

**December 2023**

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## Note from Elizabeth (EJ) Ashbourne, PQMD Executive Director



As we conclude this very challenging but successful year, I would like to offer just a couple of highlights of our work in 2023. In the past 12 months, PQMD welcomed 10 new members, the most ever to join in one year. In addition to hearing from global experts and local practitioners in our Pillar Talks and Coffee Chats, we were able to hold our first post-COVID, in person, [Global Health Policy Forum](#) in Paris, France, hosted by Sanofi, with high-level participants from all over the world. In October, we met again to discuss climate change, supply chain, health systems strengthening and sustainability at our members-only **2023 Education Forum** in Santa Barbara, California, hosted by Direct Relief. We continued to expand our Guidelines portfolio with the development of our [Rare Disease Guidelines](#) as part of the Global Alliance for Rare Diseases (GARDaccesss) initiative. We have started new and budding partnerships with several universities, coalitions, organizations and institutions that will provide opportunities for PQMD and its members to contribute to emerging global trends in universal access to quality healthcare. And as always, we have highlighted and supported the incredible work that our members have engaged in on the front lines of humanitarian crises and disaster response including in Ukraine, Turkey & Syria, Sudan, Morocco & Libya, Hawaii, Israel, and Gaza, and many other places around the globe. We look forward to sharing our comprehensive Year in Review report with you next month!

I am also very excited to announce that we have just released the [2023 PQMD's Guidelines for Quality Medical Donations](#). The updated guidelines include newly approved revisions including aspirational language around carbon emissions, and definitions for off label use, temperature excursions, customs clearance, emergency use authorization procedures, among others. You can learn more about the updates below.

Also now available, are the event reports from our recent **October Education Forum** including highlights, summaries from our breakout sessions, links to photos, and other valuable insights. For a high-level overview, we have created a [2-page summary](#) outlining the event agenda and, for members only, we have developed a more detailed [10-page event report](#) including key takeaways and learnings from the Forum discussions and working group sessions.

And it's not too early to be thinking about some excellent professional development opportunities for 2024. We have opened enrollment for the next session of **PQMD's Global Health and Development Essentials Course** beginning February 7, 2024. The 7-week course which meets virtually for 2 hours each week, incorporates key elements of a Master's in Public Health curriculum to create a comprehensive Executive Survey Course on global health for professionals or students working in the field. The course is complimentary for official PQMD member representatives and open to others for a fee and comes highly recommended by past attendees. *Learn more and register [here](#).*

On behalf of PQMD, I want to wish everyone happiness and cheer during the holiday season! I hope you enjoy being with family and friends and take some time for yourselves to relax and rejuvenate as you see the old year out and prepare to welcome 2024!

Elizabeth (EJ) Ashbourne

*P.S. If you didn't happen to see Forbes' recent release of their [Top Charities for 2023](#), I urge you to take a look! I am proud to say that many of PQMD's members are recognized in this prestigious list. Congratulations and thank you for the amazing work you do!*



### **October Education Forum Report Now Available!**

PQMD has released a [2-page overview](#) and [10-page report](#) for *members only* providing a summary from the October Education Forum in Santa Barbara hosted by Direct Relief.

In the full report, you will find the event agenda along with our key takeaways and highlights from our four thematic conversations:

- The Evolution & Revolution of Health Systems Strengthening
- Making Climate & Health Challenges Approachable
- Expediting Efficiency- Supply Chain Coordination
- Sustainability & Resilience- Interpreting for Complementarity

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### **PQMD Board of Directors Approves Donation Guidelines Updates**

This 2023 edition of the PQMD Guidelines, approved by the members of the PQMD Board of Directors on December 6, 2023, reflects the base of knowledge, experience and expectations of the membership for how medical product donations should be carried out. Some of the updates include:

- Detailed additions to the logistics section around shipping preparation and processing as well as managing risks.
- Aspirational language around carbon emissions was added with the expectation of future build out as climate considerations become further incorporated into donations.
- Definitions were added around off label use, temperature excursions, customs clearance, and emergency use authorization among others.

To read the updated guidelines, click [here](#).



Register Now!

**Next Course Session  
Enrolling Now!**

**Session Dates: February 7 –  
March 20, 2024**

*The course will be presented in seven modules over seven weekly classes scheduled Wednesdays from 12:00-2:00pm (EST).*

PQMD has condensed key elements of a Master's in Public Health curriculum to create a comprehensive Executive Survey Course on global health, for professionals or students working in the space but lacking relevant formal education.

The course compresses much of the MPH curriculum with an emphasis on global concerns; participants gain an improved understanding of health disparities around the world and how they're measured, health systems in low and lower-middle income countries, the global frameworks and key players providing sustained humanitarian assistance for global health development, and the dynamics and coordination of international disaster response.

The course is structured in 7 modules, and delivered through weekly 120-minute online sessions. Modules are delivered by topic-specific expert guest lecturers, including the course coordinator, a seasoned global health professional with substantial experience in the subject matter and adult education.

**To learn more and register, visit PQMD's [website](#).**



**Save the Date: PQMD 2024  
Global Health Policy Forum**

Save the date for PQMD's 2024 Global Health Policy Forum being held in New York City, NY from April 30-May 2, 2024.

**More information coming soon!**

## Stay Informed!

Be sure to follow us on [LinkedIn](#) or one of our other social channels to get the latest, most up-to-date information on our Pillar Talks, courses, events, and resources.





**PQMD Pillar Talk: 2023 Humanitarian and Natural Disasters:  
Reflections on Responses & Calls for Continued Recovery**

*Tuesday, January 30th- 11am ET*

Natural and humanitarian disasters plagued the world in 2023. There was a seemingly endless number of crises leading to a bewildering sense of staggering from one unprecedented event to the next. Some captured headlines only to be ousted by the next catastrophe – and some, albeit equally tragic, never captured any headlines.

As we enter into a New Year, PQMD wants to reflect on some of the lessons our member humanitarian and disaster communities learned from navigating these crises. We also want to reiterate that the road to recovery is still a long way for the millions effected.

Please join us on January 30th for PQMD's Pillar Talk - 2023 Humanitarian and Natural Disasters: Reflections on Responses & Calls for Continued Recovery to hear from leading organizations that not only were first responders but have remained in communities to assist with recovery efforts long after the world has moved onto the next disaster.

*Confirmed speakers to follow.*

**Register Now!**



### **PQMD Holds Coffee Talk on Donation Quick Start Documents**

PQMD's Guidelines Committee is working on a collection of templates to build on our collective knowledge within PQMD and refine our best practices. The library of templates is being created from members' real-world experiences and includes checklists and reference materials for anyone doing product donations – whether for the first time or the thousandth time.

On December 12th, Sorcha Tuboeuf, Guidelines Committee member and BD's EMEA Social Investing Manager, provided an update on and lead a discussion on this tremendous resource the Guidelines Committee is building with and for PQMD members. More information is coming soon! In the meantime, members can access the quick start documents on the CoP [here](#).

A dark blue horizontal banner with a decorative left side consisting of four diagonal stripes in green, yellow, and orange. The text 'MEMBER NEWS' is centered in white, uppercase letters.

**MEMBER NEWS**

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### **Direct Relief Assesses Medical Needs After Deadly Tennessee Tornadoes**

Read more about how Direct Relief responded to deadly Tennessee tornadoes on Direct Relief's website [here](#).

### **Forbes Releases Top Charities for 2023: PQMD Members are on the Top of the List!**

If you haven't had a chance to see the top 100 charities for 2023 on the Forbes list, please check it out! Many of the PQMD NGOs are included. View the list [here](#).



### **Baxter Publishes Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) Report and is Named to Dow Jones Sustainability Index North America**

Baxter International Inc. (NYSE:BAX), a global medtech leader, published its first report aligned with the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) recommendations, which were recently incorporated into the International Sustainability Standards Board Standards. Read more on Baxter's website [here](#).





**[COP28 talks open in Dubai with breakthrough deal on loss and damage fund](#)**

UN News

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**[Africa must take control of its vaccine manufacturing to protect against a new pandemic](#)**

The Telegraph

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**[Gaza's 'catastrophic' health situation almost impossible to improve, says WHO](#)**

Reuters

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**[How to get meds to Africa faster-- and safer](#)**

Bhekisisa

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**[India unveils flatpack field hospital that can be airdropped to disaster zones](#)**

The Guardian

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**[Advancements in medical care could be saving lives amid conflicts around the world](#)**

ABC News

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**[Destruction, disruption and disaster: Sudan's health system amidst armed conflict](#)**

Conflict and Health

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**[Attacks on health care are on track to hit a record high in 2023. Can it be stopped?](#)**

Goats and Soda

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**[Survivors of disfiguring condition hail addition to WHO neglected diseases list](#)**

The Guardian

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**[Study reveals the human health costs of exposure to floods](#)**

Medical Xpress

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## ['All-out' Rescue Efforts Underway in Northwest China as Earthquake Leaves over 130 Dead](#)

Time

### Upcoming Events

***SAVE THE DATE!*** [PQMD Global Health Policy Forum](#)

April 30-May 2, 2023;  
New York City, NY

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***Next Month's Theme: Year in Review and Year Ahead***