

RYERSON UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Child and Youth Care
Disability Studies
Early Childhood Studies
Midwifery
Nursing
Nutrition
Occupational and Public
Health
Social Work
Urban and Regional
Planning

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Planetary Health Manifesto
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PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON
GLOBAL HEALTH & ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS

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Responsible Chocolate



See: <http://nochildforsale.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Responsible-Chocolate-Checklists-final.pdf#>

AND <http://nochildforsale.ca/resource/>

World Vision looked at the world's largest chocolate companies to determine what actions they were taking to reduce the worst forms of child labour in the cocoa industry. See what they uncovered!

As lovers of chocolate, they need to know whether global chocolate companies are doing everything they can to end child slavery in cocoa farming.

See whether Nestlé, Cadbury, Hershey's, Mars, and Ferrero have followed through on their commitments to reducing child labour in the industry.

Does Getting Pregnant Cause Girls To Drop Out Of School?

Does pregnancy really cause girls to drop out of school? Globally, "schoolgirl pregnancy" is cited as one of the primary barriers to girls' education. But the story may not be as simple as it seems.

Yes, an adolescent girl's formal education is usually over the moment she becomes a mother. Laws and culture often discourage girls from returning to school after giving birth .

See: <https://www.devex.com/news/does-getting-pregnant-cause-girls-to-drop-out-of-school-85810>



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Applying Human Rights to Maternal Health

In the last few years there have been several critical milestones in acknowledging the centrality of human rights to sustainably addressing the scourge of maternal death and morbidity around the world, including from the United Nations Human Rights Council. In 2012, the Council adopted a resolution welcoming a Technical Guidance on rights-based approaches to maternal mortality and morbidity, and calling for a report on its implementation in two years.



See: <https://reprohealthlaw.wordpress.com/2013/05/14/applying-human-rights-to-maternal-health-un-technical-guidance-on-rights-based-approaches/>

The Body Count of War



War has, directly or indirectly, killed around 1.3 million people in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Not included in this figure are further war zones such as Yemen. The figure is approximately 10 times greater than that of which the public, experts and decision makers are aware of and propagated by the media and major NGOs. And this is only a conservative estimate. The total number of deaths in the three countries named above could also be in excess of 2 million, whereas a figure below 1 million is extremely unlikely, according to a new report from Physicians for Social Responsibility.

See: <http://www.psr.org/assets/pdfs/body-count.pdf>

WHO Watch at WHO's 136th Executive Board Meeting

The People's Health Movement (PHM) follows closely the work of WHO, both through the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board. A team of PHM volunteers attended the most recent 136th EB meeting (both the Special Session on Ebola and the regular session), following the debate, talking with delegates and making statements to the EB.

PHM's detailed commentary covers most of the agenda items of the EB 136 and includes notes on the key issues in focus at the EB, a brief background and critical commentary.

See: <http://www.ghwatch.org/node/45478>
AND <http://www.ghwatch.org/who-watch/eb136>



Soybeans - The 'Unlikely Hero' Transforming Lands and Livelihoods in Uganda



Poor soils make people poor. The people living in the area that borders Lake Victoria in Uganda know this for a fact: They have seen maize yields on their small plots of land dwindle, as they can often not afford the fertilizer the nitrogen-hungry crop requires to grow strong. Income and nutrition levels drop. The community faces a struggle to escape from poverty.

Soybean offers a gamut of benefits to farmers and an “integrated” approach to using it could help boost sustainable development, leading experts of CGIAR’s Humidtropics program suggest. Here’s why.

[READ MORE ON DEVEX.COM](https://www.devex.com/news/the-unlikely-hero-that-transforms-lands-and-livelihoods-in-uganda-85691)

See: <https://www.devex.com/news/the-unlikely-hero-that-transforms-lands-and-livelihoods-in-uganda-85691>

20 Tonnes of Dangerous Apricots Found in Estonia

Estonian Veterinary and Food Board **Ago Pärtel** stated that in the Muuga border checkpoint, 20 tonnes of apricots of Turkish origin were detained, which laboratory studies showed had excessive sulphites content. The shipment was not allowed to be imported, and it was returned to its country of origin.

Between December and January, operation Opson IV was conducted in 47 countries, during which more than 2,500 tonnes of illegal food products were discovered; for instance: mozzarella cheese, strawberries, eggs, vegetable oil and dried fruits. The operation involved the police, customers, local food and customs authorities and private sector partners.



See: <http://www.baltic-course.com/eng/legislation/?doc=102589>

A Mechanism Linking Inhaled Diesel Pollution and Respiratory Distress



Researchers in the UK have, for the first time, shown how exhaust pollution from diesel engines is able to affect nerves within the lung. Air pollution is a significant threat to health, and identifying potential mechanisms linking exposure to diesel exhaust and the exacerbation of respiratory diseases may lead to treatments for those affected.

See: http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/03/150314084127.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily%2Ftop_news%2Ftop_health+%28ScienceDaily%3A+Top+Health+News%29

Access to Toilets in Pakistan

There are 41 million people who do not have access to a toilet in Pakistan and as a result they are defecating in the open. And open defecation has significant health and nutritional consequences," said Geeta Rao Gupta, deputy executive director at UNICEF. She recently spoke to The Associated Press during a trip to Pakistan to draw attention to the problem.

"Open defecation is a major contributor to stunting and that's why we've got to do all we can to stop it," she said.

See: <http://news.yahoo.com/unicef-warns-lack-toilets-pakistan-tied-stunting-103218479.html>



Malaria on Myanmar-India Border is a 'Huge Threat'



Resistance to the drug that has saved millions of lives from malaria has been detected over a wider area than previously thought, scientists warn. The ability of the malaria parasite to shrug off the effects of artemisinin has been spreading since it emerged in South East Asia.

Tests, **published in Lancet Infectious Diseases**, now show this resistance on the verge of entering India.

Experts said the development was "alarming" and an "enormous threat". Deaths from malaria have nearly halved since 2000, and the infection now kills about 584,000 people each year.

See: <http://www.bbc.com/news/health-31533559>

California Imposes First Mandatory Water Restrictions to Deal With Drought

Jerry Brown, last week, ordered mandatory water use reductions for the first time in California's history, saying the state's four-year drought had reached near-crisis proportions after a winter of record-low snowfalls.

Mr. Brown, in an executive order, directed the State Water Resources Control Board to impose a 25 percent reduction on the state's 400 local water supply agencies, which serve 90 percent of California residents, over the coming year. State officials said the order would impose varying degrees of cutbacks on water use across the board affecting homeowners, farms and other businesses, as well as the maintenance of cemeteries and golf courses.

See: http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/02/us/california-imposes-first-ever-water-restrictions-to-deal-with-drought.html?_r=0



Volume 1, Issue 5

CONFERENCES &



SYMPOSIUMS

Date	Conference	Location	Registration Site
June 29-30, 2015	4th Annual Global Healthcare Conference (GHC 2015)	Singapore, Singapore	http://events.einnews.com/event/23735/_4th_annual_global_healthcare_conference_ghc_2015
Aug. 25-27, 2015	The Global Forum for Research and Innovation for Health 2015	Manila, Philippines	http://blog.cohred.org/67/forum-2015-people-at-the-center-of-research-and-innovation-for-health
November 5-7, 2015	Canadian Conference on Global Health 2015	Bonaventure Hotel - Montreal, Quebec	http://www.csih.org/en/events/ccgh2015/

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

**“You don't finish anything;
you abandon it.”**

Sting

Sting

The Solo Years
CBC Radio One
March 22, 2015



From Public to Planetary Health: A Manifesto

(Horton, Beaglehole, Bonita, Raeburn, McKee and Wall: Lancet Vol. 383, No. 9920, p.847, 8 March 2014)

This manifesto for transforming public health calls for a social movement to support collective public health action at all levels of society personal, community, national, regional, global, and planetary. Our aim is to respond to the threats we face: threats to human health and wellbeing, threats to the sustainability of our civilization, and threats to the natural and human-made systems that support us. Our vision is for a planet that nourishes and sustains the diversity of life with which we co-exist and on which we depend. Our goal is to create a movement for planetary health...Planetary health is an attitude towards life and a philosophy for living. It emphasizes people, not diseases, and equity, not the creation of unjust societies. We seek to minimize differences in health according to wealth, education, gender, and place...The voice of public health and medicine as the independent conscience of planetary health has a special part to play in achieving this vision. Together with empowered communities, we can confront entrenched interests and forces that jeopardies our future. A powerful social movement based on collective action at every level of society will deliver planetary health and, at the same time, support sustainable human development.

See: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(14\)60409-8/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(14)60409-8/fulltext)

Planetary Health Weekly

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Editor: Dr. David Zakus

Production: Anna Oda



WEBINAR: How to Best Prepare for a Career in Global Health April 16th, 4-5pm Eastern Time

Register at <http://slate.uniteforsight.org/register/april16webinar>

Learn from leading experts about how to best prepare for a successful career in global health. Learn about the diversity of skills and expertise needed within the broad field of global health, as well as suggested preparations in academics, field experiences, internships, and jobs. For example, what is the best way to stand out in job applications and job interviews? What are pitfalls to avoid in cover letters and resumes? How should undergraduate and graduate students best prepare for a global health career?

Webinar Panelists:

- **Kirk C. Allison**, Director, Program in Human Rights and Health, University of Minnesota School of Public Health
- **Arachu Castro**, Samuel Z. Stone Chair of Public Health in Latin America, Department of Global Health Systems and Development, Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine
- **Vanessa Kerry**, CEO, Seed Global Health
- **Robert S. Lawrence**, The Center for a Livable Future Professor in Environmental Health Sciences, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- **Marie H. Martin**, Assistant Director of Education and Training, Vanderbilt University Institute for Global Health
- **Richard Skolnik**, Lecturer, Department of Health Policy and Management, Yale School of Public Health; Author, "Essentials of Global Health/Global Health 101"
- **Moderated by Jennifer Staple-Clark**, Founder and CEO, Unite For Sight

WEBINAR: Marketing and Communicating to Engage Your Audience April 30, 4-5pm Eastern Time

Register at <http://slate.uniteforsight.org/register/april30webinar>

Learn from leading experts about how to market and communicate to prospective and current supporters and funders. Gain insight from the panelists' key lessons learned. Learn about pitfalls to avoid, how to market your cause to increase your public support, how to engage with the media, and how to ensure appropriate and responsible communication about your cause.

Webinar Panelists:

- **Jane Aronson**, President and CEO, Worldwide Orphans Foundation; Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Weill Cornell Medical College, and Columbia University
- **Jenny Best**, Global Communications, One Acre Fund
- **Tyler Gage**, Co-Founder and President, Runa
- **Eve Heyn**, Eve Heyn Global Health Care Communications
- **Colleen Hutchings**, Senior Director Online Strategies and Development, Environmental Working Group
- **Moderated by Jennifer Staple-Clark**, Founder and CEO, Unite For Sight