Dear Colleagues,

PQMD had a very successful and productive year in 2021! Despite still working virtually, we were able to hold meetings and events allowing members opportunities to engage and learn from each other. Even with pandemic-related travel restrictions and logistics challenges, PQMD members collaborated to provide life-saving medicines and equipment, community health programs and training, skilled medical volunteers, and donations to prevent, control, and eliminate diseases, including COVID-19. Our members continue to deliver essential and high quality medical products, activities and services to those most in need around the world.

In 2021, PQMD embarked on operations supporting our 3-year Strategic Plan designed by our Executive Committee with the goals to position and champion PQMD as a Standards Setter, Network Builder & Convener, and Information & Knowledge Broker in the global health and medical donations space. Well-defined objectives and implementation plans have guided the work of our committees and organization, and we are on our way to achieving our stated goals.

This year, we were thrilled to further grow and diversify our membership as we welcomed 4 new members: Brother’s Brother Foundation, Edwards Lifesciences, USA for UNHCR and USP. They have already brought a new fresh perspective and contributions to PQMD.

We look forward to continuing to grow PQMD into a leading organization working to address complex and important global health issues.

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- 325+ participants in 8 PQMD Pillar Talk Webinar events
- 20k+ views on the CoP, 208 active users, 762 posts, and 98 new sign-ups
- 27 students from 13 organizations completed Global Health & Development Essentials course sessions
- 300+ GHPF registrants from 31 countries, representing 150 organizations

Thank you to all who participated in our 2021 Coffee Chat series! Topics we explored included:
- Leading During Crisis
- Impact of COVID-19 on our response efforts
- COVID-19 and M&E
- Medical Missions during and post-COVID
- Supply chain and logistics challenges
- Guidelines updates
- Models for disaster giving
- The Great Supply Chain Disruption
- Emerging infectious diseases
Meetings & Events

In 2021, PQMD continued our Pillar Talk webinars, hosting over 325 participants in 8 separate Pillar Talks, covering topics such as supply chain challenges, COVID-19 counterfeiting, vaccine nationalism, health system strengthening and cold chain. To view recordings of the COVID-19 series and other Pillar Talks, visit PQMD’s website.

Travel restrictions due to COVID-19 required PQMD to continue to adapt our typical in-person meetings to provide a variety of virtual meetings and workshops. We successfully organized and held our second virtual Education Forum and bi-annual General Management Meetings (GMMs). In addition, we held our first Global Health Policy Forum virtually hosting a record 300+ registrants from over 140 organizations, with the theme of The Planet, Pandemics and Possibilities. During the meeting, participants discussed ESG and we had excellent keynote speakers, including Muhammed Ali Pate from the World Bank, Robert L. Mallett from Rabin Martin, Dr. Peter Hotez from Baylor College and Dr. Francois Bompart from Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DMDi).

In the absence of traditional networking opportunities, our PQMD family continues to have opportunities to connect with each other during meetings, including monthly and ad hoc Coffee Chats for members to connect and participate in casual, open discussion on topics of interest to our members.

Products & Programs

In 2021, we revised and re-issued the PQMD Guidelines for Quality Medical Donations and embedded the self-certification process. We also launched our new, online Medical Missions Guidelines module.

This year, we have begun work to build our Guidelines portfolio even further by fostering the development of the Global Alliance for Rare Diseases initiative, which will result in a set of Guidelines specific to rare disease donation programs. The first draft of the GARD guidelines are due to be released in April 2022 along with a framework and business plan to implement a sustainable rare disease product donation program model to be proposed by November 2022. We will share the project timeline throughout the year to keep members abreast of our progress.

We also worked further to develop our M&E work, including the Measuring for Success M&E toolkit with the launch of our COVID rapid response assessment tool, practical case studies, Impact Pyramid Framework, Impact report trends, and significant progress on our SoHK initiative.

In 2021, PQMD held two sessions of our Global Health and Development Essentials Course bringing our total number of graduates to 66. We will carry on this course into 2022 and are currently working on a Donations Fundamentals course which will be launched early next year.

The PQMD Community of Practice (CoP) remains a go-to place for time-sensitive and critical information and a valuable tool to coordinate and collaborate with trusted partners. In 2021, it underwent a design refresh and content update including new categories relevant to the work of our members and a reorganization making the platform more user-friendly and intuitive.

Crisis Response

PQMD members are regularly engaged in providing aid and support during times of disaster and humanitarian crisis. Even with most of us working virtually in these most uncertain and tenuous of times, through well-established partnerships, PQMD members continued their work to save lives and provide relief with product and service donation activities in response to the ongoing pandemic, sudden-onset disasters and humanitarian
emergencies world-wide. Member responses were far reaching and include support to crisis in India, Brazil, Gaza & oPt, Haiti, Afghanistan, the flooding in Europe and Hurricane Ida in the US.

In addition to our ad hoc sudden-onset disaster all-calls, the Disaster & Humanitarian Response Committee hosted quarterly Humanitarian Assistance member all-calls addressing ongoing crises in Ethiopia, Gaza, oPt, Afghanistan and Colombia. The committee also took over several Coffee Chats to allow more frequent member discussion of the COVID-19 situation.

Looking Ahead

Next year, we are looking forward to continuing our excellent programs and products to remain in the forefront of global policy thinking around issues of sustainability, disaster/pandemic preparedness and resilience with regards to medical product donations and universal access to quality healthcare.

We are also looking to grow our overall financial and technical resources and appreciate all the members who responded to the PQMD assets survey and participated in a discussion with our consultants to help us determine PQMD’s marketable assets to aid sustainability and earned income exploration. A report is forthcoming and will be shared with members as we move forward with this endeavor.

Lastly, we are moving forward with the brainstorming process in the development of phase one of a new Learning Hub. This would likely result in a resource library housed on the CoP where the global health community and those new to medical product donations can tap into the collective knowledge, experiences, and resources of PQMD’s expert members to learn more about different types of medical donation programs and resources and what it takes to design and implement these programs both from a donor and non-governmental organization perspective. Phase two of the Learning Hub will continue PQMD’s collective work in providing important information and useful assets to assist members in their work responding to global health crises; planning, executing and measuring medical donation programs; and improving access to quality healthcare throughout the world.

In closing, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all of our members, partners, and global health colleagues that supported PQMD’s efforts in 2021. We look forward to another wonderful year ahead, and we are hopeful for the opportunity to see you in person soon!