Oxford Centre for Leadership in Health

Transforming the global landscape in healthcare delivery

Cover: Medical staff monitor blood pressure and blood glucose levels for diabetes patients participating in clinical trials at the PLA Hospital in Beijing © Oxford University Images / Amanda Anderson, and above: administering an injection in a clinic © Oxford University

Introduction

The establishment of the Oxford Centre for Leadership in Health presents the University with a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform the delivery of healthcare across the world. Our ambition is simple – to develop a platform which will facilitate and accelerate solution-finding for global healthcare problems, and to lead the way in improving the lives of countless individuals and communities around the world.

There is currently a serious international shortage of 'academic CEOs' – clinical leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs with the necessary skills and competences to design, implement and deliver complex healthcare research programmes and big systems. This current lack of available skill and training leads to the failure of critical projects, the loss of resources and continued human suffering, and even death.

The Centre will bring together the Medical Sciences Division, the Saïd Business School and the Blavatnik School of Government to deliver courses that embed entrepreneurial approaches to the delivery of healthcare and systems alongside the study of core management practice. Students will learn from leading scholars who address real-world healthcare delivery challenges in their research.

The case for Oxford

We believe that the University of Oxford is uniquely positioned to be the home of a new Centre for Leadership in Health: nowhere but Oxford can approach today's challenges in global healthcare delivery in such a comprehensive, holistic and impactful way.

We are home to a concentration of academics whose excellence, agility and willingness to collaborate has already been proven in, for example, the University's exceptional response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. From developing a vaccine, and identifying and testing therapeutics, through to advising governments on policy development and producing educational material for families around the world, the Oxford community demonstrated its collective power to effect change at scale.

In addition to harnessing the might of the world-leading Medical Sciences Division and exploiting the expertise of the Saïd Business School, the Centre will benefit from close collaboration with the Blavatnik School of Government. We will also draw on resources from the University's innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem: from Computer Science, the Big Data Institute, The Centre for Ethics in AI, and other areas including the University's Bio Escalator, Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, and the Oxford Science Park. Externally, we will leverage our existing strong links and partnerships with industry and governments both here in the UK and overseas.

A teaching researcher in the laboratory, University of Oxford © Oxford University Images / Matt Stuart

The Centre for Leadership in Health – Phase one

Global health challenges have highlighted the complexity of decision-making in healthcare systems and the need for good leadership to deliver a better future for the health of their communities. Bringing together world-leading academics in healthcare research and delivery with experts in leadership and business, the Centre will initially build on current programmes and areas of expertise to develop a comprehensive programme of modules in existing courses, with the ultimate goal of creating new degree programmes.

We will launch a global search to find the very best person to be the Centre's inaugural Director, as well as recruiting a number of new joint-faculty research posts at various career stages. Examples of priority areas of research include:

In Medical Sciences:

- Cell and gene therapy, gene editing – requiring specific leadership expertise, and close alignment with industry, regulatory bodies and GMP manufacturing

- Biomedical engineering – devices, robotics, interventional procedures

- Clinical pharmacology/ experimental therapeutics – pharma-facing and/or related to advanced therapeutics

- Imaging and AI – strategic leadership of the implementation of AI in clinical pathways and healthcare systems

- Health System Leaders – training the next generation of clinical and health system leaders (including in the effective use of health data science)

In Social Sciences:

- Leadership and public health management – leadership challenges in healthcare, other regulated industries and the public sector

- Innovation and management – innovation in the healthcare sector: new technologies, business and organisational models, organisational/systems change

- Health economics and finance – the challenges of financing healthcare systems, including issues of pricing, insurance, incentives, and budgetary consequences

- Regulation – designing regulatory frameworks, the complex regulatory choices in the healthcare industry, including those faced by established and start-up companies

- Global and comparative public health – introducing modern healthcare to developing nations, infrastructure and other challenges, potentially with a specific focus on Africa

We will also be establishing a comprehensive student support programme, with an immediate priority to secure funding for ten DPhil and ten MD-MSc scholarships.

Above from left: The Blavatnik School of Government © Oxford University Images / Stuart Bebb; and the Saïd Business School © Oxford University Images / David Fisher