOBER 6-9

2014 International Summit of Cooperatives: The cooperative model promises solutions for equitable access to health care

Quebec, April 16, 2014 — As the world's population grows and ages, the challenge of providing a wide range of health and social care services becomes even greater. The case of the United States, where more than 7 million people have signed up for the Obamacare program, illustrates the tremendous challenges even wealthy countries face regarding equitable access to health care for all.

In this regard, the advent of Obamacare reflects growing interest in mutuals. Through a sharing of risks, they ensure access to health and social care services for all citizens regardless of socioeconomic status. This enthusiasm for the solutions provided by the cooperative model in the United States is significant. More than 100 million families worldwide trust cooperatives to provide them with equitable access to health care. Health cooperatives generate total sales of almost US\$21 billion.

The Summit today unveils the names of experts who will present the results of studies, take part in panels, and address many health and social care issues. In particular, they will address equitable access to health care for all, the business opportunities inherent in an aging population, and consolidation of the cooperative and mutual movement in terms of health.

From Quebec City to Geneva: Universal access to health care, a timely topic

Nearly 12,600 health cooperatives around the world provide social care services. They can reshape the world medical landscape for the better. For this reason the International Summit of Cooperatives participates in the Geneva Health Forum, the largest health sector event held annually in Switzerland bringing together the key actors of change in the field.

Five of the speakers from this sector who will be taking part in the Summit in October will share their expertise at a workshop in Geneva presented by the Summit on the role of health cooperatives and mutuals in organizing health care around the world. The panel will use concrete examples to demonstrate how cooperatives and mutuals can help improve access to health and social care services.

The workshop organized by the International Summit of Cooperatives at the Geneva Health Forum will feature the following panelists:

- **Jean-Pierre Girard**, Expert Advisor, LPS production, Canada
- **Vanessa Hammond**, Chair, Health Care Co-operatives Federation of Canada, Canada
- **Dr. Rüdiger Krech**, Director, Office of the Assistant Director-General, Health Systems and Innovation, World Health Organization, Switzerland
- **Dr. Giuseppe Milanese**, President, Federazione Sanità – Confcooperative, Italy
- **Dr. Toshinori Ozeki**, Vice President, Japanese Health and Welfare Co-operative, Japan

For more information on the workshop: <http://ghf.globalhealthforum.net/2014/03/20/20354/>

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High-profile Summit speakers

More than fifteen elite speakers will enrich the debate.

- **Nancie Allaire**, Executive Director, Coopérative de santé Robert-Cliche, Canada
- **Dr. Eudes de Freitas Aquino**, President, UNIMED do Brasil, Brazil
- **Tim Archer**, Executive Director, Saskatoon Community Clinic, Canada
- **Marc Bell**, Chief Executive, Benenden Health, United Kingdom
- **J. Benoît Caron**, Executive Director, Fédération des coopératives de services à domicile et de santé du Québec (FCSDSQ), Canada
- **William Bojorquez Cordova**, General Manager, Serviperu, Peru
- **David K. Foot**, Author and Professor, Department of Economics, University of Toronto, Canada
- **Mo Girach**, Leadership Associate, King's Fund, United Kingdom
- **Dr. José Carlos Guisado**, President, International Health Cooperative Organisation (IHCO), Spain
- **Nancy Heinrichs**, Executive Director, NorWest Co-op Community Health Centre, Canada
- **Nelson C. Kuria**, Group Managing Director/CEO, CIC Insurance Group, Kenya
- **Manon Loranger**, Executive Director, Coopérative de soutien à domicile de Laval, Canada
- **Dr. Gerard Martí**, Deputy Medical Director, Hospital de Barcelona, Spain
- **Laura Peracaula**, Deputy Director, Suara cooperativa, Spain
- **Suee Chieh Tan**, Group Chief Executive, NTUC Enterprise Group, Singapore

View the full program on the theme of Health and Social Care Services at the Summit: http://www.sommetinter.coop/cms/en_CA/home/edition-2014/programme.html.

About the 2014 International Summit of Cooperatives

Decision makers and influencers from the international cooperative and mutual community will gather in Quebec City, Canada, from October 6 to 9 for the 2014 International Summit of Cooperatives. The Summit's bold, ambitious themes will garner the attention and interest of cooperatives from around the globe as well as world leaders and politicians.

Media representatives can request Summit accreditation now:

http://www.sommetinter.coop/cms/en_CA/home/medias/accreditation.html

Information (for journalists only):

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