



GLOBEMED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

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Introduction

Payal Morari '19 and Vivek Viswanath '18, Co-Presidents

Hello everyone! Since we last updated you all, we said goodbye to 2017 and stepped into a new year. So, without further ado, here are our New Year's resolutions, one month in, to keep you clued in to what we're up to this year, and what we can take away from this past one.

Since our last update, our chapter held its second annual Date Auction. Our fraternities and sororities were in full attendance, as representatives from various chapters, along with our own dashing president, battled it out in a series of party games to win money for our partner, the Social Organization for Voluntary Action (SOVA). Our chapter members came together and drove this event forward, setting up the venue, coordinating the activities, reaching out for co-sponsorships, and further improving our existing relationships with the University community.

After accomplishing that, our members were then ready to plan the biggest event of 2018: our 7th annual Benefit Dinner. As our flagship event, the dinner serves to unite the University and greater Rochester communities for an evening of public health and social justice awareness of our work and that of SOVA. Our members were able to mobilize the campus community and make it an event to remember.

Of course, what makes this new year even sweeter is the culmination of our successful year-end Global Giving campaign, where our members reached out to you, our donors and supporters, to raise \$5,000 for SOVA and the women's medical training program. Every dollar raised has a direct impact on the success of the program, and allows one more young woman to step over social barriers to become a healthcare professional and give back to her own community. It would not have been possible without you, so thank you for your support.

Stay tuned for more updates from us as we continue making and striving to be ever better—for you, for SOVA, for our members, and for our community.

Our warmest regards,

Vivek and Payal
GlobeMed at the University of Rochester Co-Presidents

Inside This Issue

Alumni Spotlight

Learn what one of our GlobeMed alumni is doing in the working world and how GlobeMed has helped shape and impact that experience.

Member Spotlight

Hear from one of the club's members about her experiences in GlobeMed so far and what attracted her to GlobeMed in the first place.

Committee Blurbs

Get caught up on each committee's role within the organization and their goals for the semester.



Member Spotlight:

David Belkin '19

2018 GROW Coordinator



When I joined GlobeMed, I did not expect to have a big impact as a first-year student. My experiences as a member of the partnerships committee and as the GROW coordinator have made me realize how unique GlobeMed is. The fact that the organization gives college students the tools to make real change around the world has inspired me to learn more about public health both inside and outside of the classroom. I'm particularly excited for my second semester, as I will get to conduct research with my GROW team members, learning more about our partner, SOVA, the program that they run, and how public health issues that are common worldwide directly impact organizations like SOVA. I also feel blessed to have the opportunity to visit our partner and see what life is like halfway around the world. I hope that the trip will further grow my passion for public health and heighten my desire to have an impact as a member of GlobeMed.



Projects

Fundraising Committee

As we come off of winter break, the projects committee has had time to reflect on this past semester. Although there is always room for improvement, we are very proud of all the projects that were planned and executed over the past few months! We had several smaller-scale events this semester, including the Talent Showcase, Date Auction, apparel sales, Kaplan Auction, and the Global Giving campaign. Thanks to all these fundraisers, we are right on track to reach our \$11,000 goal for SOVA! Our next big event was the 7th annual Benefit Dinner on February 23, and it was a successful one! We had performance groups, raffles, and awesome speakers that kept us entertained throughout the night. Unlike in years past, we did some more outreach to the greater Rochester community, truly making this an event for everyone. With such a great semester behind us, all of us on the projects committee are looking forward to sustaining the momentum this spring.



ghU

Global Health University

Our chapter of GlobeMed has continuously had our weekly Global Health University (ghU) discussions, where we strive to foster an environment that stimulates intense discourse about relevant international and national topics. As ghU co-coordinators, we have been able to truly see the metamorphosis within our "GlobeMedders" as each week passes by with new subjects of discussion, from capital punishment to humans, food, and the environment to women in controlled societies. Our chapter has progressed exponentially in terms of learning different perspectives and tackling the hard, controversial topics of our current political, social, and economic climates.



Community Building

Local Outreach Committee

During the fall semester, the community building committee worked to improve the relationships between our chapter members, as well as build relationships with the greater Rochester community. As a committee, we have planned multiple social events for our chapter, such as a Thanksgiving potluck dinner and a Secret Santa exchange. Events like these promote the strengthening of the relationships in our chapter and allow our members to spend time together outside of our weekly meeting. In terms of volunteering, we helped set up the Golisano Children's Hospital annual gala, as well as volunteered with an organization called Metro Justice at their holiday market. Although we haven't gone to volunteer with other organizations yet this semester, we have formed connections with Bivona, a child advocacy center, and with our local chapter of SNaHP, a student group focusing on healthy policy reform. This spring, we have plans to volunteer at the aforementioned organizations, as well as continue to strengthen the intrachapter relationships we built this semester.



Alumnus Spotlight: Shakti Rambarran '16

The main thing I've learned the most from GlobeMed is how to respect and value community partners that I work with. In May, I'll receive my master's degree in public health from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. During my time at Columbia, I've worked closely with renowned professors and professionals in the fields of sexuality, sexual, and reproductive health — including a vice president of education for Planned Parenthood, and a senior fellow at the Guttmacher Institute. With their guidance, I teach sex education to middle schoolers in NYC.

Yet, despite my formal academic and professional training, I still don't believe I have most or all of the information needed to do my job, since it's based in a community I'm not deeply immersed in. This perspective is thanks to GlobeMed. To some people, that may sound defeating — but to me, it's humbling. GlobeMed continuously reminded that community members are experts in their own ways, and can provide valuable insight that's critical to the success of any program. That remains true even if our partners have access to fewer resources and benefits than we've had, and will continue to have. Without their insight and guidance, our sex education program could easily crumble (and that's no exaggeration).

GlobeMed taught me that the community members that I work with are the very backbone of work that I do. Even in times where my education and networks may trick me into feeling like I know more or are more capable of executing a task on my own, I remember: I may feel like the head of the program, but the community members are the neck that move and support the head.

Partnerships

Global Outreach Committee

This semester, the partnerships committee aimed to further the relationship with our international partner, SOVA, and educate the chapter and community more about the impact of SOVA's Medical Assistant Training Program, the project that our chapter helps fund. We created a group chat with SOVA staff members to maintain constant communication, and this has helped us send pictures and updates much more efficiently. Some chapter members also got to communicate with the director of SOVA via Skype, and we plan on having more calls. We also organized an activity during a chapter meeting, setting up different stations to learn more about different aspects of our partnership. Additionally, our committee created infographics, videos, and information documents for our chapter as well as a newsletter for our partner. This semester, our committee will help with preparations for the GROW summer internship and continue to educate the University community about SOVA.

Communications

Internal and External Public Relations

Last semester, the communications committee was able to launch a website and to stylize new designs for our different social media platforms. In the upcoming weeks, our committee will start a blog where we will share information about GlobeMed meetings, events, and projects. Regarding external public relations, our team is focusing on creating a promotional video for the benefit dinner, which will then be used to create a general promotional video our chapter later in the semester.



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 the University, local, and global communities.

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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Comments, questions or feedback?

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