

# ***Our Generation's Role in Global Health***

## **GlobeMed Penn State**

**[GlobeMed.org/psu](http://GlobeMed.org/psu)**

Liz Francis, Founding Chair of the Executive Board

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Amita Patel, Conference Chair



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## Executive Summary:

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We live in a world that has provided us with many privileges. Let's share these resources with others in need.

For many, our world is plagued by unsustainable infrastructure, insecure human rights, and fractured economies. We live in a world where commodities and resources are unequally distributed and a world that condemns far too many people to death from curable ailments. Why has this happen and how did our world get 'so messed-up'? These questions are not easily answered. Our current situation is the result of a several factors such as: colonialism, disruptive policy, un-payable loans, and well intentioned individuals who are not trained to engage responsibly with communities.

So what can we do to address these issues? How can our generation influence the creation of a more just and sustainable world? People of our generation must unite and form what Paul Farmer, MD, PhD calls, a 'Second Revolution.' In order for this revolution to be successful, it must take on several tasks. First and foremost, people in our generation must change the mindset and approach towards global health. We must "think locally and globally and to act in response to both levels of analysis. If we fail in this task, we may never be able to contend with the structures that create and maintain poverty, structures that make people sick." <sup>1</sup> With this mindset, we can shift the attention from individual satisfaction to sustainable partnerships.

For example, we must change troubling strategies and implement 'high-impact efforts.' Many service organizations focus on what an individual can get out of a service experience rather than how a volunteer's skill set can meet the community's need. Some organizations emphasize that the volunteer needs "no special skills" or language capabilities in order to help a community and that they should immerse *themselves* in the experience. Although this strategy does encourage a variety of volunteers to serve, volunteers must realize that they have skills that can help a community strengthen established infrastructure. Their challenge is to find a community that needs their skills. They should not be searching for a service project that can act primarily as an immersion experience. When the focus is taken from the community you are striving to help,

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<sup>1</sup> Farmer, Paul. Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor. University of California Press: Berkley, California. 2003. 158.

emphasis on the people in need is lessened and more harm than good can come from the relationship or rather, 'the experience.'

In contrast, organizations such as Partners in Health and GlobeMed focus on how volunteers can connect resources and skills to meet the community's needs. Volunteers should not only have a deep understanding of the community's need and culture, but they should also be trained to engage responsibly. Our efforts should be placed on making the community self-sufficient in hopes that someday, we will not be needed in that community any more. What a world it would be if one day a community in Ghana was helping a community in New York City.<sup>2</sup>

We must also break the idea that this effort is a "one man's job." The subtitle on Mountains Beyond Mountains gives an alluding view to the world of global health because it identifies Dr. Farmer as "a man who would cure the world." Our generation must push the idea that this movement requires a vast number of people with specialized talents. We cannot make any progress alone.

Finally, we must also change our volunteer mentality to recognize the resources 'victimized communities' have. Sometimes the manner that we speak and act gives the impression that the 'privileged' community has the obligation to help others in need because 'they know best.' This is a wrong and dangerous mentality. We must recognize that communities want to and can help themselves. We must recognize that we don't have the answers to help the community, but we do have the tools to help the community find their solutions and implement strategies to advocate for and bring about change.

In this instance, patience is a necessary virtue. It will take a long time before change is indeed noticeable. After all, it took several thousands of years to mess-up our world (Dr. Farmer). However, we must realize that for any change to occur, we need to take risks. We need to 'go beyond compassion,' and learn to become assets to the community. We can begin to reach this vision by changing the mindset of our generation. As Eboo Patel stated in his Acts of Faith,

A movement is a growing group of people who believe so deeply in a new possibility that they participate in making it a reality. They won't all meet. They won't even know

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<sup>2</sup> Roy, Victor. Executive Director of GlobeMed National. Stated in delivery of speech entitled "Our Generation's Role in Global Health." November of 2007.

everybody else's names. But somehow, they all have the same feeling that people on the other side of the city or country or the world believe in the same idea, burn with the same passion, and are taking risks for the same dream.

Change is possible, but it will only occur if we are united and take on a more humble and strategic mindset.

GlobeMed Penn State's first annual Global Health Conference aims to establish a basis for the 'Second Revolution.' Our Generation's Role in Global Health will strategically address where we stand and how we can progress in unison. The conference will provide the means for students, faculty and global health leaders to collaborate and share approaches. Together we can make a large impact in the world of Global Health. We invite you to join us in this mission.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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## GlobeMed- What We Are All About:

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**The GlobeMed Mission** is to connect the assets of a student-led network to grassroots health organizations working in communities around the world. By inspiring and training university students to mobilize resources for global health, we seek to build a movement fighting for a more sustainable and secure world.

**Our Vision** is to build a world where all people have the opportunity to live a healthy life

While we see an unjust world of broken systems failing to deliver for its citizens, a different world is possible. This world can be realized only if we encourage and harness the potential of emerging change-agents.

- **We see students as dynamic leaders:** When young people are connected with constructive forms of global health engagement, they can step up to be the leaders of our world both today and into the future. The world demands our generation to deliver critical leadership on issues of global health, and investments in inspiring and developing this leadership are vital.
- **We see grassroots leaders in underserved communities fighting to build stronger health systems:** Grassroots leaders are working to improve the health of their communities in poor areas around the world. By devoting our resources in support of these local leaders and their communities, important advances can be made in building vital health infrastructure.

By connecting students to grassroots leaders, we are investing in both immediate change as well as the enduring strength of human capital. We believe that educating and training students to participate in and lead responsible, effective, and sustainable action allows them to make important contributions to the efforts of health organizations. This framework also builds an awareness of how they can mold their lives to strengthen and sustain a commitment to social justice. Furthermore, because of our commitment to partner with health organizations with impressive models and a desire to strengthen, scale, and share their work, our support strategically builds the capacities of communities to realize long-term improvements in health.

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## GlobeMed Penn State:

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GlobeMed Penn State is one of 13 GlobeMed chapters that consists of a small close knit community of highly motivated students. We place much effort to strengthening its Project Honduras and training its members to become active global health leaders.

GlobeMed Penn State has partnered with CURE International, Honduras to create **Project Honduras**. Project Honduras uniquely increases patient access to healthcare by funding patient travel expenses to and from the clinic. As many Hondurans earn less than a dollar a day, travel expenses often impede the acquisition of needed medical attention. In order to support our project, last year, the group led a successful fundraising campaign. And this past summer, five members traveled to Honduras to volunteer and interact with the community.

Our organization supports **strategic understanding** of global healthcare through the use of workshops, panels, guest speakers, cultural events, and service.

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## Purpose, Theme, and Goals of the Conference

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### *Purpose and Theme*

GlobeMed Penn State's first annual Global Health Conference aims to establish a basis for the "Second Revolution." *Our Generation's Role in Global Health* will strategically address where we stand and how we can progress in unison. The conference will provide the means for students, faculty and global health leaders to collaborate and share approaches. Together, we can make a large impact in the world of Global Health. We invite you to join us on this mission. The purpose of this conference is to train dynamic global health leaders. Attendees will be provided with the information and tools to understand the issues facing our generation and how we can work together in solidarity to bring about change.

## *Goals*

Although the objectives of this conference vary across the global health spectrum, they can be surmised in two words, “pragmatic solidarity.” Through this conference, we hope to not only share our global health passion with others, but to also formulate an agenda upon which we can work together to address the problems facing our world.

A keynote speaker and leaders in specific areas of research, who have the unique insight not available to those who are not involved in the corporate global health climate, will present workshops and lectures to students interested in becoming dynamic leaders in global health. Lectures will include topics that can be directly applied by the students who attend to matters of Global Health.

We invite you to join our mission in ensuring the right to a quality life for all humans.

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## **Biography of Keynote Speaker:**

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### **Joia Mukherjee, MD, MPH**

Joia S. Mukherjee, MD, MPH is an expert in the implementation and scale-up of treatment for complex diseases, including HIV and TB, in resource-poor settings. Since 2000, she has served as the Medical Director of Partners In Health, an international non-governmental organization that provides direct health care services and undertakes research and advocacy activities on behalf of those who are sick and living in poverty. Dr. Mukherjee has overseen the expansion of successful community-based HIV/AIDS treatment programs across central Haiti, southeastern Rwanda, and, most recently, remote sites in Lesotho and Malawi. Dr. Mukherjee has also served as a key clinical and public health adviser in the scale-up of treatment programs for multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) nationwide in Peru, as well as to 14 states in the Russian Federation.

Dr. Mukherjee is an Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School and an Associate Physician in the Division of Social Medicine and Health Inequalities at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Her research focuses on human rights and the social and economic factors affecting health in impoverished settings. In addition to publishing extensively in medical and public health literature, Dr. Mukherjee is the editor-in-chief of Partners In Health's Guide to the Community-Based Treatment of HIV in Resource-Poor Settings, now in its second edition. Furthermore, Dr. Mukherjee is a major contributor to the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines for the treatment of adult and pediatric HIV in resource-poor settings, and an author of the WHO guidelines on the management of MDR-TB. Dr. Mukherjee also serves as the director of the Institute for Health and Social Justice, the advocacy and education arm of PIH.

Dr. Mukherjee received her MD from the University of Minnesota in 1992 and completed her clinical training in internal medicine, pediatrics, and infectious disease at the Massachusetts General Hospital. She received a Masters in Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health in 2001.

For more information about Partners In Health, please visit: [www.pih.org](http://www.pih.org)

For more information about the Department of Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School, please visit: [www.hms.harvard.edu/dsm](http://www.hms.harvard.edu/dsm)

For more information about the Division of Social Medicine and Health Inequalities at Brigham and Women's Hospital, please visit: [www.brighamandwomens.org/socialmedicine](http://www.brighamandwomens.org/socialmedicine)

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## Conference Schedule

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### **Friday, March 28th 2008**

*Location: 209 South Henderson Building*

7:30pm – 8:00pm Opening Remarks

8:15pm – 11:30pm Movie Screening

### **Saturday, March 29th 2008**

**Part I:** Poster Display and Workshops

*Featuring: Partners in Health, CURE International, Penn State University, The Global Health Fellows Program, GlobeMed National, and GlobeMed Penn State*

*Location: Henderson Building, Registration and Check-in will occur in The Family Living Center*

10:30am –12:00pm Registration, Poster Display and Light refreshments\*

12:00pm –1:00pm WK 1, WK 2

1:15pm – 2:15pm WK 3, WK 4

2:30pm – 3:30pm WK 5, WK 6

3:45pm – 4:45pm WK 7, WK 8

**Part II:** Semi-formal Banquet and Keynote

Featuring: Joia Mukherjee, MD, MPH, Medical Director of Partners in Health

Location: The Atherton Hotel

6:30pm Arrival and seating \*\*

7:00pm – 8:00pm Dinner

6:45pm – 7:30pm Concert Pianist

7:30pm – 8:00pm Cultural Show

8:15pm – 9:40pm Dr. Mukherjee 's Keynote

8:15pm – 9:15pm Keynote Address

9:15pm – 9:40pm Question and Answer Session

9:40pm –10:00pm Closing

9:40pm – 9:55pm Closing Remarks

9:55pm –10:00pm Power Point and Conference Song Presentation

10:00pm –10:30pm General Mingling

\*Only light refreshments will be provided to tide attendees over until the Semiformal Banquet begins. Please bring and enjoy your lunch during the registration hours. Tables and chairs will be provided.

\*\* Please note, if you register for the Keynote Only portion of Part II of the conference, please arrive at the Atherton Hotel at 7:45 pm.

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## Conference Workshops:

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The workshops were designed to provide a focused examination of issues relating to global health. During these sessions, delegates will have the opportunity to interact with global health leaders and other Penn State peers.

The attire for this part of the conference is business casual.

### **1. *Bridging Resources and Working with the Grassroots***

**Presenter:** Edwards Shwentker, MD

Medical Director for CURE International Honduras  
Professor of Pediatrics, and Orthopedic Surgery and  
Rehabilitation at Hershey Medical School

This workshop will teach students how to meet, match, and mobilize resources in order to effectively strengthen grassroots efforts. Dr. Shwentker will elaborate on his work as the Medical Director of CURE International Honduras to provide insight on how to put sustainable models into action.

### **2. *From "Medical Voluntourism" to Pragmatic Solidarity Pragmatic Solidarity***

**Presenters:** GlobeMed National Team

Peter Luckow, Associate Director at GlobeMed National  
Greg Freedman, Director of Finances at GlobeMed National  
Ron Li, Director of Development at GlobeMed National

This workshop will explore the growing interest in "medical voluntourism" and propose more responsible and effective means of engagement based upon pragmatic solidarity, rather than charity.

### **3. *Pathways to a Global Health Career***

**Presenter:** Susan Masse, MIPA

Deputy Director for Global Health Career, Global Health Fellows Program  
(a project of the Public Health Institute funded by USAID)

This workshop is aimed at increasing awareness of career opportunities in global health and the myriad paths motivated students can take to build their skill sets and experience.

#### **4. *Political Campaign Platforms on Global Health Issues***

**Presenter:** Suzanne M. Gold, PhD

Political Science Professor at Penn State University

Students will have the opportunity to listen to Dr. Gold speak on the platforms of the candidates in the upcoming 2008 presidential election. This presentation will detail each candidate's views on how global health issues are a problem, and how they can attempt to create a sustainable health care system. It will also detail what the audience can do as a population of eligible voters.

#### **5. *Structural Adjustment***

**Presenter:** Joia Mukherjee, MD, MPH

Medical Director for Partners in Health

Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School

This workshop will focus on economic forces and policies that effect global health.

#### **6. *Planning Models***

**Presenter:** Spring Cooper, PhD

Bio-Behavioral Health Professor at Penn State University

The audience will have the opportunity to learn about how limited resources may produce the optimum results. With the limited resources available, it becomes hard to solve problems in the arena of global health. However, with the right models, it becomes much easier to work effectively.

#### **7. *What Penn State Can Do to Responsibly and Ethically Address the Problems of Global Health***

**Panel Moderator:** GlobeMed Penn State

**Panel:** Joia Mukherjee, MD, MPH, Edwards Schwentker, MD

Amnesty International, Political Science Club, and GlobeMed National

This panel will examine what student groups have done to address global health problems and how students can work together in solidarity to strengthen their approach.

#### **8. *The Effect of Microfinance on Global Health***

**Presenter:** HOPE International

The audience will hear a representative from Hope International speak about how microfinancing can lead to a self-sustaining community. In order to be self-sufficient and a productive member in a community, jobs are a necessity. Therefore, with microfinance and opportunities, health care would be affordable as well as sustainable.

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## Semi-formal Banquet and Keynote

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During this time, we will hear a keynote address given by Joia Mukherjee, MD, MPH, Medical Director for Partners in Health. There will also be a student-run cultural performance, in addition to student musical performances, and information provided by GlobeMed Penn State.

The attire for this part of the conference is semi-formal.

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## Global Health Related Movies:

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**Title:** *Rx for Survival: A Global Health Challenge*

**Year:** 2005

**Description:** Filmed in more than 20 countries, *Rx for Survival: A Global Health Challenge* looks closely at the most critical health threats facing the world today. This six-part PBS documentary series presents the compelling stories and real-life drama of those who are proving that solutions are indeed possible - and that lives can be saved right now, the world over.

**Title:** *A Closer Walk*

**Year:** 2003

**Description:** A documentary of AIDS and the people affected by the disease on a global scale. Filmed in South Africa, Uganda, Haiti and India.

**Title:** *The Taint of Yingzhou District*

**Year:** 2006

**Description:** Little is known about the film's main character, Gau Jun, not even his age. Indeed, he does not even speak a word until the closing minutes of the film. Yet the AIDS orphan's search for a home to call his own forms the dramatic center of this stunning documentary set in rural China.

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## Sponsors

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### **University Park Allocation Committee**

"The University Park Allocation Committee is a student-run board of 35 members who determine how to best distribute a portion of the Penn State student activity fee. Every student at the University Park campus of Penn State University pays a \$68 student activity fee."

<http://upac.weebly.com/>

### **Rock Ethics Institute**

"The mission of the Rock Ethics Institute is to promote ethical awareness and inquiry across the University, and in the public and professional sectors, through a three-fold emphasis on teaching, research, and outreach."

<http://rockethics.psu.edu/>

### **Bioethics and Medical Humanities Program (at UP)**

"Bioethics and Medical Humanities Program (at UP) was developed as an initiative of the Rock Ethics Institute to bring together faculty from several other colleges. By drawing on a variety of faculty with a wide range of experiences and expertise at University Park and other campuses, the intercollege program is able to offer an innovative interdisciplinary curriculum. It also holds conferences and seminars that bring together leading experts from Penn State and their peers at other institutions."

<http://www.bioethics.psu.edu/>

### **Eberly College of Science Student Council**

"As a part of the student government ECOS-SC is the student's main contact with the Dean's office, but it primarily acts as a social group for science students. For those who are not involved in Greek organizations, the council offers many comparable activities such as making a homecoming float and our yearly formal."

<http://www.clubs.psu.edu/up/ecos/>

### **Pre-Medicine Department**

"The Premedicine Major provides a broad foundation necessary to the understanding of the basic subjects of modern medical studies. The curriculum, which offers a good balance between science and non-science courses, as well as a generous selection of elective courses, constitutes an excellent preparation for admission to medical school."

<http://www.science.psu.edu/premed/>

### **Biobehavioral Health Department**

"Biobehavioral Health is an innovative interdisciplinary program that enables students to explore all factors--biological, behavioral, social/cultural, and environmental--that influence the health of individuals and groups through the lifespan."

<http://bbh.hhdev.psu.edu/>

### **Schreyer Honors College**

"The Schreyer Honors College vision is to educate men and women who will have an important and ethical influence in the world, affecting academic, professional, civic, social, and business outcomes. It is also to improve educational practice and to be recognized as a leading force in honors education nationwide."

<http://www.scholars.psu.edu/>