

GLOBAL HEALTH WEBINAR SERIES



**Emeritus Associate
Professor Lilian Dudley**

Professor Taryn Young, Head of the Department of Global Health at Stellenbosch University, cordially invites you to a webinar on the

Report on Achieving Good Governance and Management in the South African Health System

Presented by Professor Lilian Dudley

Facilitated by Professor René English,
Head of the Division of Health Systems & Public Health

Thursday, 17 October 2024, 13:00 – 14:00 SAST

via MS Teams

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All are welcome!

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**1 CPD
point in
Level 1**

BACKGROUND

The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) has released a consensus study report titled "Achieving Good Governance and Management in the South African Health System." This study, conducted by a seven-member expert panel, explores the critical governance issues impacting the South African health sector and provides actionable recommendations for change.

The consensus study panel, composed of professionals from various disciplines within the South African health system, embarked on an examination of the pillars underpinning good governance. The report highlights significant challenges, including leadership instability, lack of transparency, insufficient accountability mechanisms, and pervasive corruption.

Despite these obstacles, the study also acknowledges positive examples of effective governance, which serve as a foundation for the panel's comprehensive recommendations aimed at systemic reform.

The report identifies several core areas of concern:

- **Strategic Vision and Policy Design:** The absence of a unified public value mission and inadequate delegation of authority impede effective governance.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Political interference and lack of transparent processes undermine accountability and trust in the health system.
- **Participation and Consensus Orientation:** Limited community involvement and top-down management approaches restrict stakeholder engagement and decision-making.
- **Combating Corruption:** Corruption remains a significant issue, exacerbated by insufficient protective measures for whistle-blowers and lack of decisive action against corrupt practices.



BACKGROUND CONTINUED...

Recommendations

The panel offers a roadmap for reform, emphasising the necessity of:

- Defining and communicating a clear public value vision.
- Updating legislation to insulate governance structures from vested interests.
- Delegating authority appropriately at all levels.
- Ensuring merit-based appointments and professionalising the civil service.
- Implementing fit-for-purpose systems to support managers and leaders.
- Fostering authentic community participation.
- Acting decisively against corruption and protecting whistle-blowers.

Implementing these recommendations will require concerted effort from all stakeholders within the health system. The cost of inaction is great, potentially jeopardising the realisation of universal health coverage and the constitutional commitment to health care access and equality for all South Africans.



ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Lilian Dudley (MBChB, MSc, FCPHM, PhD) is a Public Health Medicine Specialist, currently working as an independent public health and health systems consultant. She is an emeritus associate professor and previous Head of Division of Health Systems and Public Health in the Department of Global Health, Stellenbosch University (SU). Her interests and expertise include health systems strengthening, implementation science and quality of care; as well as capacity development of health professionals, managers and researchers in LMIC's.

She was previously the CEO of Health Systems Trust (HST), providing support to national and district level health services to conduct research, develop and implement interventions to strengthen health systems in South Africa. She also spent several years as a senior manager of health services in local government and Provincial Health Departments in the Western Cape.

She is a Board Member of the Office of Health Standards Compliance (2023 – 2026); co-chaired an ASSAf expert panel on Governance and Leadership of the South African Health System (2021-2023); has served on various national committees including the National Lancet Commission on Quality Health Systems (2017 – 2018); is a past president of the Epidemiological Society of SA (ESSA), the Public Health Association of SA (PHASA), and the TB Alliance DOTS Support Association (TADSA). She has served on the Board of HISP (Health Information Systems Programme); and was a member of the Council for Public Health Medicine of South Africa.

She is a past Fellow of the Takemi International Health Program, Harvard Chan School of Public Health, and served on several international bodies including WHO committees for TB, primary health care and health systems research, and currently as a WHO/TDR panel member for research and training grants for implementation science.

