

## LETTERS

### REGARDING THE PREVENTION OF GLOBAL CHRONIC DISEASE: ACADEMIC PUBLIC HEALTH'S NEW FRONTIER

It was with great interest that we read the recent article "The Prevention of Global Chronic Disease: Academic Public Health's New Frontier" by Greenberg et al.<sup>1</sup> As members of the Young Professionals' Chronic Disease network, we believe that the importance of educating and training the next generation for global chronic disease prevention and control has been largely missing in current calls to action.<sup>2</sup> In light of the projected human resource shortage<sup>3</sup> and calls for leadership in global health by these same authors in 2007,<sup>4</sup> we agree that new-and-improved public health training paradigms are needed. To that end, we also have publicly reiterated the need for action around training.<sup>5</sup>

Universities are trying to keep pace with growing global health interests of undergraduate and graduate students who are increasingly participating in global health training and extramural activities. However, transdisciplinary training programs that include a combination of public health, global health, epidemiology, biostatistics, medicine, nutrition, economics, anthropology, and law are uncommon in our

experience. We applaud vanguard training programs such as the Fogarty International Clinical Research Scholars' and Fellows' program, Fogarty International Research Training Award (D43) program, and Fulbright Scholar program and believe that leading universities and global health foundations such as Bill and Melinda Gates, Rockefeller, and Ford, among others, should look to programs such as the Wellcome Trust–Department of Biotechnology India Alliance as a roadmap to support pre- and postdoctoral training programs to meet this growing need. Trainees, likewise, have a responsibility to fully engage in their global health studies, a field that is not well suited for dabblers. Early (and repeated) opportunities in global chronic disease training can spark a lifelong career of discovery, training, and collaboration. We hope that universities and funding bodies take the recommendations of Greenberg et al. to heart, and we look forward to the opportunity to codevelop and participate in these efforts. On behalf of the Young Professionals' Chronic Disease Network. ■

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### Contributors

A. Bitton conceived the idea for the letter. M. D. Huffman wrote the first draft. All authors provided significant edits and gave final approval.

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