

25
PQMD
YEARS
NEWSLETTER

August 2026
Mental Health Month



A Note from Elizabeth Ashbourne, Our Executive Director

I hope you've all been enjoying the summer and finding some time to recharge! At PQMD, August has been an active month of connection and shared learning, with an exciting Fall just ahead.

Under the auspices of Mental Health Month at PQMD, we had two exciting programs: a group session on expanding access to mental health care and the second, a Pillar Talk on *Responsible AI in Mental Health*. We were incredibly fortunate to be joined by Dr. John Torous of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School, whose expertise and insights helped cut through some of the hype surrounding AI and offered a thoughtful, practical look at its potential - and its limitations - in mental health care.

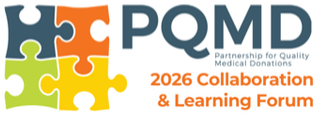
That spirit of learning and exchange continued across the PQMD community this month. Our Climate & Health Pillar continued to move from exploration toward practice, with members sharing experiences and resources. And, I'm delighted to congratulate our newest graduates of PQMD's [Global Health & Development Essentials \(GHDE\)](#) course. After completing the eight modules of the program, we are proud to welcome another group of professionals into our growing GHDE alumni community.

Looking ahead to September, our next [Pillar Talk, *When Crises Converge: Responding to Natural Disasters, Conflict, and Disease Outbreaks*](#), offers a particularly timely conversation about the increasingly complex environments in which humanitarian organizations are operating. That complexity was evident during our recent members-only Disaster All-Calls on the Colombia earthquake and Nepal floods, where members shared evolving needs, response activities, and operational considerations. I encourage you to [register for the September 10 Pillar Talk](#), and members can access [materials from the Disaster All-Calls](#) on the CoP.

The Fall is coming, and I am especially excited that registration is now open for our October members-only **2026 Collaboration & Learning Forum (CLF) in Virginia Beach!** This year's theme, *Adapting for Impact*, will feature topics and activities that will explore how partnerships, donation models, financing, innovation, disaster readiness, and other approaches are evolving to meet changing needs. Members can [visit the CoP now to learn more and register](#). I look forward to seeing many of you there!

Thank you, as always, for the expertise, generosity, and commitment you bring to this community. With a busy Fall ahead, I'm looking forward to the conversations, connections, and collaboration still to come.

P.S. Just before the CLF, I will be in Berlin at the [World Health Summit](#) from October 11-13 and for the [10th German-African Health Forum on October 14](#), an event of the German Health Alliance. If you'll be there as well, I'd love to connect! In partnership with some of our friends, we will be having a get together there for PQMD members and colleagues October 12, 5-7pm, so let us know so we can send you more information.



2026 Collaboration & Learning Forum

ADAPTING FOR IMPACT

OCTOBER 20-22, 2026
OPERATION SMILE | VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

Hosted at [Operation Smile](#) Sponsored by [Johnson & Johnson](#)

Registration Now Open: 2026 Collaboration & Learning Forum

PQMD members are invited to join us in **Virginia Beach, October 20–22**, for our annual members-only **Collaboration & Learning Forum (CLF)**. This year's theme, ***Adapting for Impact***, will bring members together to explore how trusted partnerships, evolving donation models, stronger health systems, and new approaches to innovation, financing, and disaster readiness are shaping what comes next.

Built around member showcases, roundtables, breakout sessions, and peer exchange, the CLF is designed to turn shared experience into practical insight and stronger collaboration. [Visit the members-only CoP to learn more and register today!](#)



When Crises Converge:
Responding to Natural
Disasters, Conflict &
Disease Outbreaks

September 10, 2026 • 11:00 am ET

Speakers: Jennifer Bergman, David R. Anderson, Kelly Pearson, and others.

2026 Pillar Talk Series Presented by [children international](#)

#PQMDPillarTalks

REGISTER NOW! Pillar Talk: When Crises Converge

Natural disasters, conflict, and disease outbreaks increasingly overlap, creating new challenges for humanitarian response. Join PQMD on **September 10 at 11:00 AM ET** as member experts share lessons from navigating concurrent emergencies, coordinating across sectors, and sustaining operations when one crisis collides with the next. [Register now to join the conversation.](#)



Pillar Talk Recap: Responsible AI in Mental Health

Our August Pillar Talk welcomed Dr. John Torous of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School for a timely discussion on the growing use of AI in mental healthcare, exploring how humanitarian and global health organizations can evaluate the evidence, navigate risks and ethical considerations, and identify where AI can meaningfully augment human care.



Coffee Chat Recap: Expanding Access to Mental Health Care

PQMD members came together for an informal, members-only Coffee Chat exploring approaches to expanding access to mental health care, including integration, partnerships, continuity of care, and the realities of delivering sustainable services across different settings. The discussion once again highlighted the value of Coffee Chats as a trusted space for members to exchange experiences, challenges, and practical insights with peers.



Members Coordinate Across Disaster Responses

Following the recent **earthquake in Colombia**, PQMD convened a **members-only Disaster All-Call** to share updates on assessments, emerging needs, local partnerships, medical and hygiene supply support, WASH, mental health, and continuity of care. **Members reconvened today for another All-Call focused on the Nepal floods**, continuing to share timely information, response activities, and emerging needs as multiple emergencies unfold. [Members can access the call recording and materials on the members-only CoP.](#)

These trusted, members-only calls provide an important space for urgent, real-time information sharing, coordination, and connection across the PQMD network.



Climate & Health Pillar Moves from Discussion to Practice

PQMD members came together in August for the second **Climate & Health Pillar Open Meeting**, continuing the network's work to help organizations develop practical strategies for adapting to the health impacts of climate-related events.

Building on earlier conversations, this session shifted the focus toward **real-world programmatic experience**, giving members an opportunity to share examples of Climate & Health work underway across their organizations and exchange useful resources. These discussions will help inform how PQMD can continue supporting members through shared learning, practical resources, and opportunities to learn from one another. [Visit the CoP to access shared resources and continue the conversation.](#)



Congratulations to Our Summer 2026 GHDE Graduates!

Congratulations to the newest graduates of PQMD's **Global Health & Development Essentials (GHDE) Course!** After eight weeks of learning and exchange, we're proud to welcome this cohort into our growing GHDE alumni community.

Interested in joining a future cohort? [Stay tuned for upcoming course dates and enrollment information.](#)



25 Reasons to Join PQMD: That's a Wrap!

Over the past several months, PQMD members have shared **25 Reasons to Join**, highlighting the partnerships, resources, learning, and trusted relationships that make this community unique. Thank you to everyone who shared their story and helped us celebrate 25 years of collaboration and collective impact. **Missed the campaign? Explore [#WhyPQMD](#) and learn more about joining the PQMD community.**

Ready to talk membership? Contact Jill Pall at jpall@pqmd.org.



Congratulations to PQMD member, AstraZeneca, winner of the [2026 DA4S Corporation of the Year Award!](#)

We're also proud to recognize fellow PQMD members AbbVie, Eli Lilly and Company, and Merck, who were also nominated for this honor celebrating collaboration, innovation, and partnership across the life sciences industry. Congratulations to all of our members recognized this year!

PQMD ENGAGEMENT CORNER



UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES FROM ACROSS PQMD'S COLLABORATIVE GROUPS



Working Groups



Member
Interest Groups



Committees



MEMBER INTEREST GROUPS

Domestic Disaster Response & Recovery: Members recently exchanged lessons from Pacific Northwest wildfire responses and hurricane season preparedness, with a focus on local partnerships and opportunities to strengthen coordination during smaller-scale disasters.

Artificial Intelligence: The AI MIG will meet September 16 at 11:00 AM ET to shape the group's direction and priorities for future discussions. New participants are welcome - [sign up here](#) to receive the calendar invite.



WORKING GROUPS

Climate & Health: PQMD is forming a Climate & Health Working Group to help advance this growing pillar. Interested in getting involved? Contact Rylee at rshear@pqmd.org.

Disaster Response: During their August meeting, the Working Group helped shape upcoming disaster programming, while also advancing improvements to PQMD's Disaster Activity Tracker and the new Disaster Response Resource Library.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

- [Stay up to date and explore all the ways to engage here!](#)
- [Sign up here](#) to join upcoming group discussions and engagement opportunities.
- Curious what other groups are meeting or interested in connecting around a new topic? [Explore existing groups or start your own here.](#)

Next Month's Theme:

DISASTER RESPONSE, PREPAREDNESS & RESILIENCE

Stay Informed!

We encourage you to [follow us on LinkedIn](#) for the latest updates on PQMD programs, products and resources.

