

PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON GLOBAL HEALTH & ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS

February 25, 2016 Volume 2, Issue 8

Social Medicine: lessons from Cuba

In Cuba doctors belong to the same social class as the rest of the society. Most family doctors live in the communities they serve—often, on the floor above their clinics—and are available at any hour for emergency consultation. Financial incentives do not seem to drive decisions to enter medicine or choose a particular specialty. In fact, educated health professionals in Cuba earn the same as or less than individuals who have only a basic education.

Read More on The Lancet

Read Also Cuba's development Priorities

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Climate-Friendly Urban Development

If climate-friendly development is possible, cities must play a big role. They account for over half of the world's population and more than two-thirds of economic activity, energy use and energy-related greenhouse gas emissions. Urbanization shows no signs of abating. Yet local officials often lack the capacity, tools, or even the legal authority to attract funding for climate-friendly projects. Private investors must step in as most cities do not have the capacity to do bankable projects for climate change.

Read More on Devex



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Harmful Cultural Practices Resurface and Threaten Malawi's HIV Response

Traditional practices in Malawi that had disappeared such as 'fish for sex' are gradually resurfacing, much to the alarm of those working on the national HIV response. 'Fish for sex' is transactional sex in which girls and women offer sex services to fishermen in exchange for fish. Another such traditional practice 'kupimbira' allows a poor family to receive a loan or livestock in exchange for daughters of any age. These harmful cultural practices are regaining ground despite the childcare, protection and justice act passed by parliament in 2010. This prohibits a child from any social or customary practice that is harmful to the health or general development of a child.

Read More on keycorrespondents.org

Stillbirths: Ending an Epidemic of Grief

Not all global health issues are truly global, but the neglected epidemic of stillbirths is one such urgent concern. Perhaps the greatest obstacle to addressing stillbirths is stigma. The utter despair and hopelessness felt by families who suffer a stillbirth is often turned inwards to fuel feelings of shame and failure. The idea of demanding action would be anathema for many women and men who have experienced the loss of a child in this appalling way. This Series dispels any notion that such self-recrimination is justified. Most stillbirths have preventable causes: maternal infections, chronic diseases, undernutrition and obesity.



Read More on The Lancet



Chipotle's Indigestion

Chipotle wasn't done in by an external threat of any sort. Rather, it fell victim to a failure of internal controls. And it provides an object lesson on the nature of risk. Simply put, Chipotle has suffered because, starting in October 2015, customers began to get sick after eating in the company's restaurants. An outbreak of E. coli began on the West Coast, in Washington and Oregon, with more than a dozen people hospitalized. Such violations are poison for any food-service organization. But they were particularly toxic for Chipotle, which has long billed itself as serving "food with integrity."

Read More on strategy-business.com

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Who Feeds the Vulnerable Farmers Who Feed the West?

Shoppers in the West can play their part by harnessing the power of the 'fairtrade breakfast' in support of cocoa, banana, tea and coffee farmers and workers behind the products on British and European supermarket shelves. Fairtrade works with 1.5 million farmers and employees in parts of Africa, Asia, Latin and Central America to enable fair pay and conditions as well as investing in community, business and environmental projects. When people are paid a fair price, they can have more control over their lives when times are hard, and worry less about how they will feed their families.

Read More on freshfruitportal.com

Post COP21: Africa, Energy and Climate Change

Africa has incredible renewable energy resources. Private companies have the financial resources and clout to significantly scale up investment in renewable energy and help unlock Africa's potential. Last year, Google announced that it is investing in the Lake Turkana Wind Power Project in Northern Africa. Once complete, Lake Turkana will bring 310 megawatts of clean energy onto Kenya's grid, enough to power more than two million households across the country. The project will also reduce Kenya's reliance on fossil fuels and help stabilize the country's energy supply.



Read More on The Huffington Post



China's Coal-Burning in Significant Decline

China saw a huge increase in coal-burning for power and industry in the last two decades but has suffered serious air pollution as a result. However in recent years there has been a surge in low-carbon energy and a slowdown in the economy - GDP growth fell in 2015 to its lowest in 25 years - as China moves away from manufacturing.

The result is that global carbon emissions are set to continue the fall seen in 2015 for the first time outside of worldwide recessions, potentially for many years.

Read More on The Guardian

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America Is in the Midst of a Philanthropic Revolution

America's philanthropists aren't waiting any longer for politicians or businesses to solve the world's most pressing problems.

To those optimistic, persistent souls who have a vested interest in seeing positive social change in the U.S., here's a sobering message: if you are looking for meaningful government support, don't hold your breath. At 31, Zuckerberg's commitment comes at a much younger age than even Gates and Buffett. As he wrote in his inspiring letter to his newborn daughter, "We must make long term investments over 25, 50, or even 100 years."

Read More on fortune.com

France to Force Big Supermarkets to Give Unsold Food to Charities

France has become the first country in the world to ban supermarkets from throwing away or destroying unsold food, forcing them instead to donate it to charities and food banks. Under a law passed unanimously by the French senate, large shops will no longer bin good quality food approaching its best-before date. Charities will be able to give out millions more free meals each year to people struggling to afford to eat. Campaigners now hope to persuade the EU to adopt similar legislation across member states.



Read More on The Guardian



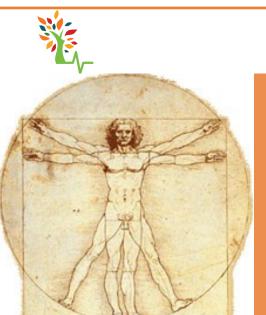
SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS HEALTH:

Aboriginal Health in Canada

Canada has made numerous improvements in recent decades with regards to health outcomes for Aboriginal Canadians, but there are still areas where improvement is needed. For example, Aboriginal Canadians in particular experience much higher rates of poverty and poor living conditions and almost 33% experience food insecurity yearly. Aboriginal Canadians are three to five times more likely to develop diabetes than the general population. This is as a result of various factors including racism, lifestyle, genetic susceptibility and poor access to health services compound the problem.

Read More on cdpac.ca

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

We have to acknowledge that not everyone is sensitive to facts. Beliefs, values and ideologies can be a big filter for perception of facts."

Valérie Masson-Delmotte, the newly elected co-chair of Working Group One of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), December 9, 2015 (Paris).

Read More on CarbonBrief

EVENTS**TABLE**









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Measure of University Internationalization

The new International Outlook Ranking (IOR), also referred to as the International Universities Ranking, presents quite a different list than the overall World University Rankings (WUR). Very few universities ranked high in one are also listed high in the other — 14 out of the top 25 in the WUR list (six American, six UK, one Canadian, and one Swiss university) are also ranked in the International Outlook Ranking. ETH Zurich is also the only university present in both top 10 lists, although Imperial College London (8th in the WUR and 11th in the International Outlook Ranking) comes close. Only 97 of the top 200 universities in the WUR are included in the International Outlook Ranking. Even more telling: only 45 universities listed among the first 400 in the WUR, have made it to the International Outlook Ranking— Qatar University is in the IOR's first position but in the 601-800 category in the WUR.

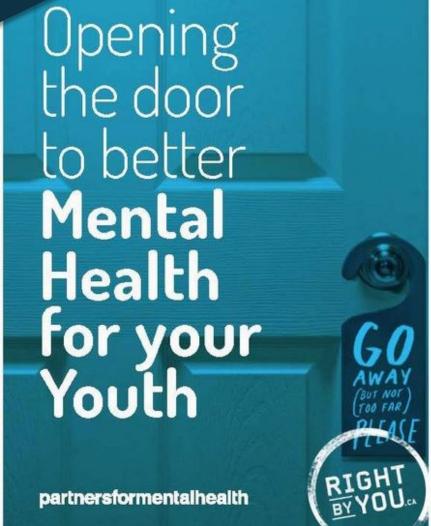
The use of only three quantitative indicators in the International Outlook Ranking— the institution's proportion of international students; the proportion of international staff; and research papers that have at least one international co-author — explains, to a large extent, these differences. Other important indicators of how international a university is, are not included, such as:

- The proportion of students studying abroad as part of their home degree (something U-Multirank measures in its ranking of international orientation of universities)
- The number of strategic partnerships and/or joint or double degree programs
- The proportion of international research projects/funding
- Transnational operations
- Reference to the international dimension in the mission of the university

Read More on insidehighered.com

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"Opening The Door to Better Mental Health for Your Youth" Guide

When a person is dealing with mental health challenges and/or suicidal thoughts, they can feel ashamed and alone in their struggles. Youth can be particularly vulnerable given the many transitions and pressures they face.

Some are reluctant to talk to others and reach out for help. But a sympathetic listening ear and a conversation can make a real difference.

Talking with a struggling youth (or anyone for that matter) can seem like a daunting task, but it doesn't have to be. You can get tips for having a meaningful conversation in the FREE guide offered by Right By You.

The guide also provides a checklist of some warning signs to look for and helpful mental health resources.

Download the FREE Guide from rightbyyou.ca

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Ageing in the 21st Century



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Open to current or entering postdoctoral fellows from any global health related discipline

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GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS MONDIALE

PROGRAMMES DE SANTÉ

Program Description:

Established in 2015 by The Blema and Arnold Steinberg Family Foundation, for entering or current postdoctoral fellows at McGill University who are pursuing research related to global health in low or middle income countries or among Aboriginal populations in Canada. Awarded by the Faculty of Medicine, upon recommendation of Global Health Programs, to one or more postdoctoral fellows on the basis of academic merit. Value: \$45,000, plus an annual travel stipend of \$5,000; may be renewable once.

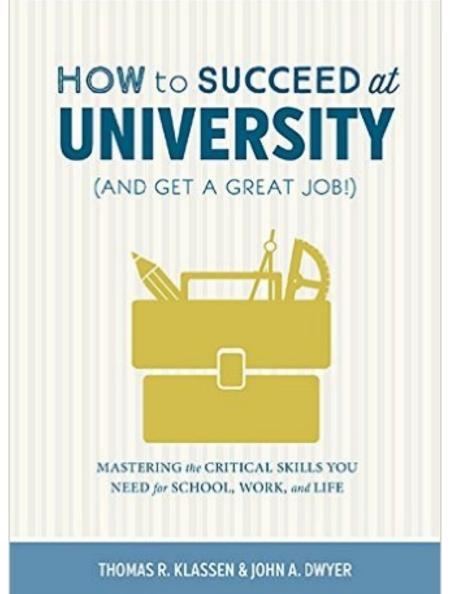
McGill University has a long history of diverse global health research and training programs. The range of global health teams and researchers at McGill is one of our strengths. Steinberg Global Health Postdoctoral **Fellowships** support the most promising scholars in global health and assist them in establishing a research base early in their careers. The program aims to support a diverse group of fellows with varying specialties and geographic areas of interest.

Read More on mcgill.ca

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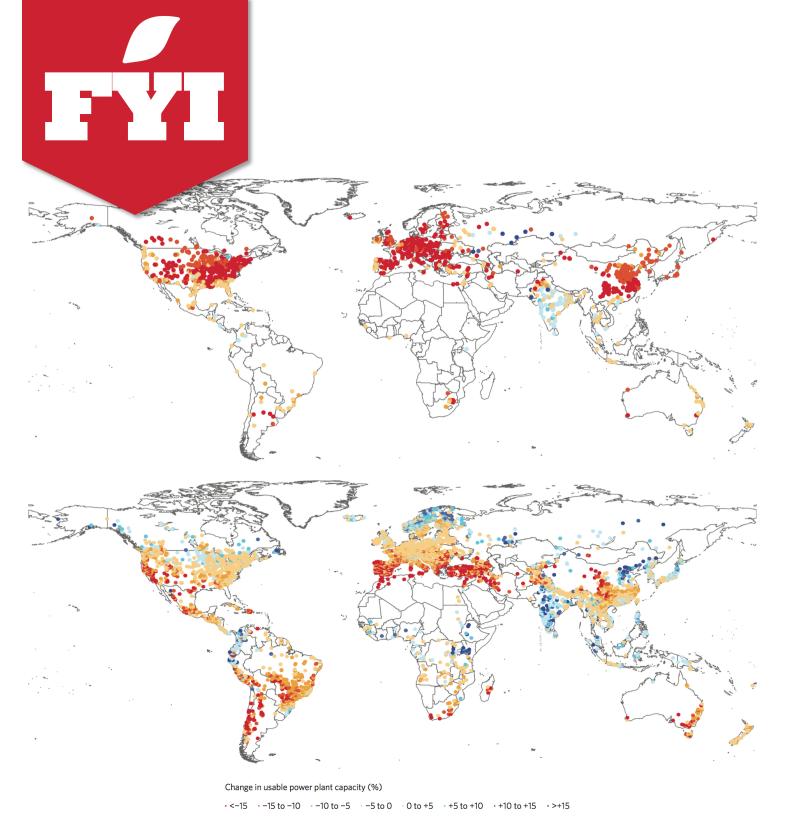
A PRACTICAL, EASY-TO-READ GUIDE FOR SUCCESS AT UNIVERSITY AND BEYOND



How to Succeed at University (and Get a Great Job!) FREE ebook shows that the best preparation for success at life and on the job is succeeding at university. This practical guide is meant for university students, college, and high school students, as well as instructors, guidance counsellors, and parents. By answering many of the questions that students and recent graduates have about succeeding in their courses and in their post-school careers, this book shows that the path from university to the real world can be straightforward and exciting if you know what you are doing.

Download the FREE ebook from UBCPress

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Map: Where Climate Change Could Hit Electricity Production

The two maps show how "usable capacity" – i.e. how much electricity a power plant can produce – is likely to be affected by the 2050s if global greenhouse gas emissions remain high. The upper map shows traditional power stations and the lower map shows hydropower. The red and orange dots show where capacity is projected to drop, while blue dots show where it could increase.

Read More on CarbonBrief

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We are learning more and more with nature and our science to further harness the sun's energy which arrives free every day...From a Canadian winter scene.

This Newsletter is FREE.

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