

Root Out, Reach Out:

Medical Students Taking Action in Addressing the Social Determinants of Health

Sunday, July 8, 2012, 17.00-19.00 hrs Room B2, University of the Western Cape

Speakers:

Ramon Lorenzo Luis R. Guinto, MD (Philippines)

IFMSA Regional Coordinator for the Asia-Pacific and Founding Coordinator of the IFMSA Global Health Equity Initiative

Usman Ahmad Mushtaq (Norway)

IFMSA Liaison Officer to the World Health Organization and Head of IFMSA Rio+20 delegation

Joel Buenaventura, MD MPH (Philippines)

Former IFMSA Regional Coordinator for the Asia-Pacific and Municipal Health Officer, San Jose, Romblon, Philippines

This workshop aims to introduce the work of the **International Federation of Medical Students' Associations** on global health equity and social determinants of health. Founded three years after the creation of the WHO, IFMSA is a global network of 1.3 million medical students from 101 countries whose mission is to "develop culturally sensitive students of medicine, intent on influencing the transnational inequalities that shape the health of our planet." In 2011, IFMSA made a huge stride by placing global health equity and action on social determinants of health as a key policy and advocacy focus, culminating in the creation of a new Global Health Equity Initiative a year later.

IFMSA has been actively lobbying for health equity in important international dialogues, including the annual UN climate change conferences, the WHO World Conference on Social Determinants of Health, and most recently Rio+20 Summit. The experience of IFMSA illustrates why and how the energy and enthusiasm of medical students and young people should and could be harnessed by the global health community for education, research, advocacy, and service towards global health equity. IFMSA provides an alternative venue for the breeding of a new generation of health leaders and change agents.

