Salud por Derecho — Right to Health Foundation

Madrid, Spain

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

-Dr. Javier Díaz del Nido
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

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.

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 improving 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.
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