HKU Med
LKS Faculty of Medicine
School of Public Health
香港大學公共衞生學院

21 May 2024

Statement of Interest to become HSG Board Member

I am writing this letter to express my strong interest in becoming a board member representing the Western-Pacific region, which has been my home for the past five years. With over two decades of experience as a dedicated Health Policy and Systems researcher and practitioner, I believe I possess a wealth of knowledge and leadership skills that would greatly contribute to the success of HSG.

Currently, I hold the position of Associate Professor at the School of Public Health at the University of Hong Kong. Prior to this, I was a faculty member at New York University (NYU) and Wilfrid Laurier University, where I also had the honour of serving as the Canada Research Chair in Global Health Policy and Evaluation. Throughout my career, my research has primarily focused on health financing policies, institutional factors affecting the use of health services, development assistance for health, and government responses to infectious disease outbreaks. My educational background includes a Ph.D. in Health Policy (economics) from Harvard University, an S.M. in Health Policy and Management from Harvard School of Public Health, and a B.Sc. in Immunology from McGill University.

My connection with HSG dates to before its inception when I participated in the first Global Symposium on Health Systems Research (HSR) held in Montreux, Switzerland in 2010. Since then, I have been an active participant in nearly every subsequent conference organized by HSG. The society has become my primary professional home due to its mission, which aligns with my own commitment to advancing HPSR globally. Over the years, I have contributed significantly to HSG's initiatives focused on nurturing future researchers by serving as a mentor for their women's mentorship program. Additionally, I have organized and coached numerous pre-HSR abstract sessions within the Western-Pacific region.

In addition to my involvement with HSG, I am honoured to be a member of the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), which has allowed me to contribute my expertise towards evidence-based policies for strengthening health systems. Furthermore, I actively contribute to the field through my role as a reviewer for HPSR conferences and journals. I have also been appointed as an editorial board member for leading publications such as *Globalization and Health*, *SSM: Health Systems*, *PLOS Global Public Health*, and *Health Systems & Reform*. I was also recently appointed to the *Social Science & Medicine* Editorial Advisory Board. Additionally, I hold the position of co-Chair of the Scientific Committee of the International Health Economics Association (iHEA) and serve as a non-resident Fellow at the Center for Global Development (CGD) in Washington, DC.

If given the opportunity to join the HSG Board, I am committed to bringing my passion for health systems research and practical experience in organizational management to enhance its endeavours. My extensive involvement with HSG, combined with my dedication to the field of HPSR, makes me a strong candidate for this role. Thank you for considering my application to represent the Western Pacific Region on the HSG Board.

Sincerely,

Karen Grépin

T +852 3917 9280 | F +852 2855 9528 | hkusph@hku.hk | http://sph.hku.hk
G/F, Patrick Manson Building (North Wing), 7 Sassoon Road, Pokfulam, Hong Kong |
香港薄扶林沙宣道 7 號白文信樓北翼地下