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

Reflecting on our recent 2024 Collaboration & Learning Forum (CLF) hosted on Mercy Ships' beautiful campus in Lindale, Texas, I am profoundly grateful for our members who were able to join us. The active engagement, insightful contributions, and passion in the room underscored the importance of resilience, sustainability, and equity—principles that fuel our mission. This year's discussions illuminated critical challenges, including regulatory hurdles, collaborative funding models, and shared metrics, while affirming the power of partnerships to amplify our impact. Looking ahead, we are eager to build on the ideas and momentum that emerged as we prepare for the Global Health Policy Forum in London, scheduled for April 29 – May 2, 2025. Thank you to our event sponsors, AbbVie and Lilly, whose support made this forum possible, and to our host, Mercy Ships for their gracious hospitality!

In this newsletter below, you'll find more key takeaways and photos from the CLF. I encourage you to take a moment to review these insights and keep an eye out for the full event report coming soon!

Also this past month, our members convened in person and virtually, to share information and coordinate response efforts for Hurricanes Helene and Milton in the southeast US. As with most disaster responses, their efforts include not only immediate recovery but long-term system strengthening, support and education activities to rebuild more resilient communities. Consequently, many of our members are still on the ground and anticipate having teams in the region for many months (or years) to come. Sadly, we also learned that many of our members and their staff were directly impacted by the storms. I want to let all our colleagues, their families and the communities they live in know that our thoughts are with all those impacted as they work to rebuild.

Touching on many of the themes explored during our recent Forum, I am pleased to announce the launch of our new blog series, [PQMD Partnership Pulse: Bridging Health & Access](#)! This monthly series will explore insights and fresh perspectives in global health and access to medicines. This month's [post](#) focuses on how organizations like PQMD can contribute to rebuilding trust in government through effective multi-sector partnerships.

I'm so glad to have spent time with many of you in Texas, and I hope everyone had safe travels home. Together, let's continue to strengthen our community and advance our mission!





## **PQMD Members Gather to Collaborate & Learn in Lindale, Texas!**

On October 22-24, PQMD held our annual Collaboration & Learning Forum in Lindale Texas, engaging in deep reflections on resilience, sustainability, and equity—key pillars of our mission at PQMD.

Our sessions highlighted the value of diverse perspectives and the strength found in collaboration. When we come together, problem-solving becomes not only enjoyable but profoundly impactful. PQMD's trusted partnerships truly amplify our effectiveness.

During the meeting, we identified key areas for further dialogue, including:

- Navigating regulatory challenges for donations
- Understanding policy implications on organizational bandwidth
- Exploring collaborative funding and shared metrics
- Establishing multi-year commitments

A huge thank you to our incredible sponsors—AbbVie, Eli Lilly and Company, and Mercy Ships—for your support, and to everyone who joined us in Texas. Your passion and commitment to global health inspire us all. A comprehensive report with takeaways from the meeting will be coming soon!

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**PQMD Launches New Monthly Blog!**  
***PQMD Partnership Pulse: Bridging Health & Access***



We are thrilled to announce the launch of PQMD's new monthly blog, [\*PQMD Partnership Pulse: Bridging Health & Access\*](#). Authored by PQMD Executive Director, Elizabeth Ashbourne (EJ), the blog was started to spark discussion around the challenges and opportunities to delivering global healthcare and access to medicines in our current environment.

EJ's first post, "[A crisis of trust and what we can do about it,](#)" discusses how organizations like PQMD—a unique coalition of global non-profits and corporate organizations dedicated to providing access medicines and healthcare—can, by design, contribute to stemming the tide of waning trust in government, and help to rebuild trust through effective multi-sector partnerships. By focusing on transparency, authenticity, and beneficiary needs, PQMD demonstrates how collaboration can restore faith in health systems.

*You can read the full blog on the PQMD website [here](#) and look for more blog posts on global health topics coming soon!*



## PQMD Members Coordinate on U.S. Hurricane Responses

Hurricane Helene struck Florida's Big Bend area as a Category 4 storm on September 26, leaving a catastrophic 800-mile path of destruction. Just two weeks later, Hurricane Milton made landfall in Siesta Key, unleashing storm surges, deadly tornadoes, and winds reaching 120 mph on communities still reeling from Helene's impact.

In response, PQMD members mobilized quickly. In the immediate aftermath of each storm, PQMD organized all-calls to coordinate members' efforts in addressing the devastation caused by these hurricanes. Some member response activities include deployment of assessment teams, mobile medical units and essential supplies including medications and hygiene kits to those affected, among many other critical lifesaving interventions.

PQMD's mission is to promote sustainable access to quality healthcare in underserved communities and during crises. Their initiatives encompass not only immediate recovery efforts but also long-term support, system strengthening, and educational activities aimed at rebuilding more resilient communities.

## 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**

**PQMD October Coffee Chat**  
**Protecting the Next Generation from Protracted Crisis:**  
**A Look at Humanitarian Responses Through a Child/Youth Lens**

On October 15th, PQMD held an engaging Coffee Chat facilitated by Sarah Harris, World Vision US Senior Technical Advisor for Protection.

The building blocks of a safe and healthy childhood are well known. However, for the hundreds of millions of children around the globe, who are impacted by climate and natural disasters, disease outbreaks, economic shocks and food insecurity, social and political instability, and an increasingly violent world, they are being denied these cornerstones of childhood.

Many PQMD members are mission driven to provide life-saving and future protecting services to these vulnerable children in some of the most complex and insecure protracted crises around the world. But with almost 300 million people in need of humanitarian assistance this year, including a generation of children, there was a discussion about where, how, when, and for how long do you decide to engage.

For example, through collaborations with the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) in programs like Beyond Borders in Colombia and Agência Ven, Tú Pudes in Brazil, we are addressing the root causes of violence and displacement affecting children. In Colombia, we've supported over 15,000 children at risk, providing essential services such as shelter improvement and case management. In Brazil, we empower Venezuelan migrants through employability and entrepreneurship training, giving families the tools to create a better future. We also provide informative sessions on labor rights and protection networks and conduct awareness raising campaigns to resist discrimination and ensure the protection of the most vulnerable.

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





### **TIE Summit: The Power of Community in Rebuilding Trust in Healthcare**

In October, Sanofi's Trust, Inclusion Equity (TIE) Summit brought together Sanofians, policymakers, clinicians, community leaders, and patients to debate and discuss how to create a fairer, more inclusive healthcare system.

The consensus was that bridging the diversity gap in healthcare depended on listening to and working with people who have experienced exclusion and marginalization.

To this end, keynote speaker and diversity and inclusion innovator, Mira Shane, shared her experiences navigating healthcare and encouraged attendees to think about when being an advocate has made them feel uncomfortable while providing inspiring tools to become better advocates for health equity moving forward.

During Mira's keynote speech, she explored the importance of both uplifting people with less agency and finding ways of holding ourselves accountable for initiating real change. Above all else, she stressed the importance of active listening. "Listen to listen not to respond," she said.

This listening-as-learning approach is also guiding Sanofi's A Million Conversations initiative which is committed to rebuilding trust in a healthcare system that has for too long excluded too many people.

For example, the Sanofi NextGenScholarship is making a difference by providing young people from underrepresented communities with the funding, mentoring, and leadership training they need to become future healthcare leaders. In 2023-2024, 60 scholarships were made available for



### **Lifesaving Care in Mali's Embattled Douentza Region**

When they flee their homes to escape the violence, the people of the Douentza region—like many internally displaced persons (IDPs)—are under intense pressure and able to bring only minimal possessions, which reduces their capacity to earn a living. With limited financial means and diminished mobility, these IDPs depend on whatever basic social services are available within walking distance.

To meet the health challenges of the people in Douentza, International Medical Corps (IMC) mobile medical unit (MMU) provides integrated services that include mental health, reproductive healthcare and nutritional health. Even though the only space to treat people might be under the protection of a cliffside alcove, IMC's teams have conducted curative consultations for more than 3,200 people, and antenatal consultations for more than 500. And between November 2023 and June 2024, they vaccinated nearly 1,100 children in the Douentza region against measles.

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

young people from minority backgrounds  
to study at Rutgers or Thurgood Marshall  
College in the U.S.

*Read more on Sanofi's website [here](#).*

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WEB



**Tackling period poverty in Lebanon's refugee camps**

Financial Times

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**Historic North Carolina village underwater after devastating damage from Helene**

**NBC News**

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**The Economics Behind Nigeria's Midwife Exodus**

ThinkGlobalHealth

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**Marburg is an especially scary virus. How scared should we be of Rwanda's outbreak?**

NPR

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**'People are hopeless here': Sudan's sick, starving and injured spill into camps across its borders**

The Telegraph

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**At Least 95 People Die in Devastating Flash Floods in Spain**

Time

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**The world's spending to fight global lead poisoning just doubled**

Vox

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**Climate change: A growing threat to emergency response**

News Medical Lifesciences

## Upcoming Events

### [2024 UN Climate Change Conference](#)

November 11-22, 2024;  
Azerbaijan

### **Save the Dates: PQMD's Global Health Policy Forum; London, England**

April 29-May 1, 2025

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***Next Month's Theme: Best Practices***