



GlobeMed at
Penn State University

PRESENTS:

THE 3RD ANNUAL PENN STATE GLOBAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

GlobeMed at Penn State

www.globemed.org/pennstate

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Table of Contents:

Executive Summary.....	1
GlobeMed- What We Are All About.....	3
GlobeMed at Penn State.....	4
Purpose and Aims of Our Global Health Conference.....	4
Conference Schedule.....	4
Conference Workshops.....	5
Event Sponsors.....	6

It is apparent that there is a serious inequality of resource distribution in our world. Gandhi once said "poverty is the worst form of violence." Our world provides us with resources and privileges which, despite their abundance, remain unavailable to many. Our task is to share our resources and privileges with those in need.

Globally, we are afflicted by economic instability and civil inequities. We find that our world is structured in such a way that the abundance of resources in some areas and the lack in others gives credence to the issues which plague our world. Technologies and health care in some parts of the world today are bountiful enough to help each and every individual living on this planet. However, because these resources are not afforded to everybody equally, we sentence these victimized individuals to death. A problem arises when we finally realize that these deaths are inexcusable because they are simply unnecessary: preventable with little cost to the rest of us. As each individual understands this, we find ourselves questioning just how we let it get this far.

Each avoidable death takes a toll on humanity as a whole. We wonder how we, a generation capable of what Paul Farmer refers to as a 'second revolution,' can fix these problems. As we concentrate on forming sustainable partnerships, and educating ourselves, instead of simply attempting to affect change individually, we progress further toward our ultimate ends. Each individual effort counts, and when each effort moves in the same direction, toward the same goal, significant progress can be seen. It is through this common movement and the thorough education of society that we can affect change.

In many instances we discover stories of various groups, or individuals shaping the world in a way that they see fit. They believe that certain communities have specific needs, with which they are able to help. These actors may take it upon themselves to send supplies, donate money, or volunteer in those areas, hoping to make a difference. Sometimes, they succeed in making a difference, but that difference is not always the desired outcome. Contrastingly, GlobeMed uses a different technique which has proven to effectively create sustainable change. We work with a very intricately constructed partnership at each chapter, formed on the basis of community necessity. We communicate with our partner regularly to ensure that our assets and resources fit their needs. Our partnership is exigent in the respect that it demands an understanding of not only our partner's needs, but our own capabilities. We enter these partnerships expecting to create sustainable healthcare for the people of the community: one which will continue to serve them without a demand for our continued presence.

This year, our chapter is partnered with an organization referred to as EAPSEC, more formally known as *Equipo de Apoyo en Salud y Educacion Comunitaria*, in Chiapas, Mexico. This *Team for the Support of Community Health and Education* was founded in 1985, and has worked with Partners in Health (PIH) since 1989. Through this organization, community members are recruited to train to be leaders of health for their communities. These *promotores* will then

have the capability of educating their neighbors and family about healthcare and specifically, about their needs. Our chapter has been campaigning to provide funds for the workshops to train these activists, and begin to create the foundations of a basic healthcare system in Chiapas. Empowering locals alleviates the demand of our continued presence, while simultaneously creating educated, compassionate leaders.

At one point, we have all seen the cruelty and suffering of which this world is capable. However, each one of us must realize that we can each affect change if we so choose. Our mentality sometimes, as we pass by is that someone else will help these people. This clearly is not the right mentality. Each person should feel compassionately about helping those suffering because each person is able to make even one small contribution to affect a much larger, significant change in this world. In reality this bystander effect creates a conflict, in which those who are suffering continue to suffer, without help from anyone else. Then, at times, there are those well-known individuals, such as Paul Farmer, Jim Kim, and even our very own Joia Mukherjee, of PIH, who impact a significant change in the field of global health. These individuals, while knowledgeable, are not the only individuals capable of such impact. This movement should be exactly that: a movement, of various individuals toward our common goal. This should be our generation's movement toward sustainable healthcare, along with those aforementioned individuals.

Change is definitely possible. Take a look at our world past and present. We have seen changes in every aspect of life: from tribes to large networks of communities, and nations as a whole, from race superiority to attempting racial equality, from local neighbors to international friends we have seen our world grow more compassionate. However, as we have stated before, we must 'go beyond compassion.'

GlobeMed Penn State's third annual Global Health Conference aims to establish a basis for this movement. This conference will purposefully address where we stand in the present and how we can progress in unison toward a brighter future, by examining global health issues in several areas of the world including not only the United States, but Africa, Europe, South American, and Mexico. As well as providing awareness of global health as an issue, this conference will teach valuable lessons which can be used by its attendees when volunteering abroad. In addition to education, however, this conference will allow our chapter, GlobeMed at Penn State, to connect with our partner, while spreading awareness to the surrounding community. The conference will provide the means for students, faculty, and public to collaborate with global health leaders and share their approaches. As one, we can change the face of Global Health today, but we ask for your support on this mission. Let's be the change.

Thank you in advance for your time, compassion, and contributions.

Sincerely,
GlobeMed at Penn State

Amita Patel

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 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.

At a glance: GlobeMed at Penn State works with EAPSEC, a small grassroots organization in Chiapas, Mexico. EAPSEC, a Spanish acronym for 'Team for the Support of Community Health and Education', addresses local health care inequities by supporting community health workers known as *promotores*. GlobeMed at Penn State is leading a campaign to raise enough money to fund at least two conferences for the education and training of the *promotores* so they can bring a life of dignity to the people of Chiapas.

Location: Chiapas, Mexico

Key fact: Chiapas endures among the highest rates of infant, maternal, and tuberculosis mortality throughout all of Mexico.

Partner Info: Mostly of indigenous Mayan descent, the citizens of Chiapas have endured extreme poverty, political violence, and, most recently, natural disasters. A malnutrition rate of 57.4% highlights the atrocious conditions present in many communities. EAPSEC addresses these issues by not only treating illness, but also by advocating for the human rights of every citizen. Today, health promoters work in over 20 communities throughout Chiapas. With support from Partners In Health, this network of community health promoters conduct demographic health surveys and accompany physicians on medical consultations. In addition, they afford Chiapanecos continuity of care, especially for those with chronic diseases.

Project/Impact: GlobeMed at Penn State raises funds for two conferences each year that help educate and train the *promotores*. In previous years, almost 80 participants attended each conference. The *promotores* were able to discuss local challenges, identify best practices, and further develop their skills. In the future, GlobeMed at Penn State hopes to attend these conferences and work with the *promotores* to ascertain other areas where the partnership can make an impact.

Chapter History: GlobeMed at Penn State began partnering with EAPSEC in November of 2008. Through Internet phone conversations and future visits, we hope to further develop our partnership with EAPSEC and thus bring a life of dignity to the people of Chiapas.

Purpose & Aims of The 3rd Annual Global Health Conference **5**

The purpose of this conference is to inspire students to become a part of the movement for global health equity. The specific aims are as follows:

- To gain an understanding of the many forces affecting global health
- To develop a sense of how to responsibly effect change while working abroad
- To utilize the lessons learned to make a positive impact in Chiapas, Mexico

Conference Schedule

All events are located in the Henderson Building

Saturday, March 27—Workshops 10-5:30 pm

9:30-10:00	Registration and Light Refreshments
10:05-10:25	Opening Remarks
10:30-11:15	Workshops 1 and 2
11:20-12:05	Workshops 3 and 4
12:10-12:55	Workshops 5 and 6
1:00-2:00	Lunch
2:15-3:00	Workshops 1 and 2
3:05-3:50	Workshops 3 and 4
3:55-4:40	Workshops 5 and 6
4:50-5:50	Keynote/Closing
6:00	End of Workshops

1. Donald Brown, PhD - "Environmental Health"
Associate Professor of Environmental Ethics, Science and Law, The Pennsylvania State University
2. Collins Airhihenbuwa, PhD - "The Impact of Race and Stigma on People with HIV/AIDS in South Africa"
Professor of Biobehavioral Health, The Pennsylvania State University
3. Basil Safi, MPH - "Issues in Health Communications"
Asian Health Communications Team Leader, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University
4. Suzanne Chod, PhD - "Changing U.S. Healthcare Policy"
Lecturer in Political Science, The Pennsylvania State University
5. Katarzyna Kordas PhD - "Mighty Micronutrients: The Role of Nutrition in Addressing Environmental Exposure and Toxicity Around the World"
Assistant Professor of Nutrition, The Pennsylvania State University
6. Jon Shaffer and Jen Lien- "NPOs, NGOs and Partner Issues"
GlobeMed National Headquarters

Keynote: Duane Alexander, MD - "The Global Health Initiatives of the Obama Administration"
Senior Scientific Advisor on Global Maternal and Child Health Research, National Institutes of Health

Our event sponsors for this year are yet to be determined.