



## IN THIS ISSUE:

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- PHA3 mobilisation in South Africa continues
- IPHU in New York, USA plans for the future

## WHO Watchers Share WHA Experience

THE 64<sup>TH</sup> WORLD Health Assembly (WHA) was held in **Geneva in May**. PHM's WHO Watch project was on hand to observe the events and make **PHM's stand on agenda items** clear and known. The experience as a WHO Watcher gives young activists a singular opportunity to witness and learn first-hand global decision making on matters which affect global health. Kemi Bello (Nigeria) and Camila Giugliani (Brazil) were two WHO Watchers present in Geneva who were significantly enriched by their experience.

WHO Watchers spent time reviewing and discussing the agenda for the Assembly to gain more thorough understanding of the topics to be addressed. According to Camila, pouring through the entire agenda for the WHA **was exhausting "but going through all the items gave us a**

good idea of the WHA process as a whole and challenged [the Watchers] to study topics that [they] were not very familiar with." Moreover, being able to attend many of the sessions fostered a clearer understanding of how WHO and the WHA, particularly, operates

Watchers were able to meet and discuss health issues with people influential in global health including Dr. Halfdan Mahler a former WHO director general under whom the Alma Ata declaration (that defined the Global Strategy for Health for All by the Year 2000) was adopted. Dr. Halfdan shared stories and experiences from his career and fielded questions from Watchers. Kemi was also able to meet with the delegations from Nigeria and other African

**Countries who, she says, "were much more open to discussion than they would ordinarily have**

**been back home."**

Reflecting on her experience as a WHO Watcher, Camila felt that sharing ideas and perspectives among Watchers from across the globe fosters development of **"objective and realistic tasks" which can be implemented within local PHM circles**. The time spent at the Assembly left Kemi with many questions such as how the WHO has gotten in the **position of being swayed by "big actors" and why there seems to be so much emphasis placed on the "wrong" things**. However, she concludes that she sees **"a new 'people oriented' WHO coming, though it may take some time and hard work."**

For more information about PHM's activity at the 64<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly and this WHO Watch, visit [www.ghwatch.org](http://www.ghwatch.org).

## PHM Uganda and IFHHRO Enhance Partnership

Contributed by Lydia Aballa

IN AN EFFORT to build and strengthen the movement of health activists in Uganda, PHM was invited to facilitate a training seminar for nurses and paramedics on *Health and Human Rights* which was held May 26-27, 2011.

The seminar was organised by the International Federation of Health and Human Rights Organisations (IFHHRO) in partnership with Action Group for Health, Human Rights and HIV/AIDS in Uganda (AGHA-U).



Students at the training event

There were several goals the event hoped to accomplish. First, building and

strengthening the capacity of nurses and paramedics to advocate for health and human rights in their current and future practice as health professionals was a key focus. In addition, identifying and explaining to nurses and paramedics the importance and relevance of health and human rights in their daily professional practice was discussed. Finally, key strategies and techniques to identify and prevent violations of health rights in health

## From the Global Secretariat

Greetings!

Since the last newsletter, the WHO Watchers did a fantastic job 'watching' the proceedings at the World Health Assembly in Geneva; there has been an IPHU course in the Bronx, New York; and PHM coordinated a response to the WHO draft technical paper prepared for the World Conference on Social Determinants of Health available [here](#).

PHA3 planning is well underway!! The global secretariat has supported PHM South Africa in setting up a Local Organising Committee (LOC) which is currently focusing on mobilisation and bringing together civil society in preparation for PHA3. PHM groups in Africa are setting up a Regional PHA3 Mobilisation Committee to ensure a strong African position is presented at the PHA3. PHA3 mobilisation activities are picking up around the world, so please post your ideas, activities and pictures in the new PHA3 facebook group (Third People's Health Assembly)!

To make the PHM website more user friendly, we have changed the layout. Please check out the new website [www.phmovement.org](http://www.phmovement.org) and give us your feedback.

The Right to Health Campaign Commission has submitted a final draft of Phase II of the campaign to the Steering Council. We hope to share recommendations and to launch this second phase very soon!

In the coming months our focus will be on further planning, preparation and mobilisation towards the PHA3 and the launch of Global Health Watch3.

Best Wishes,  
The Global Secretariat

## Liberation Medicine and Psychology Conference Sees PHM Attendees

Liberation Medicine and Liberation Psychology, a Confrontation in Latin America and the West: co-sponsored by Doctors for Global Health Europe on 5 March 2011 in Torino, Italy Liberation **Medicine is "the conscious, conscientious use of health to promote social justice and human dignity," a central tenant of PHM member-group Doctors for Global Health ([www.dghonline.org](http://www.dghonline.org))** and Liberation Psychology is a social movement celebrating the teachings of Ignacio Martin-Baro. University of Central America psychologist and Jesuit priest killed by a death squad in El Salvador on 16 November 1989, who said: **"in our times the job of the social scientist should not be so much to explain the world as to change it."**

On 5 March 2011 in Torino, Italy, representatives from movements in Venezuela, France, Italy, El Salvador, the United States, and Switzerland participated in an event to explore perspectives on Liberation Medicine and Liberation Psychology. Artistic expression with multi-media dramatic

reading, reflections from the writings of

Ignacio Martin-Baro, presentations on the work of local movements within Italy and abroad, focus on the Community of Santa Marta—El Salvador and accompaniment with liberation psychology in its response to recent death-squad threats and murders of community leaders involved in anti-mining activism, and philosophical re-visiting of why liberation is central to human dignity were among the themes provoking discussion and action-potential. PHM representation included Dr. Chiara Bodini, Director of the Center of International Health, University of Bologna, Italy, and Dr. Lanny Smith, DGH Liberation Medicine Counsel and PHM Global Steering Group member, both recently returned from the **PHM International People's Health University in Senegal.**

Sponsors of the Event included: Psicologi per i Popoli, Psicologi nel Mondo and Doctors for Global Health.



Event organizers

## News in Brief

**FINAL JOURNEY OF PROF. BALA** — PHM Sri Lanka shared the news of the passing of PHM co-founder Professor K. Balasubramaniam, Professor Balas, as he was affectionately known, was advisor to PHM Sri Lanka and formerly the Advisor and Coordinator of Health Action International (HAI) Asia-Pacific. He passed away on April 18, 2011 after a brief illness. **Prof. Bala's death is a great loss not only to PHM Sri Lanka but also to the country and region.** Until his death, Prof. Bala advocated for rational drug use, patients rights, primary health care and among other critical public health issues. Prof. Bala was laid to rest on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and all PHM Sri Lanka member organizations were represented at his funeral. PHM conveys its deepest sympathies to **the late Prof. Bala's wife and family.**

**WORLD CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH** — The World Health Organization ([WHO](#)) is convening the World Conference on Social Determinants of Health ([WCSDH](#)) from 19-21 October 2011 in Rio de Janeiro with the support of the

Government of Brazil. The Conference will be organized in accordance with the Resolution 62.14 of the 62<sup>nd</sup> World Health Assembly and as a follow-up for the work of the WHO Commission on the Social Determinants of Health ([CSDH](#)). The WHO **has published a 'Draft Technical Paper'** on the WCSDH and initiated a consultation around it through inviting online submissions. PHM, in association with several public interest groups and networks, coordinated a collective civil society response to the Draft Technical Paper which we strongly believe is a step back from the **report of the CSDH 'Closing the Gap in a Generation: Health equity through action on social determinants of health'**.

**UPDATE: RIGHT TO HEALTH CAMPAIGN** — The Right to Health Commission has completed its report on Phase II of the Right to Health Campaign. The report will be submitted to the Steering Council for review. The report reflects an emphasis on movement building through growing in-country networks as well as facilitating communication and action between countries.

# IPHU New York, USA Movement Building through Action For Health

## IPHU Participants: In the Field and Toward the Future

Contributed by Laura Turiano

**PHM USA's second IPHU brought** together 30+ activists from the US and around the world during the first week of June to focus on learning for movement building.

New elements were added to the core IPHU topics in-



cluding the popular education method **"Theatre of the Oppressed"** and organising small groups around actual health projects.

Participants presented a proposal, developed as part of the application process, for an action toward health for all. Small groups

worked to develop these project ideas by applying the learning from course presentations and discussions. Presenting their projects gave participants time to reconsider current or new action, evaluating how it fits into the broader movement, and build skills to speak convincingly about their work.

Participants made trips to the South Bronx (the poorest congressional district in the US) to see some community based health projects. These included a community garden, a Cambodian refugee center, a coalition to support people coming out of prison, and a neighborhood hip-hop and art center.

Future action that has emerged from this IPHU includes the small group projects, a new PHM USA student circle (email [phmsc@lists.riseup.net](mailto:phmsc@lists.riseup.net)), an emerging solidarity relationship between or-

ganizations of health professionals and people affected by environmental health problems in the Gulf of Mexico region of Texas and Louisiana, and the next IPHU in Galveston, TX. Several issues were raised for the upcoming PHM USA national meeting and the PHA3, most importantly, how PHM globally and in the US can act more strategically to challenge US hegemony and its negative effects on health worldwide.

For more information and blog posts from the IPHU go to <http://www.socialmedicine.org/>.



IPHU Participants hear about the **"Health is Justice"** campaign in the temple of the Cambodian Neighborhood Center.

**"I want to express the appreciation that I** have for all of you. There were those of you who imparted great knowledge as teachers/presenters, those who shared knowledge as cohorts and those who let us into their communities through sharing. At each stage all of you made me feel safe in sharing and expression. The depth of knowledge of many issues facing the citizens of the world was breathtaking. I learned an extraordinary amount of information that will be of great use for me and the organization that I serve **in the community."** —IPHU Alumnus



**"Brothers and sisters from all parts of the** world: Thank you for a most memorable, reflection, and hopeful experience. Full of love, inspiration and gratefulness, I sincerely hope this MOVEMENT grows and becomes instrumental in turning the world upside down, towards the GREATER GOOD for all. Hoping to keep growing **together..."** —IPHU Alumnus

## Teaching Theatre of the Oppressed

Contributed by John Sullivan

**AGUSTO BOAL'S Theatre of the Oppressed (TO)** provides a dialogic structure for deep tissue conversations about social, political and economic power dynamics. The IPHU focused on the systems that produce well-being or sickness and provided a rich context for envisioning a liberating alternative reality.

During the IPHU in NY, we applied the TO lens to systemic dysfunctions in social / economic relations between the global South and the North, with learning community members from both places helping each other build a model that reflected our comprehensive lived reality.

I was most gratified by

the opportunity to represent the struggles of environmental justice communities from the Gulf Coast of the USA to such a vibrant multicultural group. IPHU participants from the Texas Gulf region represented the cumulative burdens – toxic exposures, negative social determinants of health, and underlying lack of racial justice – that their petrochemical industry fence line communities endure on a daily basis.



We saw the possibilities of expanding our networks, uniting Health and Environmental (and Climate) Justice activists in something bigger and more powerful, rooted in images of justice, health, collective empowerment, and reverence for what we call home: the places where we play, work, love and respectfully live.

# People's Health Assembly 3

## PHA3 Mobilisation in South Africa

Cape Town — ON THE 14<sup>th</sup> of May, PHM SA held a strategising workshop for key stakeholders of South African Civil Society to define a way forward for South African mobilisation toward PHA3 and how to connect with mobilization activities around the world. Participants included civil society organisations, academics and health activists.



Participants at PHA3 workshop on held in Cape Town on May 14

Leading up to this workshop, several civil society meetings were convened in which activists and organisations identified common issues and discussed what action is necessary. The organisations proposed the following issues as starting points for mobilisation: rural

health, migrants and refugees, people with mental and physical disabilities, health and environment, and gender and reproductive justice. The number of subgroups will grow as more organisations come on board and choose to mobilise along new issues which will be aligned with the general themes of the PHA3.

One of the major strategies for mobilisation is to collect and share testimonies and success stories to learn from organisations facing similar issues, and identifying joint action. Organisations are incorporating these activities in their current work. Another strategy discussed is

collecting comments on the People's Charter for Health to ensure that all relevant issues are covered.

In South Africa PHA3 is seen as an opportunity to build a strong and progressive national health movement, and efforts are being made to ensure that engagements, collaboration and activities go beyond July 2012 when the PHA3 takes place.



Leslie London of PHM-SA facilitates workshop session

More  
PHA3  
Activity

Find our facebook groups:

[Third People's Health Assembly](#)

[Students for the People's Charter for Health](#)



A website dedicated to PHA3 is underway. In the meantime, to find out more information about PHA3 e-mail [pha3@phmovement.org](mailto:pha3@phmovement.org).

A contest to create a unique logo for PHA3 has been initiated. The contest is open to aspiring artists of all ages. For more information contact [pha3@phmovement.org](mailto:pha3@phmovement.org).

### Calling all Students!

PHM student leaders are currently mobilising students and student societies/organisations from all over the world to raise awareness and start discussions about the **People's Charter for Health**, the barriers to access healthcare and services in our society, and the ways in which our organisations are overcoming these barriers. Our goal is to build a network of students to become part of, and energise, a much-needed global

movement towards a healthy world.

To get involved, join the facebook group Students for the Peoples Charter for Health or get your society/student organisation **to endorse the People's Charter for Health**. Also, let us know what **you're dong to promote and advocate** for health and the social determinants of health. For more information please contacts [simonmendelson@gmail.com](mailto:simonmendelson@gmail.com).

### Africa Region Mobilisation

Several pre-PHA3 mobilisation activities have begun in the Africa region, and to coordinate efforts towards the assembly four sub-regional mobilization committees have been formed for West, East, Southern and Central Africa. A regional mobilisation committee will be developed from representatives of these sub-regions.

PHM contacts exist in several countries **within each region**. To find your country's representative and to find out more about the PHA3 mobilization in your country or regionally in Africa visit the PHM Africa blog at [www.phmafrica.blogspot.com](http://www.phmafrica.blogspot.com) or visit the PHM Africa [facebook](#) page.



# PHM Around the World

## Peru

PHM Peru joined other organizations, institutions and networks supporting the advancement of health in the country in publicised statements pressuring national electoral candidates to commit to the development of a better public health system in the country. The statements expressed disappointment that the government has not yet fulfilled the Acuerdo de Partidos Politicos en Salud and has not effectively handled improving the determinants of health in Peru. The statements stressed that the health system in Peru is in a state of emergency and that political parties should commit to reforming the system so that it is sustainable, universal and democratic.

## Pakistan

In Pakistan, a new policy, 'Framework on Economic Growth' has been approved by the Prime Minister. In addition to economic reforms, it contains health reforms, namely, people's accountability through establishing the office of a health ombudsman. Dr. Talib Lashari, state health official and friend of PHM championed these reforms. The document can be accessed at [www.planningcommission.gov.pk](http://www.planningcommission.gov.pk).

## Rwanda

The PHM Rwanda has just been initiated, but the circle is seeing good progress. There are now about 30 members from different organizations. Members of the circle participated actively in the international summit of community health and comprehensive primary health care. Also, the circle participated with UNAIDS on the campaign to persuade pharmaceutical companies to release new generation antiretroviral treatments in developing countries.

## Nigeria

PHM Nigeria has grown quite significantly driven by IPHU alumni and other interested organisations in Nigeria. The Circle is in the process of trying to register or partner with an organisation to ensure better coordination of the PHM Nigeria activities. PHM Nigeria has submitted a memorandum in response to a call for submissions on Health Rights in Nigeria. To strengthen efforts, the PHM Lagos chapter held a meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2011 to plan activities. For more details on PHM Nigeria please contact the PHM Nigeria focal person Kemi Bello [kemmie56@yahoo.com](mailto:kemmie56@yahoo.com).

# Of Interest



Martin Donohoe, friend of PHM-USA, actively maintains his website Public Health and Social Justice. The website contains a wealth of information including articles, slide shows, syllabi and other documents relevant to topics in public health and social justice. It is aimed at students, educators and the general public and all slide shows are open access. Recently Dr. Donohoe updated the site to include information about PHM and its global activities. The website can be accessed at [phsj.org](http://phsj.org).

XVIth Conference of the International Association of Health Policy: Crisis of Capitalism and Health  
In collaboration with the Turkish Medical Association and with the support of Cankaya Municipality, the IAHPPE will hold its conference in Ankara, Turkey from 29 September-2 October 2011. For details and more information, please visit <http://www.healthp.org/node/287>.

## Get Involved!

There are always many opportunities to get involved with PHM. Consider some of the following:

- Read, endorse and sign the Peoples Charter for Health at <http://tinyurl.com/peoplescharterforhealth>.
- Contribute photos, short news stories, announcements or other information to the newsletter.
- **Keep up with what's happening in PHM Africa** at [www.phmafrica.blogspot.com](http://www.phmafrica.blogspot.com).
- Connect with us on facebook!

Organise toward PHA3! Regional events can be used for mobilisation towards the Assembly. Consider some of these ideas..

- Developing action plans to campaign toward a **shared agenda for people's health**
- Plan actions around a Right to Health Campaign
- Use events to develop testimonies, case studies and discussion papers
- Find our facebook group: **Third People's Health Assembly 3—PHA#**

## Future Activity

- **International People's Health University** (IPHU), London, England: 15 October—26 November 2011. Contact [IPHU@phmovement.org](mailto:IPHU@phmovement.org) for details and registration information.
- **People's Health Assembly 3, Cape Town** South Africa. July 2012.

### Newsletter Submissions

You are welcome to make submissions to be included in the next edition of PHM Global News.

News can include (but is not limited to) the following:

- Brief news of your activity as a PHM representative or news of special interest to PHM (200-250 words)
- Announcements of research, book releases, conferences, or other important activities or dates
- Reports on country circle or regional activities (150-200 words)

Submissions should be made by 5 October 2011 to [leigh.kamore@gmail.com](mailto:leigh.kamore@gmail.com)

## A few Words from the Editor

IT WAS A challenge for me to coordinate this edition of PHM Global News. Just as the submission period closed and I was receiving e-mails from people all over the world with input for content, I began a "slight" transition.

I traveled from Cape Town, South Africa to Playa Hermosa and San Jose, Costa Rica then, home, to Texas and finally to Seattle, Washington all in about six weeks. This was a first for me—I had never travelled so much in my life! I was concerned that I wouldn't be able to finish this edition with me being in several different places and very busy for that short

period of time. But much to my delight, *this* issue is here!

Working with such brilliant people who understand the challenges of communicating from different time zones, countries and even languages gave me a brief, but very clear, view of the singular nature of PHM and why the movement will continue to grow and achieve its ultimate goal: individuals for whom any **obstacle is no limitation**. **"Thank you" to all of you amazing people!**

All the best,  
Leigh  
[leigh.kamore@gmail.com](mailto:leigh.kamore@gmail.com)

Health for All Now!  
People's Health Movement



People's Health Movement promotes Health for All Now as a human rights issue and calls for changes in international and domestic policy which negatively impacts health status and systems. Please feel free to visit our website or contact us with any questions or for information about PHM in your area.

Contact us:  
[globalsecretariat@phmovement.org](mailto:globalsecretariat@phmovement.org)

Visit our website:  
[www.phmovement.org](http://www.phmovement.org)