



Note from Elizabeth (EJ) Ashbourne, PQMD Executive Director

I can't believe it is already the end of summer! PQMD is gearing up for our exciting programming this Fall and we will be sharing the plans with you in the coming months. We do have a few activities and programs that I want to let you know about now:

For PQMD members, I'm thrilled to let you know the Collaboration & Learning Forum registration is now open! You can access registration, a preliminary agenda, and logistics information on the [CoP](#). The Collaboration and Learning Forum (CLF - formerly the Education Forum) is designed to spotlight our members' unique achievements, inspire collective inquiry, and fuel collaborative action through PQMD member expertise, challenges, and achievements. Members- you don't want to miss this opportunity so register today!

As a reminder, enrollment is still open for the next session of PQMD's Global Health and Development Essentials (GHDE) Course. The 2-hour-a-week, 8-week executive survey course will kick off September 25th and is designed as an introduction and orientation to international development policies and practices for anyone interested in the global health field. Space is limited and it is filling up fast. I recommend that if you are interested, [register](#) as soon as possible!

Related to the GHDE Course, you don't want to miss our next [Pillar Talk](#) on September 5th: Aligning Disaster Response with Resilience Plans. This engaging Pillar Talk will feature a lecture by renowned international disaster response expert, Dr. Eric Rasmussen. He will provide a glimpse into the content of his module from PQMD's GHDE course, focusing on emergency response and disaster relief. With decades of experience, Dr. Rasmussen will share best practices for aligning disaster response with national resilience plans.

Hope everyone has a wonderful Labor Day weekend and enjoys the last days of summer.

PQMD NEWS

Member Meet Ups in Chicago and NYC in September!



The banner features the PQMD logo on the left, a photo of people at a meal in the center, and two callout boxes on the right. The first callout box is for the Chicago Area, scheduled for Thursday, September 12 at lunch in the Deerfield, IL Area. The second callout box is for New York City, scheduled for Sunday, September 22 at 4:00pm in the Times Square Area. Below the callouts, there is a link to cop.pqmd.org and a note to get more information on the PQMD Community of Practice (Members-Only Events Calendar).

Area	Date	Time	Location
CHICAGO AREA	Thursday, September 12	Lunch	Deerfield, IL Area
NEW YORK CITY	Sunday, September 22	4:00pm	Times Square Area

We are excited to announce a couple upcoming unique opportunities for our members to come together and connect in-person in Chicago and New York City! Whether you are based in the area or will be there on business, we invite you to join us on September 12th for lunch in the Chicago/Deerfield area and/or September 22nd at 4:00 pm in NYC.

These informal gatherings will be opportunities to unwind, enjoy some refreshments, and network with fellow members in relaxed settings. The exact locations are TBD. *If you are interested in attending either meet-up or would like more information, please contact [Gretchen Warwick](#).*

GLOBAL HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT ESSENTIALS

8 MODULES



**Introduction to Global Health
& Health Disparities Around
the World**



**Approaches & Trends in
Global Health & Sustained
Development Assistance**



**Global Health Actors &
Frameworks for Global Health
Engagement**



**Infectious Disease
Outbreaks & Pandemics**



**Health Systems & Health
System Constraints in
Low/Middle-Income Countries**



**Other Emergency Response
& Disaster Relief Efforts**



**Climate and Environmental
Impacts on Public Health
Outcomes**



**Medical Product Donations
in Global Health**

NEW

Fall/Winter 2024 Session Enrolling Now!

The course will be presented on Wednesdays at noon (ET)
in eight modules over nine weeks:
September 25-November 20, 2024
skipping October 23.

An 8-Week Executive Survey Course for professionals and students in the global health space.

PQMD's Global Health & Development Essentials course is an introduction and orientation to international development policies and practices. Participants will gain an improved understanding of the global health policy environment in low- and lower-middle-income countries; learn about the global frameworks and key players providing sustained humanitarian assistance and response for global health and health systems; explore the dynamics and coordination of international disaster and pandemic response, and understand complexities of medical product donation programs within these contexts and existing frameworks. **Learn more on PQMD's website [here](#).**

Complimentary for official PQMD member representatives!

Learn More & Register Now!



PQMD Member Meeting- Collaboration and Learning Forum: Registration Now Open!

The Collaboration and Learning Forum (CLF - formerly the Education Forum) is designed to spotlight our members' unique achievements, inspire collective inquiry and fuel collaborative action through PQMD member expertise, challenges, and achievements.

This year's agenda challenges our membership to focus on what is working and understand what drives success within the changing face of health development. The sessions are built for maximum exchange with presentations, roundtables and working groups focused on timely cross-cutting topics including collaborative funding, growing frequency of disasters and crises, supply chain shortages, escalating demands for services, and rising operational costs. This year's format will enable participants to customize their meeting experience while focusing on topics of interest, such as maternal and child health, internally displaced populations and refugees, health workforce trends, healthcare facilities, regional partnerships, climate action, freight logistics, and mental health for emergency responders

We are just a few months away and are excited to see many of you soon! You can learn more about logistics, register and view a preliminary agenda on the [CoP](#).

This year's CLF will be hosted by Mercy Ships, and will be held in Lindale, Texas October 22-24. Please make your travel arrangements soon!

Learn More & Register Now!

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



Aligning Disaster Response with Resilience Plans

September 5, 2024 • 11:00 am EST



Dr. Eric Rasmussen
CEO, Infinitum Humanitarian Systems

Join us for our next Pillar Talk - Aligning Disaster Response with Resilience Plans

Join us for PQMD's Next Pillar Talk on September 5th at 11am ET: Aligning Disaster Response with Resilience Plans

Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights into disaster response and resilience planning!

PQMD's next Pillar Talk will feature a lecture by renowned international disaster response expert Eric Rasmussen, MD, MDM, FACP. With decades of experience, Dr. Rasmussen will share best practices on aligning disaster response with national resilience plans.

Dr. Rasmussen will offer an engaging overview, blending deep insights with personal anecdotes. He will provide a glimpse into the content of his module from PQMD's Global Health and Development Essentials (GHDE) Course, focusing on emergency response and disaster relief.

Register Now!

PQMD Holds Coffee Chat: Overcoming the Challenge of Duty-Free Customs Clearance

A key chokepoint of humanitarian aid and relief shipments is often navigating the nuances of duty-free customs clearance for incoming humanitarian aid. Each sovereign country has unique rules, practices, and procedures for processing humanitarian cargo. Humanitarian organizations are knowledgeable and have expertise in managing import processes, communication, relationships, and documentation. Even so, customs clearance remains an incredibly challenging endeavor given the ever-changing nature of requirements, customized requirements for donated goods, and the often-exceptional nature of emergency situations.

On August 20th, PQMD held its Coffee Chat: Overcoming the Challenge of Duty-Free Customs Clearance. ChildFund's Michael Brown, Senior Advisor Gifts-in-Kind, led a very interesting discussion around best practices and highlighted some of the most challenging countries to clear customs duty-free.

PQMD members can stay abreast of future Coffee Chats on the members-only [CoP](#).

PQMD Members- Join us for the next Coffee Chat: Disaster Dispatches: Field Staff Insights and Needs in Crisis Zones

September 17, 2024; 11am EST

Join us for an engaging PQMD Coffee Chat facilitated by Jodi Allison, Chief Partnership and Innovation Officer, of MAP International, where field staff from PQMD member organizations operating in the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East will share their firsthand experiences and insights. This one-hour informal discussion is a members-only session that will focus on the essential needs of these vulnerable communities, and the specific challenges members encounter in working in these complex environments.

Participants will hear directly from field staff about their current on-the-ground needs, logistical hurdles, and the impact these challenges have on their operations. Following each reflection, attendees will have the opportunity to engage in a dynamic dialogue, share perspectives, and explore solutions to enhance the effectiveness of medical product donations in these volatile settings.

PQMD members can register for this Coffee Chat on the members-only [CoP](#).



MEMBER NEWS

Case Numbers Climb from Deadly Mpox Outbreak, Direct Relief Secures Critical Vaccine Donation

In response to the current mpox outbreak, which has recorded more than 15,000 cases worldwide and resulted in 500 deaths since the start of 2024, Direct Relief is preparing to increase humanitarian vaccine access along with other critical medical resources to countries and populations most impacted by the disease.

On August 19th, Emergent announced that Direct Relief would receive a donation of 50,000 doses of a vaccine for mpox, as well as diluent solution, needles, and syringes required for administration. The donation includes 50,000 doses of ACAM2000®, (Smallpox (Vaccinia Vaccine, Live) for potential deployment across often difficult-to-reach locations, and as informed by local and regional health authorities.

Direct Relief is preparing to send the vaccines and other aid to health facilities and organizations in impacted countries that include the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, and others. Direct Relief is working with the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other organizations to coordinate in-country storage, logistics, and distribution of the vaccines.

Read the article on Direct Relief's website [here](#).

'It is both a strategic and moral imperative': Why closing the health equity gap is better for everyone

All patients deserve access to high quality healthcare, yet the needs of many go unmet due to preventable factors. This is how healthcare companies, like GSK, are working with partners and communities to close health equity gaps that exist within countries and between them – and why doing so benefits all of us.

'Health equity' – a term the World Health Organisation describes as "the absence of unfair, avoidable or remediable differences among groups of people, whether those groups are defined socially, economically, demographically, or geographically or by other dimensions of inequality (for example, by sex, gender, ethnicity, disability, or sexual orientation)."

However, the world is far from perfect, and a health equity gap exists between those who can access healthcare, and those who remain underserved. This gap not only stops many patients from getting the treatment they need, but also places huge financial burden on healthcare services and economies.

Globally, health inequities are hitting lower income countries hard. In 2015, loss of productivity due to preventable disease cost the African region \$2.5 trillion.

Global biopharma companies, like GSK, are helping find solutions to health disparities by investing in collaborative programs that help to understand and eliminate barriers. This includes generating better data to work out why certain groups remain underserved; bringing previously excluded patient communities into access planning; and partnering with others to ensure scalable access to medication in lower income countries.

Read more on [GSK's](#) website.

[Why Sudan is being called 'humanitarian desert'](#)

NPR

[Climate change-driven migrations worsen infectious diseases in vulnerable regions](#)

News-Medical Net

[Could a Conflict-Borne Superbug Bring on Our Next Pandemic?](#)

RollingStone

[Lebanon receive medical aid, vacationers leave amid fears of war](#)

Reuters

[Forecasting climate's impact on a debilitating disease](#)

Stanford Report

[Yemen: Houthis Obstructing Aid, Exacerbating Cholera](#)

Health Rights Watch

[Mongolia's ambitious programme to tackle cancer death rates reaches 40% of population](#)

The Guardian

[UN halts Gaza aid deliveries after Israeli military orders new evacuation amid polio vaccine push](#)

CNN

Upcoming Events

PQMD Pillar Talk:
Aligning Disaster
Response with
Resilience Plans

September 5, 2024;
11am EST

**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.

Meetings 2024 World
Bank Group/International
Monetary Fund Spring
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: Disaster Response, Preparedness &
Resilience***