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Note from Elizabeth (EJ) Ashbourne, PQMD Executive Director

As the year draws to a close, I'm excited to share a couple of key updates that highlight the impactful work happening within our network. Each of these initiatives represents our commitment to driving positive change in global health.

I'm pleased to announce that our comprehensive [Collaboration & Learning Forum \(CLF\) report is now available](#) for PQMD members. This year's CLF brought together our members to address pressing global health challenges, including funding models, the growing frequency of disasters and crises, supply chain disruptions, and rising operational costs. Through dynamic discussions, we gained valuable insights that will help guide our efforts in the year ahead.

We also recently completed the latest session of our Global Health & Development Essentials Fall course, which saw a large, diverse, and highly engaged cohort of students. This program continues to provide critical knowledge on global health policy, international disaster response, and the complexities of medical product donations in low- and middle-income countries. We have opened [registration](#) for our next session, starting April 16, 2025. This course is a unique opportunity for participants to learn among peers, deepen understanding of global health systems and improve their ability to respond to global challenges effectively. We congratulate our recent cohort for completing the 8-week program, and we look forward to welcoming even more students in the Spring!

As for our upcoming programs, I'm happy to invite members to share their work at our **Resource Marketplace Coffee Chat** on December 10th. This informal event will provide a platform for PQMD members to share open resources—tools, services, and valuable insights—that can support our community's vital work. Each participant will have 5-8 minutes to present, and we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to showcase your organization's resources and connect with fellow members. If you're interested in presenting, please email vhammond@pqmd.org. This is a great example of the collaborative spirit that defines PQMD, as we work together to strengthen the impact of our collective efforts.

Wishing you all a safe and happy start to the holiday season!



OCTOBER 22 - 24, 2024 | LINDALE, TEXAS

Leaning into Sustainability & Resilience

"The event itself fostered really strong discussions and sharing of experiences."

-2024 Forum Attendee



78



attendees from 38 member organizations representing 71% of membership



14



sessions focused on timely, cross-cutting topics and built for maximum exchange



15



peer-moderated working group sessions focused on strategies and solutions

[View more photos in the event Facebook album](#)

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

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2024 Collaboration & Learning Forum Report is Now Available for PQMD Members!

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

The meeting report is now available! It includes key takeaways from sessions, presentations, photos and more. Members can view the [12-page report](#) and other event materials on [PQMD's Members-Only Community of Practice](#).

PQMD Partnership Pulse: *Bridging Health & Access*

A monthly blog series exploring bold insights and fresh perspectives in global health and access to medicines.

Catch up on posts at pqmd.org!





In her [latest blog post](#), PQMD Executive Director, Elizabeth Ashbourne (EJ), reflects on the record financial pledges and commitments made at recent global summits, from the Clinton Global Initiative to the WHO Summit. With billions pledged to tackle the world's most pressing challenges, EJ calls for immediate action, emphasizing that we cannot afford to wait for perfect plans or consensus. Drawing inspiration from Oprah's generous giveaways and Nike's iconic slogan, she urges the global community to act now—because the world's needs are urgent. [Read the post.](#)

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 in the Washington, D.C. area, please join us on December 2nd!

PQMD members are invited to an in-person meet-up in Washington D.C. on December 2nd from 12-2 PM ET. This is a great opportunity to connect with fellow members, share insights, and strengthen our network in a relaxed and informal setting.

Additional colleagues from your organization are welcome to attend—please just let us know ahead of time so we can reserve enough seats for everyone.

Don't miss this chance to engage with your peers and build stronger relationships within the PQMD community. We look forward to seeing you there!

RSVP to [Gretchen Warwick](#) by **Wednesday, November 27th** to confirm your spot and let us know if you're bringing additional colleagues.



**SAVE THE
DATES!**

**April 29-May 1, 2025
London, England**



PQMD's Global Health & Development Essentials Course Spring 2025 Registration Now Open!

PQMD is excited to announce that registration is now open for the upcoming [Global Health & Development Essentials course](#), an 8-week executive survey course running from **April 16-June 11, 2025** (*skipping April 30th*). This course is designed for professionals and students in the global health space, offering a comprehensive introduction to international development policies and practices.

Participants will gain valuable insights into the global health policy environment in low- and lower-middle-income countries, learn about the key players providing humanitarian assistance, and explore the complexities of disaster response and medical product donation programs within these contexts.

We just wrapped up our Fall 2024 course, and we'd like to extend congratulations to all the participants for completing the program! We're happy to report that feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with great reviews about the course content and the learning experience. [Learn more.](#)

Don't miss out on this opportunity to deepen your understanding of global health and development. [Register](#) today to secure your spot in the Spring 2025 course!



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 November Coffee Chat **Storing Success: Navigating Warehouse Decisions**

On November 19th, PQMD hosted a Coffee Chat focused on warehouse management, both domestically and internationally. The session was co-hosted by **Heather Lee** of *Heart to Heart International*, a global provider of medical and humanitarian aid, and **Jim Alvey** of *Good360*, which connects companies with nonprofits to distribute products efficiently. Together, they shared valuable insights on warehouse strategy and best practices.

Key Themes:

- **Warehouse Expansion:** Benefits and best practices for adding new warehouses to improve distribution and operational efficiency.
- **When to Add a Warehouse:** How to determine when additional warehouse space is necessary, based on factors like demand and logistical needs.
- **Location Decisions:** Key considerations for selecting a warehouse site, including proximity to distribution hubs and regulatory requirements.
- **Domestic vs. International:** Important differences in warehouse planning for domestic versus global operations, from customs issues to political considerations.
- **Pharmaceutical GiK:** How the pharmaceutical sector shapes warehouse decisions, especially for storing and distributing donated goods.
- **Challenges:** Common obstacles in opening new warehouses and strategies for overcoming them.
- **Bonded Warehouses:** The advantages of using a bonded warehouse or economic free trade zone (FTZ) to defer customs duties and taxes.

This session provided valuable insights for organizations navigating the complexities of warehouse management, helping them make informed decisions to support their humanitarian missions.

PQMD December Coffee Chat
Share your resources at PQMD's December Coffee Chat!
December 10, 2024- 11am-12pm ET

PQMD is inviting members to highlight any open resources your organization offers during our *Resource Marketplace Coffee Chat* on **December 10th at 11 AM ET**. This is a great opportunity to showcase tools, services, and expertise that can benefit fellow members.

Each speaker will have 5-8 minutes to present, depending on the number of participants. It's a chance to share how your resources can support others in the network and collaborate in an informal setting.

Coffee Chats are exclusively for staff of PQMD member organizations and encourage open dialogue and sharing. We look forward to hearing about your offerings and exploring how we can support each other.

**To participate, please contact Victoria Hammond at vhammond@pqmd.org.
Don't miss out—mark your calendars for December 10th at 11 AM ET!**

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





**A new road map:
Creating sustainable health
care systems for all**

Devex spoke with Operation Smile's Dr. Ruben Ayala about the challenges of access to surgical care in low- and middle-income countries and the innovative strategies the organization is using to bridge the gap.

Access to surgical care is a massive global health challenge. In fact, five billion people around the world do not have access to safe, affordable surgical and anesthesia care when needed. Dr. Ruben Ayala, chief of policy and advocacy at Operation Smile, brought the issue into sharp focus during a session at Devex's summit The future can't wait: Shaping tomorrow, today on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Globally, over 313 million surgical procedures are performed every year to treat conditions such as congenital conditions, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and injuries from accidents. However, only 6% of these surgeries take place in the world's lowest-income countries. An estimated 143 million more surgeries are needed annually, requiring 2.2 million more surgeons, anesthetists, and obstetricians — setting the stage for an urgent call to action.

In a conversation with Devex Editorial Director Richard Jones, Dr. Ayala outlined the scale of the problem, the strategic approaches Operation Smile is using to tackle these barriers in the most underserved communities, and his views on how the global health community can support efforts.

Read the full article on [Devex](#).



**Advancing International Medical
Corps' Comprehensive Climate
Response: The Year in Review**

In 2023, International Medical Corps committed to addressing the impacts of climate change and helping communities adapt to a hotter, more disaster-prone and dangerous world. Over the last year they have rapidly expanded their response to the climate crisis, with a focus on evolving strategies that are context-specific and developed from the ground up. Their dual approach combines their work to "climate proof" existing humanitarian projects with the design of new, scalable interventions that respond to the increased adverse impacts of climate change on people's health and well-being.

Read the full report on IMC's [website](#).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WEB

Dengue Fever on the Rise in Florida After Hurricane Helene and Milton

Vice

In Western North Carolina, Helene's Devastation Is Threatening Health Care Access

The New York Times

Sudan: from a forgotten war to an abandoned health system

BMJ Global Health

Thousands of children in Gaza receive 2nd dose of polio vaccine, with others cut off

NPR

Phone therapy aids refugee children, study shows

BBC

'It's indescribable': the hospital on the frontline of Haiti's devastating gang war

The Guardian

Climate change: A growing threat to emergency response

News Medical Lifesciences

The international community's failure on Sudan has shocked me to my core

The Telegraph

Frontline Mpox Responders Aren't Getting the Support They Need

Undark

Upcoming Events

CUGH 2025

February 20-23, 2025;
Atlanta, Georgia

World Sustainable Development Summit 2025

March 5-7, 2025; New
Dehli, India

PQMD Global Health Policy Forum

April 29- May 1, 2025;
London, England

World Health Assembly 78th Session

May 19-27, 2025;
Geneva, Switzerland

Social Innovation Summit

June 3-4, 2025; San
Francisco, California

ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment

June 18-20, 2025;
Geneva, Switzerland

AI for Good Global Summit

June 8-11, 2025; Geneva,
Switzerland

UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

June 14-23, 2025; NYC,
New York

UNGA 80

September 9-23, 2025;
NYC, New York

2025 Concordia Annual Summit

September 22-24, 2025;
NYC, New York

World Health Summit

October 12-14, 2025;
Berlin, Germany & Digital

COP 30

November 10-21, 2025;
Belem, Brazil

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Next Month's Theme: Climate & Health