



GLOBEMED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

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Introduction

Co-Presidents, Payal Morari and Vivek Viswanath

Hello all! It's been a rousing start to another great year ahead of us here at GlobeMed at the University of Rochester. Our semester began with two milestone moments: our most successful GROW trip in recent years and our most successful recruitment ever!

Yes, our magnificent GROW interns have reenergized our chapter and strengthened the bond with our partner SOVA, laying the foundation for a lasting relationship of mutual dedication to securing global health equity.

But as if we couldn't get more pumped up, we are proud to welcome an additional twenty two new members to the fold. Our incoming batch is our most diverse yet, with applicants spanning from first years to juniors, with majors ranging from art to engineering. Their passion and faith in our mission encourages us and our returning members to continue to build our chapter into a cornerstone for global health on this campus and in the Rochester community.

This year, we aim to provide all our members with opportunities to use their own unique skills and interests to shape our projects and campaigns. In conjunction with our dedicated and tireless e-board, our new members will be able to directly add their prints to the rich tapestry of our chapter's work.

We strive as always to be ever better. To cement our chapter as a house for social justice empowerment and education. To execute projects that can capture the interests of a whole school and unite them in solidarity with a cause. To build relationships with the members of our university and Rochester community. And to let you, our readers know, that we continue to represent the belief and energy of students who strive to make a true and lasting difference.



Alumnus Spotlight

Michael Healey '16, '20M

Before I joined GlobeMed, my understanding of global health was naive at best (and neocolonial at worst). As an eighteen-year-old premedical student, with little knowledge of world history, I imagined that the best way I could help correct global health disparities was to practice medicine in some “developing” country, without bothering to consider the historical patterns of systematic oppression and structural violence that generated those disparities in the first place. But every Sunday afternoon, as I put aside my biology and chemistry textbooks to attend our weekly ghU sessions, my fellow GlobeMedders helped me connect the dots between health inequity and social injustice and, in doing so, challenged me to reconsider my role in the fight for global health equity. Now that I am in medical school, struggling to strike that delicate balance between patients and politics, I am constantly reminded of (and inspired by) those discussions and debates I had, every Sunday afternoon, with those young idealists who challenged me to think more critically about the world and my place in it.



Projects

Fundraising Committee

This upcoming year of Projects will be unlike others in our chapter's history. After years of planning two to three major projects, the Projects committee has changed their approach by planning multiple smaller-scale events throughout the school year. For example, Projects planned and executed its first ever Benefit Talent Showcase on September 29, where performance groups on campus performed for the campus community to benefit our efforts with SOVA. In addition to the Talent Showcase, we have a Date Auction, a Dance Marathon, and many more events in the pipeline, and as always, we will be hosting our signature Benefit Dinner, scheduled for February 23 next semester. While we know many of you have spread throughout the country (and even world at this point), we would be happy to host you at our events. Stay tuned to our future newsletters and social media updates for further details!



ghU

Global Health University

The goal of ghU this academic year is to provide the chapter members the analytical tools to deconstruct and understand various components of complex issues. With this in mind, this summer ghU created a syllabus that would focus on building an analytic foundation that would be supplemented by outside academic readings and guest speakers. So far we have brought in Professor Nancy Chin from the Public Health Department who was able to speak on her anthropological research in Ladakh, India. She touched on the negative consequences that a top-down approach can have, compared to a grassroots approach GlobeMed has taken with SOVA. Having different types of perspectives and approaches to existing problems reiterate the importance of using different frameworks as to come up with new, effective solutions.

In contrast to past years, ghU is now a smaller committee of three members. The purpose of this was to create a think tank of strong members that would have the skills and ability to reshape how ghU operates. Thus far, they have come up with new activities that underscore the importance of knowing one's passion and drive for wanting to change the world around them.



Community Building

Local Outreach Committee

Over the summer, community building worked to build new partnerships with the Rochester community, as well as maintain the partnerships we had from the previous year. One of our continuing relationships is with LVR, Literacy Volunteers of Rochester, an organization that works to promote digital literacy for those people that are not fortunate enough to have a computer readily available to them. As student who are well versed in technology, we go to the public libraries and help these people with basic computer skills, building a resume, and applying for jobs. Among other new partnerships, one big connection we made over the summer was with the Golisano Children's Hospital, through their Friends of Sandy program. In the coming year, we will have opportunities to help with their events, as well as interact with the children and their families at the hospital. The community building committee has been busy building these relationships over the summer and during the first month of school, and we hope to continue to have meaningful partnerships with all of these organizations.

Member Spotlight: Angela Benson '19

2017 GROW Coordinator

"My experience with GlobeMed has been fundamentally shaped by our partner. For the past two years, I was on Partnerships as a committee member and then director, and also had the opportunity to go on GROW twice — first as an intern and then as coordinator. So much of my passion for the club stems from seeing first hand the work SOVA does in Dhenkanal.

I could talk forever about the drive and ambition of SOVA's staff, the tangible impact of the program we're funding, or the warmth and acceptance of the students I've met over the past two years; it still wouldn't be enough to convey how incredible (and kind of unbelievable) it is that the work of a small community at the University of Rochester is being realized as medical education and opportunity for young women in Odisha, India. I'm really grateful that GlobeMed has given me the opportunity to experience that."



Partnerships

Global Outreach Committee

This year, our main goals for the Partnerships committee include maintaining communication with our partner and strengthening the relationship we have with SOVA staff, making our chapter members and donors more informed and passionate about our cause, and planning the GROW trip! Thanks to GROW, we have lot more knowledge and media of our project that the Partnerships committee can use to educate our members at our chapter meetings. Additionally, we plan on making an infographic outlining the important aspects of our partnership for easy reference. Our committee also wants to better incorporate SOVA into our fundraisers so people will be more aware of where donations go and the impact we have on our partner community. To maintain communication with our partner, Partnerships will be working on monthly newsletters, and we hope to receive frequent updates from our partner as well. All committee members are part of a WhatsApp group with SOVA staff, and this will help us easily send pictures and keep in contact (other members are welcome to join!). We also want to have Skype calls to connect our chapter to our partner. In addition, Partnerships will try to be more involved in GROW preparations, acquiring more input from the entire chapter and guiding our interns so we can have a successful trip. There is a lot planned for the upcoming year, and with the amazing members of Partnerships, I am sure that we will have a fun and productive committee!



About our Partner

Who is SOVA?

The Social Organization for Voluntary Action (SOVA) is a grassroots organization based in Odisha, India, a state in the eastern part of the country. Founded in 1989, SOVA works to provide health services, youth training, and natural resource management programs to the underserved rural populations of the Dhenkanal and Angul districts of Odisha.

Fundraising Note

We continue to reach out to local organizations and groups to identify areas of need where we can provide our support and contribute to our local community. Our chapter strives to empower our members as individuals to go forth and contribute their talents to other ventures here in Rochester. With the understanding of public health and social justice gained from our discussions and campaigns, our members lead several initiatives, both personal and on behalf of other organizations, to contribute beyond just our University.

We can't do this without your support! In order to better foster the relationship with our partner through the GROW trip and pay the overhead costs for our events, our non-profit organization requires funding. Please help us by contributing to our organization. You can donate at the following link:

<http://tinyurl.com/RochesterMT>

The University's online giving form allows you to quickly conveniently and securely make a gift online.

FOLLOW THESE EASY STEPS:

- 1) Choose an amount to give under "Gift Information"
- 2) From the drop down list titled "Please designate me gift", select "Other (please specify)"
- 3) In the "Other gift designation" box, write "GlobeMed"
- 4) You will receive an official receipt from the University and your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law

Thank you so much!

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Contact Us

Comments, questions or feedback?

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