



SCIENCE FOR HEALTH
SYSTEMS CONFERENCE



SCIENCE FOR HEALTH SYSTEMS CONFERENCE

OCT 29-31, 2025

St. Louis, Missouri

Co-organized by the QuEST Network, WashU Public Health and WashU Medicine



WashU



“

The Science for Health Systems Conference showed what's possible when evidence meets purpose. Across disciplines and continents, we came together not only to share research but also to confront the complex, “wicked” problems shaping health systems today.

Amid technological change and social shifts, one truth stood out: collaboration remains our most powerful tool. The conversations and partnerships formed here are the seeds of a stronger science of health systems—one that listens, learns, and leads with people at its center.”

– Prof. Margaret E Kruk



Message from the Chair



+ 300 in-person attendees



+ 100 online attendees



+ 40 panelists

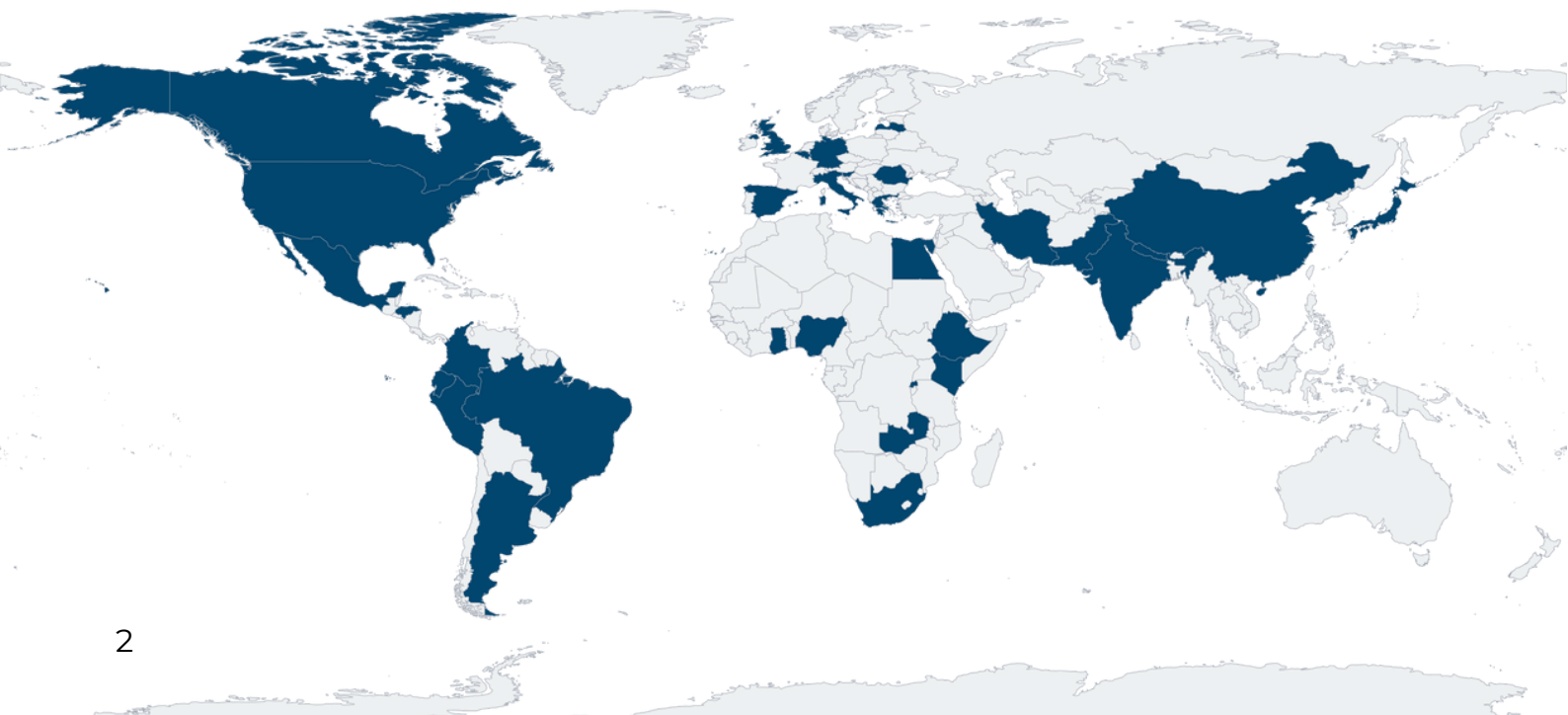


Researchers and implementers represented 32 countries across 5 continents

See global map of S4HS attendees below



More than 100 institutions, including the World Bank, World Health Organization, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Missouri Foundation for Health, the Commonwealth Fund, and many others





Conference sessions

Overview

POLICY	MEASUREMENT	IMPROVEMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Plenary panels 1 Keynote 6 Parallel sessions +20 Posters and exhibits Welcome Reception Kemper Art Museum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breakfast with Editors 4 Plenary panels 1 Keynote 11 Parallel sessions +20 Posters and exhibits Cocktails & Blues Frick Forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breakfast with Funders 3 Plenary panels 1 Keynote 5 Parallel sessions
DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3

Parallel sessions

Evidence to policy pathways

Health policy translation: examples from federal and state health policy
Coordinator: Dr. Joint-Maddox

Learnings from a national quality improvement program in Somaliland: the value of long-term partnerships in health system strengthening
Coordinator: Arooj Sahir

From science to practice; incorporating analytics in the implementation of World Bank-supported country programs
Coordinator: Dr. Nimako

Advancing international health system comparisons with micro-level data
Coordinators: Drs. Papanicolas and Figueroa

Evidence to impact: leveraging management insights for better health systems
Coordinator: Dr. Aguilar

Strengthening policy and governance for better health systems
Coordinator: Dr. Croke

Measurement: new methods and findings

Adolescent voices in health system performance measurement: adaptation of the PVS for adolescent respondents in Europe
Coordinator: Dr. Clarke-Deelder

Measuring health systems and delivery services: postcards from the leading edge
Coordinator: Dr. Geng

Connecting access, quality, and trust
Coordinator: Dr. Lewis

+3 more sessions

Cutting edge measurement and improvement

Improving health system performance at scale in Latin America
Coordinators: Drs. Iriarte and Bernal

AI in primary care
Coordinator: Dr. Allen

+3 more sessions

New findings from improvement science

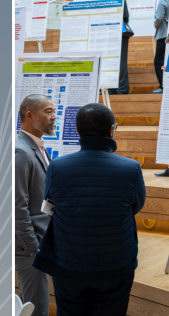
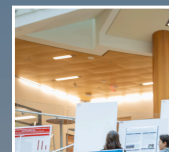
Enhancing the performance of health promotion and prevention programs through patient-directed incentives: comparative insights on financial and non-financial approaches
Coordinator: Dr. Armeni

Service Delivery Redesign: emerging lessons from large scale evaluations
Coordinator: Drs. Croke and Garcia-Elorrio

From spillover to strategy - integration of HIV and non-communicable diseases
Coordinator: Dr. Geng

Health system science for better cardiovascular health care
Coordinator: Dr. Huffman

Implementing innovations for better service delivery
Coordinator: Dr. Mazzoni





Conference participants

Beyond the formal sessions, connections thrived in every space: from breakfast conversations and coffee breaks to the Welcome Reception at the Kemper Art Museum.

S4HS fostered dialogue between early-career researchers, senior leaders, and global funders.

Abstracts



22

Oral presenters

45

Poster presenters

Disciplines represented



- Health systems/services
- Public health
- Political science
- Business
- Medicine
- Demography
- Economics, among others



"As a PhD candidate, I'm grateful for this training, which showed how research can be translated into policy impact, knowledge that will help me contribute at a larger scale."

– PhD Candidate, United States



"This conference offered fresh perspectives, new insights, and opportunities to connect with experts advancing health system measurement and improvement."

– Senior researcher, Ethiopia



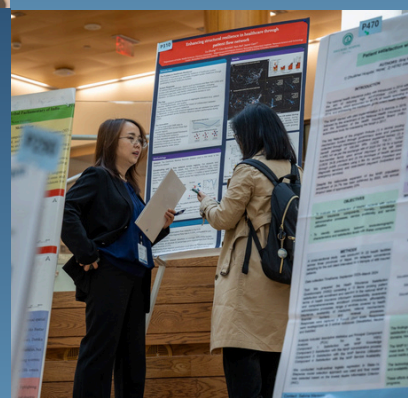
"The conference was a great opportunity to hear from experts and professionals about health systems. The breakout sessions were also incredibly insightful, offering perspectives from researchers around the globe."

– Early-career researcher, Nepal



"This experience deepened my understanding of how health systems can prevent amenable deaths. I learned the importance of measuring effective coverage and performance to drive policy change and ensure accountability."

– Consultant, Inter-American Development Bank, Honduras



"The networking was fantastic. It was great to get many people in a small field together. The conference helped me connect with people whose careers I've been interested in many years, and I found that to be extremely valuable. It is also nice to have a conference focused on methods for research as opposed to health systems global."

– Early-career researcher, United States



"The most valuable aspect of the conference was the exceptional caliber of scholars and professionals who attended, and above all, the genuine warmth and quality of the people present."

– Early-career researcher, Italy

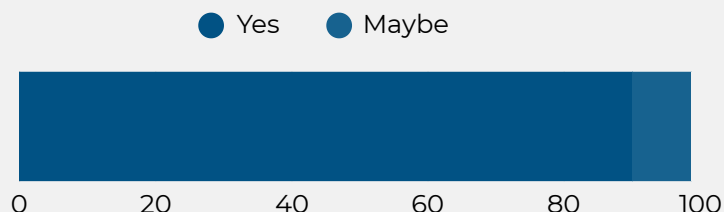


Participants' feedback

KEY METRICS*



WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEND A FUTURE S4HS CONFERENCE?



*Based on feedback provided by 80 participants from 26 countries



THE 5 MOST VALUABLE ASPECTS OF THE CONFERENCE **

- ★ Networking and meaningful connections
- ★ Learning opportunities
- ★ Cross-disciplinary perspectives and diverse voices
- ★ Showcasing of cutting-edge science
- ★ Engaging breakout sessions and panels

** Synthesis of participants' open-ended responses to the post-conference survey question on the most valuable aspects of the conference

YOUR GO TO



Resource list

WATCH THE PLENARY SESSIONS

Revisit our keynote conversations and panel discussions featuring global leaders in health systems research on the [QuEST YouTube channel](#).



REVIEW THE PRESENTATIONS SLIDES

Browse the slide decks from plenary and breakout speakers to dive deeper into methods, findings, and tools shared during the conference in our [website](#).



EXPLORE OUR PHOTO GALLERY

Relive the moments, from plenaries to networking, through our curated gallery capturing the energy of the inaugural S4HS Conference in our [website](#).



GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK

If you haven't done so already, help us improve future events by completing the S4HS post-conference survey [here](#).



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