

# Salud por Derecho – Right to Health Foundation

Madrid, Spain

Mya Abousy '18

Summer 2015



# The Organization

- Nonprofit Global Health Organization
- Universal social health insurance
- Universal access to HIV/AIDS treatment
- Restructuring the Research & Development system of the pharmaceutical industry
  - Worked primarily under this branch throughout the summer



My coworkers and me on the last day of work.

# The Internship

- Work aimed towards the realization of fair access to health on a global scale
- Translation of documents and applications
- Conduct interviews with experts in the global health field
- Development of creative mediums to inform public of issues at hand
- Investigation of best practices for Research and Development

# Highlights

- Participating in meetings with several Spanish representatives of Global Health Organizations
- Conducting interviews and networking with Global Health experts
- Designing mediums that will be used for the premiere of the organization's documentary

## PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

### PROBLEMS

♦ ♦ ♦

#### OVERPRICING OF ESSENTIAL MEDICATIONS

Our current R&D system produces medications that nobody can afford.

#### BROKEN PATENT-BASED SYSTEM

Existing patent-granting process impedes innovation and creates monopolies.

#### LACK OF TRANSPARENCY

R&D costs, research priorities, and results of clinical trials are not published, causing a detrimental waste of resources.

#### QUESTIONABLE ETHICAL PRIORITY

Certain key diseases are neglected because they are not profitable.

“It’s clear that this system isn’t functioning; it has to be changed.”

-Dr. Javier Díaz del Nido  
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

### SOLUTIONS

♦ ♦ ♦

#### RETHINK THE SYSTEM

Separate paying for R&D from the price of medicine (delinkage) through alternative models for R&D.

#### PROTECT THE PUBLIC, NOT THE PATENTS

Introduce conditions in public investment and universities' licensing of their research to protect public interest when public money is involved.

#### ENCOURAGE COLLABORATION AND TRANSPARENCY

Promote faster innovation by imploring the full transparency and openness of medical findings and costs.

#### PRIORITIZE HEALTH OVER PROFIT

Respond to the public's current health needs.  
Pressure government to improve R&D regulations.

A page of a brochure that  
I created with another  
Princeton student

# What I Gained From Work

- Priceless knowledge on a topic in which all should be well-versed
- Connections into the Global Health world
- Language skills
- Design skills
- Research skills

# Living Abroad

- Changes you in ways you would never predict
- Forces you to think and act independently
- Challenges you to meet new people in a foreign environment
- Rapidly improves your language skills
- Creates the perfect environment for an incredible experience



# Madrid: The best city in the world

















