Statement of interest – membership of the HSG Board

Prof Tolib Mirzoev, 13 May 2024

First, thank you to colleague(s) who nominated me, I am humbled by the trust.

I served on the HSG Board during the last four years, and believe I can continue contributing to effective leadership of the HSG through my membership of its Board.

The society is at a critical point in its trajectory and faces the need to address three key challenges: (a) continue advancing the field of HPSR through harnessing the current and emerging opportunities globally, nationally and locally (b) improve financial health of the HSG through diversified fundraising and reduced expenditure, all without substantially constraining the HSG's work and (c) maintain and improve engagements between the Board and the membership as well as withing the Board (especially in the wake of a major change in the composition of the Board), in order to improve the sense of belonging to the Society and collective efforts.

To this role, I will bring my track record of living previously in a low-income country (Tajikistan), working in the field of Health Policy and Systems Research for over 25 years as a researcher, educator, government decision-maker and advocate, combined with my on-going leadership of large collaborative programmes exclusively in low- and middle-income countries, and on-going advisory appointments with multiple research funders. I also continuously contributed to advancing the capacity strengthening, in the first two years of my Board membership as a member and then as a joint (together with Dr Racha Fadlallah) chair of the Board's Capacity Strengthening Working Group. All these enabled in-depth understanding of the global priorities for HPSR and opportunities and constraints for capacity strengthening and equitable relationships within the current context - and will provide a strong platform for advancing the field of HPSR.

Over my last two years, I served as a joint (together with Dr Devaki Nambiar) chair of the HSG Board's Fundraising Committee. During our tenure, the fundraising efforts have contributed to diversification of funding sources (for example, securing a part of the project from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in collaboration with the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research) and reducing the deficit accumulated over the preceding biennium. This builds on my in-depth understanding of the HSG's financial health as a Treasurer during 2020-2022.

Addressing the third challenge of improved communication is an on-going dilemma which we will hopefully collectively resolve in the HSG. During my term with the Board, I led the recruitment of the new HSG Secretariat which is being shared by Mannion Daniels ad ARK Foundation. It has now settled in the role, and is improving multiple aspects of communication such as regular newsletters, updating the website and engagements with Thematic Working Groups while of course supporting the organisation of the HSR2024 and maintaining regular HSG business. My leadership expertise and experience (of university units/divisions/centres and research programmes) should also be useful in improving communication and exchange.

Last but not least, I am available to commit sufficient time and efforts to the Board, drawing on my in-depth understanding of the level of commitment required for the society.