

HEALTH SYSTEM STRENGTHENING

May 2024



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Note from Elizabeth (EJ) Ashbourne, PQMD Executive Director

I can't believe that Spring has flown by so quickly. I was delighted to see many of our members and partners at our annual Global Health Policy Forum just a few weeks ago in New York City! This year's meeting was themed, "Global Health Leadership in Turbulent Times", and featured many thoughtful and provocative discussions between esteemed speakers that educated, entertained, and inspired our participants. Beyond the programmed panels and speeches, it was thrilling to see attendees fostering meaningful connections with new and existing colleagues and partners. The feedback on the productivity and value of the working groups and networking sessions has been overwhelmingly positive. We are in the process of preparing a comprehensive report with key takeaways from the event and will be distributing that shortly. *In the meantime, you can check out a brief event summary and photo slideshow in the newsletter below.*

Looking ahead to the summer, we have some exciting programs in the works. In June, we will hold a Pillar Talk to discuss the humanitarian situation at the border of Texas and Mexico. Details will be sent out soon. We are also organizing our Q2 members-only Humanitarian All-Call on disaster preparedness and resiliency (June 14th). Additionally, I'm excited to let you know that July will be PQMD's Guidelines Month! We will feature guidelines-related programming and initiate our Guidelines Week LinkedIn campaign (July 15-19) highlighting PQMD's Donations Guidelines and resources. Please help us share these useful resources far and wide!

I hope you were able to join us for this month's Pillar Talk, featuring a fascinating and enlightening presentation from Dr. Gail Rosseau, Clinical Professor of Neurosurgery at George Washington University, discussing access to global surgical care. Dr. Rosseau made a powerful case for the investment of time and resources to bring life-saving care to the nearly 2/3 of the population of the planet lacking access to surgical care. *If you missed it, I encourage you to view the [recording](#).*

I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge that, as we gathered in NYC to discuss global health leadership in times of crisis, we found countless opportunities to recognize the ongoing disaster and humanitarian crisis work of our members. Currently, our members are actively responding to the flooding in Brazil, Afghanistan, and Puerto Rico, the ongoing conflicts in Gaza and Israel and Ukraine, and many other critical situations around the world. Our members take on great risks to deliver life-saving supplies, medications, equipment, and other support in the most difficult and dangerous settings. *Thank you for the extraordinary work that you do every day, and please stay safe!*



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**2024 Global Health
Policy Forum**

Global Health Leadership in Turbulent Times

APRIL 30 - MAY 2, 2024 | NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

PQMD Holds Annual Global Health Policy Forum in New York City

Starting April 30th, PQMD held its annual Global Health Policy Forum: ***Global Health Leadership in Turbulent Times*** in New York City hosting more than 170 global health leaders from over 90 different organizations.

The 2024 Forum was an opportunity for our members and leaders in global health to address prioritizing multiple challenges while mitigating risk, fostering innovation, and doing more with less during these turbulent and uncertain times. The challenges include conflicts, disasters and climate change (especially in remote areas), and how they harm health and well-being.

To address these issues, Forum attendees discussed how to prioritize, mitigate, and innovate, focusing on disaster response and leveraging collective outcomes. We also discussed prioritizing humanity and anticipating the consequences of our decisions while simultaneously responding to the intense political, social, and economic changes in the world.

PQMD has a big role to play and a proven track record of going beyond the conversations to explore unique solutions and innovative partnerships to address the many challenges in our world. Keep an eye out for the comprehensive event summary report coming soon!

See some highlights of the event in this [slideshow](#), and view more photos from the event on our [Facebook page](#).

WELCOME TO THE PQMD ADVISORY COUNCIL!

Hannah Cooper Klein
Co-Founder & CEO,
Cooper/Smith



PQMD Welcomes New Advisory Committee Member: Hannah Cooper Klein!

PQMD is excited to welcome Hannah Cooper Klein as our new Advisory Committee member! Hannah has a wealth of experience advising governments on using data and technology to improve their citizens' lives. She has worked at the World Bank, the United Nations, served as a policy advisor to several Canadian Cabinet Ministers, and led the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Quality team at the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), U.S. Department of State. Hannah is currently the co-founder and CEO of Cooper/Smith a global organization that provides health systems intelligence

To view her entire bio, visit PQMD's website [here](#).

SAVE THE DATES!



OCTOBER 22-24, 2024
MERCY SHIPS HQ | LINDALE, TX

Formerly known as the PQMD Education Forum

Members, Save the Dates!

Planning is underway for our annual members-only meeting, the PQMD Collaboration & Learning Forum (CLF, formerly the Education Forum). This year's CLF will be hosted by Mercy Ships, and will be held in Lindale, Texas October 22-24. *Members, please save the dates, and keep an eye out for more details coming soon! [Learn more here.](#)*

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.



COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE



Access to Global Surgical Care as a Moon Shot

May 9, 2024 • 11:00 am EST



Gail Rosseau, M.D.
Clinical Professor of Neurosurgery,
George Washington University School
of Medicine and Health Sciences

PQMD Holds PQMD Pillar Talk: Access to Global Surgical Care as a Moon Shot

In May, PQMD held a Pillar Talk on access to global surgical care. It is estimated that more than 5 billion people-nearly 2/3 of the population of our planet- lack access to urgent surgical care. During the presentation, we heard data and inspiration from leading neurosurgeon Dr. Gail Rosseau about this lack of access to one the most basic of human rights - health. Using the example of President Kennedy's "Moonshot" speech in 1962 and the successful development of the Apollo program and manned lunar landing in 1969, Dr. Rosseau made the case for similar investment of time and resources for global surgical care.

If you missed this important Pillar Talk, you can view the recording!

[View Recording](#)



PQMD Holds Monthly Coffee Chat, Global Health Leadership in Turbulent Times: Conversation Takeaways & Carry Forwards

Heather Watts, Chair of the Program Management Committee and Director of Corporate Partnerships at Health Partners International of Canada, led a discussion on members' key takeaways and desired collective carry-forwards from this year's 2024 Global Health Policy Forum. The conversation included subject matter that required a deeper dive, speakers and attendees that members want to learn more from, pain points that members want to address together, prioritization in the new "polycrisis" environment, and how to work collectively and with humility.

PQMD members can learn more about upcoming Coffee Chats on the [CoP](#).

MEMBER NEWS



MedShare Announces Stacey Koehnke as New CEO & Executive Director

MedShare International, a global humanitarian aid organization dedicated to increasing access to health care for individuals and families in underserved communities in the U.S. and around the world, has announced that its Board of Trustees has appointed Stacey Koehnke as the organization's new CEO & Executive Director.

Read more in MedShare's press release [here](#).



International Medical Corps is responding to devastating floods in Puerto Rico and Afghanistan

In May, both Puerto Rico and Afghanistan communities were devastated by flooding. In response to the emergencies, International Medical Corps swiftly deployed assessment teams to both locations.

View the Situation Report in [Puerto Rico](#) and [Afghanistan](#).



World Vision will assist 200,000 children in Brazil impacted by Rio Grande do Sul floods

World Vision is on the ground responding to widespread flooding in Brazil and will support 70,000 families and 200,000 children in Rio Grande do Sul. Record rains have killed 95 people, 131 are missing and over 400 communities have been affected.

World Vision is mobilizing donations and calling on the private sector to invest \$8 million in relief response to support the provision of psychosocial support, food baskets, drinking water, mattresses, bed, hygiene/sanitation and childcare kits, among other items.

Read the full article on World Vision's [website](#).



Airlink Highlighted in the Loadstar: Logistics is the Key to Growing Humanitarian Needs

PQMD member Airlink was recently highlighted in the publication Loadstar discussing the importance of air carriers and logistics when addressing critical humanitarian crises and emergency response.

Last year, Airlink got aid into Haiti, Sudan, Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria, Tigray, and Iraq – with help from partners and donors. Airlink has more than 200 NGO and 50 airline partners.

Currently, Airlink is responding to the floods in Brazil’s Rio Grande do Sul state. Reportedly, the Brazilian government has not issued a call for international assistance, limiting the ability of NGOs to respond. So Airlink has provided flights for humanitarian aid non-profit Cadena and is working on aid shipments on behalf of six NGOs.

In response to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Airlink flew four “hospitainers” from the manufacturer in the Netherlands to Egypt on behalf of the International Medical Corps. Essentially, these are hospitals in a shipping container and comprise specialized medical modules built around shipping containers and tents, which can be packed and transported by trucks.

Read the full article [here](#).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WEB

'A colonial mindset': why global aid agencies need to get out of the way

The Guardian

Global report on neglected tropical diseases 2024

WHO

Devastating Kenya floods kill hundreds and leave thousands more homeless

The Telegraph

Families still looking for missing loved ones after devastating Afghanistan floods killed scores

AP News

More than 200 million seniors face extreme heat risks in coming decades, study finds

NPR

UN agency authorizes second vaccine against dengue amid outbreaks in the Americas

AP News

They survived Maui's deadly wildfires. Now many are suffering from food insecurity and deteriorating health

CBS News

Brazil counts cost of worst-ever floods with little hope of waters receding soon

The Guardian

Public health during Sudan's civil war: nurturing resilience amid conflict

Stat News

Canada at risk of another devastating wildfire season, federal government warns

CBS News

Ukraine: Humanitarian, health needs soar as Kharkiv hostilities intensify

United Nations

Upcoming Events

World Health Assembly

May 27-June 1, 2024

Global Impact Forum

June 3, 2024

**Forecasting Healthy
Futures Global Summit**

June 18-24, 2024; Baku,
Azerbaijan

2024 Concordia

Amazonas Summit

July 9-13, 2024; Amazon
Rainforest, Guyana

**UN Summit of the
Future**

September 22-23, 2024

**2024 Concordia Annual
Summit**

September 23-25, 2024;
New York City

Devex World

October 24, 2024;
Washington D.C.

**2024 World Bank
Group/International
Monetary Fund Spring
Meetings**

October 25-27, 2024;
Washington D.C.

**2024 UN Climate
Change Conference**

November 11-22, 2024;
Azerbaijan

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Next Month's Theme: Refugees and IDPs