

Dr. Vincent Shaw

PhD (Health Information Systems Development); MFamMed (Medunsa); MBChB (Pret)

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Dr Vincent Shaw is an established thought leader in health information systems development in resource constrained environments. Vincent played a critical role in the early development and adoption of the DHIS in South Africa, and has over the last 25 years supported health information systems development in over 14 countries across Africa and Asia. He understands the challenges associated with adoption and development of new digital innovations, yet is also able to grasp opportunities to transform health and financial systems through digital development. Vincent is as proficient at developing strategies and policy briefs, as he is at supporting implementations at the point of delivery. With over 18 years of executive management experience at Health Information Systems Program-South Africa (HISP-SA) as Chief Executive Officer, he oversaw the development and implementation of HISP strategy, project-based operations and business activities. He provided transformational leadership not only at organisational level, building HISP to an annual turnover of R150m and 100-person strong team, but also within the sub-Saharan region supporting local organisations to grow their national information systems.

Vincent is familiar with the demands for digitisation within community, PHC, and Hospital environments, and has experience working with aggregate and case-based data, financial and human resource information systems. He has contributed significantly to the development of an integrated human resource information system, including a Human Resources for Health Registry and a National Data Warehouse for the South African National Department of Health. Vincent has also taken on the role of quality assurance and principle investigator in numerous large and strategic national and international projects.

Dr Shaw has authored numerous articles and book chapters related to health information systems development. He is an experienced lecturer and mentor, having developed and delivered various information systems courses at UWC, UNAM, and University of Oslo.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Health information systems development; program management; career path development; development of health information strategies and policies; development of surveillance systems

COUNTRIES OF WORK EXPERIENCE

South Africa, Afghanistan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, India, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, , Swaziland, South Sudan, Tanzania, The Gambia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

RELEVANT PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Principal, Genesis – Analytics – (March 2021 onwards) – responsible for development of the health informatics portfolio within the Health practice;

Senior Technical Advisor, Evidence for Health Project, Zambia, USAID through Management Systems International (MSI) and Health Information Systems Program (HISP) (July 2020 – end March 2021) - The Evidence for Health (E4H) project aims to strengthen the national Health Management Information System owned and managed by the Government of the Republic of Zambia's Ministry of Health (MoH). E4H will improve HMIS data collection, analysis, dissemination, and use policies and standards of practice at all levels. The project will also build the capacity of health sector staff to collect, analyze, and use data.

These efforts will support improved health sector decision making to maximize resources, develop targeted interventions, ensure timely programmatic responses. Along with the MSI team, Dr Shaw conceptualized the project proposal and subsequently led the implementation of Objective 1 - “Development of High Quality, timely and accessible HMIS data at the national, provincial district, facility and community levels”. He provided specialised technical support to project management, quality assurance for technical work and reports. He also participated in project leadership meetings and provided high level technical guidance. Dr Shaw led the conceptualisation of the Interoperability Framework, and the Assessments of Systems in Use along with the development of a concept note for strengthening the M&E Technical Working Group (similar to National Health Information System of South Africa). He has developed a roadmap for development of the HIS Strategy, and gained acceptance for this through the MoH and Technical Working Groups. Additionally, he supported initiatives to build the Institutional Capacity Building of HISP_Zambia.

Chief Executive Officer, Health Information Systems Program-South Africa (HISP-SA) (July 2002 – June 2020). HISP-SA started as a local project in 1994, developing and piloting its flagship programme, the District Health Information System (DHIS) – a paper-based and computerized system for managing routine health information in primary health care (PHC) facilities. The programme also supported the development of a PHC data set and trained managers in information management. Between 1999 and 2001, the DHIS software and associated processes we developed were adopted as a national standard, and the DHIS was rolled out to the other eight provinces in South Africa and expanded to cover all public hospitals. HISP-SA was registered as a non-profit organization in 2003. Over a span of 18 years in the role of CEO, Dr Shaw led the growth of HISP South Africa from being a small consultancy based outfit to be a large Non-Profit Company that had over 100 staff and supported extensive projects in South Africa and the Sub-Saharan Region. He oversaw strategic business development, management and leadership; supported networking, liaison, and collaboration amongst internal and external clients, including national governments, partner organisations, and funders. He also provided specialised technical support and quality assurance to the organisation and was Principal Investigator for a number of CDC-funded projects, including a 5-year, multi-country, CDC funded project to support the development of surveillance systems in West Africa, Uganda, and India. He also led proposal development processes and as a result of Vincent’s efforts, HISP has won four five-year long projects funded through CDC, and totalling over \$32m, a 2 year project that is currently being extended for Africa CDC, and three 3-year long service level agreements with the National Department of Health.

Acting Director then Director of District Hospitals, Eastern Cape Department of Health (May 1998 – June 2002). In this role, Dr Shaw developed National Policy on the role of the district hospitals in the district health system. He also developed a uniform hospital information system that aligned the previously disparate Ciskei, Transkei and South African systems. Between 1998 and 2001, he co-ordinated the Hospital Transformation Project, a large 3-year project developing uniform establishments and staffing norms for health facilities in the Eastern Cape Province, to overcome the different systems that had been implemented under the apartheid regime and in the Transkei and Ciskei. In this role he also co-ordinated the Hospital Management and Organisational Development Initiative in District Hospitals in the ECP - a project aimed at improving the quality of care in rural hospitals, and involving the Council for Health Service Accreditation of SA (COHSASA).

Evaluating the implementation of an “Integrated Patient Management System” as part of the BEANISH project, Botswana Ministry of Health (October 2006). Dr Shaw was a member of 5-person panel to evaluate and support the Botswana Ministry of Health in evaluating the implementation of an “Integrated Patient Management System” as part of the BEANISH project.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

- PhD in Health Information Systems Development; University of Oslo Norway (2009)
- Masters in Family Medicine (Cum Laude); Medical University of SA (MEDUNSA) (1995)
- Diploma in Child Health; College of Medicine SA (1988)
- Diploma in Anaesthetics; College of Medicine SA (1986)
- MBCHB; University of Pretoria (1983)

AFFILIATIONS

- Associate Professor University of Oslo (2014 -2016), Associate Professor at University of Cape Town (Current);
- Member of the RHINO Board <https://www.rhinonet.org/>
- Member of South African Ministerial Advisory Committee on Health Data (HDAC)

PUBLICATIONS

- Seebregts C, P. Dane, AN Parsons, T. Fogwill, D. Rogers, M. Bekker, V. Shaw, P. Barron. Designing for scale: optimising the health information system architecture for mobile maternal health messaging in South Africa (MomConnect). *BMJ Glob Health* 2018;3:e000563. doi:10.1136/bmjgh-2017-000563
- Shaw, V. and J. Braa . "Developed in the South" - an evolutionary and prototyping approach to developing scalable and sustainable health information systems. Development Informatics and Regional Information Technologies: Theory, Practice and the Digital Divide. J. Steyn, IGI Global. **Vol 3: ICT's for Development in Africa: Theory, Practice and the Digital Divide**
- Shaw, V., Mengiste, S., and Braa, J. " Scaling of health information systems in Nigeria and Ethiopia - Considering the options," in *Proceedings IFIP 9.4, Sao Paulo, Brazil*, 2007.
- Braa, J., Hanseth, O., Heywood, A., Mohammed, W., and Shaw, V. "Developing Health Information Systems in Developing Countries - the flexible standards strategy," *MIS Quarterly* (31, Special Issue), August 2007.
- Jacucci, E., Shaw, V., and Braa, J. (2006) "Standardization of Health Information Systems in South Africa: The Challenge of Local Sustainability," *Information Technology for Development*: **12** (3): 225-239.
- Shaw, V. "Health information system reform in South Africa: developing an essential data set," *Bulletin of the World Health Organisation* (2005:83), July 2005 pp 632 - 639.
- Shaw, V., Conradie, H., and Venter, W. "Hospital Information Systems," in: *District Hospital Managers Handbook*, M. De Villiers (ed.), Health Systems Trust, 2005.
- Shaw, V., Jacucci, E., and Braa, J. "The Evolution of a Framework for Assessing Hospital Information Systems in South Africa," in *Proceedings IFIP 9.4, Abuja, Nigeria*, 2005.