4/7/17 On World Health Day global health leaders release Consensus Statement “Achieving Health Equity This Generation: The Case for Social Medicine” to address gross inequities in the care of the poor

Boston, MA – April 5, 2017
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More than 250 global health leaders, educators, practitioners and medical and nursing trainees have signed a consensus statement under the umbrella of the Social Medicine Consortium. The statement calls for the transformation of health professional training to address social and structural determinants of health. The Consortium integrates the social context of patients and communities to address unequal contexts on the lives and deaths of the poor and marginalized. The statement release is followed by a conference on April 29 in Chicago. The statement is being released on World Health Day, the anniversary of the founding of the World Health Organization.

Link to Consensus Statement: https://goo.gl/s9sUp6

Countries represented include: US, Canada, Cambodia, Haiti, India, Lebanon, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Panama, Rwanda, Uganda, Zimbabwe

Notable individual signatories:

- **Paul Farmer**, Co-Founder and **Joia Mukherjee**, Chief Medical Officer, Partners In Health,
- **Jack Geiger**, Founder Physicians for Human Rights and Physicians for Social Responsibility,
- **David Ansell**, author of the critical history of Cook County Hospital and Senior Vice President and Associate Provost for Community Health Equity, Rush University Medical Center,
- **Fitzhugh Mullan**, pioneer in human resources for health, former Assistant Surgeon General, founding Chair of Seed Global Health, Professor of Health Policy, George Washington University,
- **Felicia Knaul**, Director, University of Miami Institute for Advanced Study of the Americas,
- **Gad Ruzaza Ndaruhutse**, Head, Community Based Education Program. Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda,
- **Khameer Kidia**, Executive Director, Kushinga Mental Health, Zimbabwe,
- **Ed Ehlinger**, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Health will sign in a public ceremony.

Notable organization signatories: HealthLeads, EqualHealth, Beyond Flexner, SocMed, ZanmiLasante

The Consortium was co-founded by Drs. Michael Westerhaus of the University of Minnesota and co-founder of SocMed, and Michelle Morse of Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and co-founder of EqualHealth. Dr. Morse describes the goal of the statement: “We have no illusion that we can rapidly reverse several hundred years of evolution of health systems and health professionals education rooted in racism, sexism, classism, eugenics, exclusion, careerism, colonial medicine, and a refusal to truly address the root causes of illness which are the social determinants of health. We do believe that this movement in social medicine has arrived at a special moment. The consensus statement and upcoming conference really represent that.”

The Social Medicine Consortium is a collective of committed individuals, universities and organizations fighting for health equity through education, training, service and advocacy, with social medicine at its core. Founding members include EqualHealth and SocMed and supporting members include Partners In Health and the Brigham and Women’s Hospital Division of Global Health Equity. The Consortium was co-founded by Drs. Michelle Morse and Michael Westerhaus.

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4/29/17 Chicago conference proposes changes to how health professionals are trained in the US and globally

*Boston, MA – April 4, 2017*

The Social Medicine Consortium will host, “Beyond Reimagining Praxis, Social Medicine in Practice Today”, on April 29 at Malcolm X College in Chicago. The conference is dedicated to understanding the social determinants that impact the health of underserved populations and developing collaborative approaches to improve the health of all individuals, convening national and global leaders reinforcing their commitment to social medicine through critical dialogue and dissemination of best practices.

400 attendees are expected. Veteran Chicago healthcare leader, David Ansell, Senior Vice President and Associate Provost for Community Health Equity, Rush University Medical Center has spearheaded the event. Organizers describe the meeting as a launch of collaboration addressing fundamentally how medicine and nursing are typically taught: too often ignoring the social determinants of health that account for 80% of health outcomes. The conference will sustains an international effort to impact policy and pedagogy in medical and nursing training.

**Keynote speakers include:**
- Julie Morita, MD. Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health
- Camara Jones, MD, MPH, PhD. Family physician and epidemiologist, immediate past president APHA
- Joia Mukherjee, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Partners in Health

**Sponsors include:**
- The Health Research & Educational Trust of the American Hospital Association
- Partners in Health
- ACGME-International
- Rush University Medical Center’s Center for Community Health Equity
- ACGME-International
- DePaul University
- Loyola University
- Northwestern University and the Northwestern Office of Institutional Diversity & Inclusion
- Resurrection University School of Nursing and Allied Health
- University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- The Division of Global Health Equity of Brigham and Women’s Hospital
- University of Minnesota
- The Physicians Foundation
- The Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation

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**Dr. Michelle Morse** is Founding Co-Director of EqualHealth, an Instructor at Harvard Medical School and in the Brigham and Women’s Hospital Division of Global Health Equity and Assistant Program Director for the Internal Medicine residency at BWH. She works to strengthen and transform medical education globally, and expand teaching on social medicine in the US and abroad through her role at EH and her collaborations with Partners In Health and University of Global Health Equity. Dr. Morse works clinically as a hospitalist at BWH.

**Dr. Michael Westerhaus** is an internal medicine primary care physician at the Center for International Health in St. Paul, MN. As an Assistant Professor of the Global Health Faculty at the University of Minnesota, he works both in Minnesota and in northern Uganda to improve community-based primary care delivery, teach about the social determinants of health, and build partnerships based upon solidarity that advances health equity. He co-founded SocMed, a non-profit social justice non-profit working to expand engagement with the social determinants of health through education and movement building.