Quarantine is not an option for people whose day's wages equals food and security of their family. [2] [3]

Fines for social distancing disproportionately costs the marginalized and vulnerable. [2] [4]

Lockdowns prevent migrant/essential workers to commute long distances from public transportation. This leads to unemployment and an inevitable migration to locations where jobs are available. [5]

Vaccine nationalism unjustly divides vaccines to countries that can afford to hoard. [6]

**A NEED FOR: GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP**

- Social distancing on a global scale requires both international and individual active involvement and collaboration. [1]
- Interdependence on health by focusing funding and investment in disease surveillance, disease control and response, and critical social and economic determinants that influence interventions. [1]
- Advocation for education and rights of the marginalized to address the foundation of public health problems. [2]

Dr. Michael Muehlenbein is the chair of the Anthropology department and runs a research lab, with one of his main focuses being “One Health,” which is a transdisciplinary approach — working at the local, national, and global levels — with the goal of achieving optimal health outcomes recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment. To highlight a project of his in this field, Dr. Muehlenbein and his students have surveyed over 10,000 people (over time) in Malaysia, Japan, St. Kitts, Gibraltar, and South Africa to uncover if ecotourists are aware of their potential contribution to the spread of diseases to and from animals, specifically monkeys and apes — they were not. Dr. Muehlenbein is also leading the Waco COVID-19 survey, working on various projects in evolutionary endocrinology, ecological immunology, and evolutionary medicine, and leads a yearly study abroad trip to Thailand focused on global health.

For more information on Dr. Muehlenbein’s Lab visit: https://michaelmuehlenbein.wordpress.com/

To get involved with research at Baylor visit: https://www.baylor.edu/engagedlearning/index.php?id=970695

Or email me with any questions: Maria_Pratt1@baylor.edu
Mission trips may have been something you participated as a kid or even within this last year and they are a great way to serve those around you, but they are a largely controversial topic within the global health community. There are two sides to the individuals that go on missions, those who are committed to a shorter, more support style mission trip compared to deep, long term missional living. Those taking part in the long term missions take the stance that the true relationships and consistent understanding of the needed work enable them to correctly care for others. On the other hand, short term missionaries aim to relieve and aid others in the immediate working to care for the need in the moment. Both of them are caring in their actions, although both can have negative ramifications of their service. All mission trips are carried out with great intentions, but do you think short term or long term missions are more beneficial for those being cared for? Or do you think it’s just good to serve in the global health field, no matter the consequences?

Short Term Missions Article: https://www.jfas.org/article/S1067-2516(17)30031-5/pdf
Description

Amidst our current global circumstances, attention should be given to epidemiologists, healthcare professionals who work daily to ensure we can both understand the COVID-19 virus and move past it. An epidemiologist is a healthcare specialist with specific training in the “incidence, distribution, and control of disease and other health-related factors.” Epidemiologists are often overlooked when considering the professionals working hard to beat this pandemic, yet they are the workers debatably making the most difference. Epidemiologists have a deep understanding of disease transmission, immunity, population dynamics, and statistics to ultimately shape their knowledge of how diseases come into play and how different populations are able to overcome them. Despite COVID-19’s undoubtable endurance, we should all appreciate epidemiologists for their behind-the-scenes work which allows the healthcare field as a whole to better understand how to manage the infection as well as the next steps to eradicate it.

Education/Training/Specialization

Epidemiologists rely heavily on advanced biology, chemistry, statistical courses, knowledge of theories of pathology and physiology, and are required to be very familiar with advanced public health coursework. There are many branches of epidemiology that vary depending on the type and level of education desired or received. To be considered an epidemiologist, one can attend a masters, doctorate or medical program. There are varying levels of training within epidemiology, which provides flexibility in the training and education necessary to fulfill the job description and flexibility to work in corporations other than hospitals. Epidemiologists can work in offices, laboratories, state and local governments, hospitals, universities, and may also be employed by the federal government to work in agencies like the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (CDC)

A Day in the Life

Epidemiologists have been tracking the coronavirus since the first case popped up in the United States and even before when it first appeared in Wuhan, China. Epidemiologists track the disease, try to determine the rate of transmission, and just how the disease spreads. They spend most of their time either working in a lab, analyzing the disease, or using computer analytics to trace a particular disease and try to determine who patient zero is. Their work hours vary depending on the setting they work in, but during an outbreak or pandemic, they work very long hours because they are the people who are responsible for finding out how the disease spreads and how to prevent that spread so more people do not get infected. They are active members of the community whose job it is to inform the public about how to avoid infection and what to do if infection occurs. Epidemiologists are the first line of defense against a virus like the coronavirus, without their dedicated work the virus would spread uncontrollably and no one would know how to stop it.
Mental Health in Other Countries

The US is ranked #3 for the most anxiety, bipolar disorder, and depression. 1/5 of adults experience mental illness each year, but only 40% of them receive treatment. This may be due to lacking health insurance coverage or a negative stigma surrounding mental health. What improvements can we make? Let us look at other countries…

Finland – “Happiest Country in the World”
Finland has been top ranked in the UN’s World Happiness Report for several years because they have readily available mental health services. One example is a government-funded resource, the Mental Health Hub, which provides online therapies for mental disorders. What sets Finland apart is that they encourage seeking treatment.

China – World’s Highest Rates of Anxiety and Depression
Many people with mental illness in China do not seek treatment because of stigmas and familial obligations. However, China recently recognized the need for acceptance of mental health. China signed the National Mental Health Plan in 2002 to begin raising awareness of mental health treatment.

Disparities in Food and Hunger

The US’s large portion sizes and high obesity rates are no secret. People tend to eat what is in front of them thoughtlessly or relieve stress through food while producing massive amounts of food waste. Meanwhile, several countries around the world are experiencing food shortages, often causing people living there to be malnourished and physically weak. Here are a couple of countries that are experiencing food crises:

Haiti - High Food Insecurity
More than 1/3 of the people living in Haiti need urgent food assistance, which comes out to 3.7 million people. On top of this, about 1 million people are in an emergency situation. This is due to frequent natural disasters and Haiti’s poor financial stability.

Madagascar - Plagued by Droughts
Southern Madagascar has been experiencing a constant drought for three years. This is causing the country’s food crisis to worsen even further. This drought and other extreme weather conditions have been worsening because of climate change, and the effects on the country are only worsened by the likelihood of natural disasters.
Global Health Week (Sep. 7-Sep. 11)
Global Health Week is a string of events put on by the many Baylor Pre-Health organizations designed to educate attendees about various aspects of global health. It will include various workshops, research presentations, and featured guest speakers. You can find the whole list of fantastic events on the Baylor GSSA website here.

Trends in Global Health: One Christian's View
Tuesday, September 8, 4:00pm
How do faith and global health interact? Come join Christian Pre-Health Fellowship (CPF) as they hear from Dr. Lisa Baker, a Baylor professor as well as the founder and CEO of Straw to Bread - a medical, public health, and community development focused outreach program to rural Kenya! If you have any questions, please contact parker_hoffman1@baylor.edu.

Zoom Link: Here

Medicine Through Different Eyes
Wednesday, September 9, 7:00pm
People who come from different cultural backgrounds can have similar and different beliefs regarding health and how medicine plays a role in the maintenance of health. Sponsored by Multicultural Association of Pre-Health Students (MAPS), this virtual seminar aims to explore those beliefs in order to widen student perspectives and help them become culturally competent healthcare professionals. If you have any questions regarding this event, please contact katlin_nguyen1@baylor.edu.

Zoom Link: Here

GSSA Global Health Case Competition
Friday, September 11, 2:00pm-11:59pm
GSSA and SIGHT are hosting the first ever Global Health Case Competition at Baylor University! Teams of up to 10 students will have the opportunity to solve a health crisis that exists in the world today. The case competition will be virtual—students who have signed up will receive the case by email at 2:00pm CST and submit their presentation via a recorded Zoom video by 11:59pm CST. The winners of the competition will be announced on Monday, September 14th, and prizes will be awarded to the winning team! Further details will be outlined for teams signed up by Wednesday, September 9th. If you have any questions, please email cassidy_parshall1@baylor.edu.

Deadline to sign up: Wednesday, September 9, 11:59pm
Sign up form: Here
What she is up to now: Stephanie is currently a first-year dental student at UTHealth School of Dentistry in Houston. She is planning to attend a residency program after dental school and own a private practice later on. She is honored to join the dental profession and cannot wait to improve the lives of her patients one day.

How Baylor has influenced her work: Stephanie stated, “My service experiences at Baylor have greatly impacted my outlook and motivation as I enter the dental profession. The most impactful experience of my undergraduate career was serving on a dental mission trip in Puerto Peñasco, Mexico. I had the opportunity to witness dental care with the goal of alleviating pain and preventing infections in a population with limited resources. It was inspiring to see the impact dentists made on the population by donating their time in the free dental clinic.” In addition, Stephanie also volunteered with Baylor ASDA members at Texas Mission of Mercy (TMOM), a mobile dental clinic that provides free basic dental care to Texans with limited access or resources. Her past role as Baylor ASDA President will also aid in her leadership skills as a dental professional.

Her Advice to Pre-Dent Students: Get involved in the pre-health organizations that you are passionate about. As a pre-dental student, Stephanie was heavily involved in Baylor ASDA, and was able to form connections with like-minded students joining the same profession as her. She was able to connect with her past ASDA mentors for advice during her application and interview seasons—their guidance played a huge role in her success today!

What she would have done differently at Baylor: Living in the busy city of Houston, she finds herself often missing the small-town feel of Waco and the community at Baylor. She encourages everyone to take time to appreciate the amazing community we are part of at Baylor, and soak-in every moment. Stephanie stated, “Baylor provides students with so many opportunities for growth and success, and I am so proud to call myself a Baylor Alumna. Sic’em forever!”
Sic’ Em Bears!

HAVE A QUESTION OR SUGGESTION?
Click HERE to help us make the Newsletter better geared to all students!

WEBSITE

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