

**Fulbright New Century Scholars Program 2001-2002:  
Challenges of Health in a Borderless World**

**Recommendations for Sustaining and Expanding The New Century Scholar Effort**

**Pan American Health Organization, Washington, D.C.**

**6 November 2002**

As a community of scholars, we found the NCS process to be exceptionally valuable. Therefore, we are committed to continuing this important effort to improve health by advocating innovation in public health policy and practice on a global level. Toward this end, we propose the following agenda for action, which we have chosen to call Global Health Studies. As scholars concerned with knowledge production and dissemination, we propose to act as advocates for innovation in the following areas: research, training and capacity-building, community involvement/service, and policy.

**What do we want to do ?**

- Stimulate innovations in global health epistemology, policy, and practice in order to advance the health and well-being of all people.

**Where will we work ?**

- We will work on linked, collaborative research projects that build between the local and the global, with stakeholders at all levels of governance: communities, national ministries, multilateral agencies, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions.
- We will work to place Global Health Studies on the priority agenda of public and private funding agencies. This will overcome the existing and entrenched divisions between domestic, international, and global funding.

**What specific initiatives do we recommend ?**

*Educational Development*

- Introduce courses and innovative curricula that bridge different disciplines and their paradigms to create an integrated multi-disciplinary approach that incorporates transnational competencies.
- Create short term and/or summer educational and training programs in Global Health Studies.
- Expand the multi-disciplinary approach to global health in other related programs (e.g. environmental studies) and other disciplines (e.g. international relations).
- Identify and support existing and new interdisciplinary programs in global health studies. Through our program, one such initiative is underway in Uganda.
- Engage in theory building that integrates research from local to global levels of analysis.
- Explore e-based training, outreach, and education.

- Engage in a proactive dissemination and publication program in a variety of modes and venues, ranging from web-based to locally available publications, in an effort to reach many different audiences, stakeholders, and language groups.

#### *Professional Development*

- Establish *global health scholar-in-residence* programs for both academics and practitioners in a wide range of institutions, including intergovernmental organizations (PAHO, WHO, World Bank, WTO), national agencies (CDC, NIH, NIMH, and ministries), bilateral aid organizations, foundations, universities, and non-governmental organizations, and community-based associations. Such programs should be structured to allow for a three-way interaction of local organizations, national health ministries, and multilateral/donor agencies, within a global health framework.
- Implement, as a mirror to the *scholar-in-residence* program, a *global health student-in-residence* program, with local, on the ground, international/indigenous non-governmental organizations.
- Devote attention to converting research into action, capacity-building, and policy.
- To further their research, educational and professional development aims, the New Century Scholars moved to constitute an association of scholars and practitioners including those beyond the original NCS group. This association will act as a forum for debate on global health issues by sponsoring scientific meetings and conferences, disseminating new knowledge and findings through working papers, books, and a journal, and by contributing to the education of global health professionals through short courses and curricular development. This association will promote the recommendations of this document.

#### *Program Development: Fulbright Specific Recommendations*

We want to congratulate the Fulbright Scholar Program for this innovative approach to collaborative research and learning. We strongly encourage the Fulbright Program to continue to explore global initiatives of academic exchange and cooperation. Looking back on our experiences, we recommend:

- Similar global initiatives have more time to develop long-term collaborative projects.
- Incentives to continue collaborative and innovative research; for example, a second tier of proposals be invited for team projects that grow out of the first phase of individual research projects.
- The Fulbright Program should establish a parallel New Century Student Program.
- A decentralized approach that engages binational Fulbright Commissions/posts in global issues.
- All NCS initiatives support publication and dissemination activities.
- Encourage the interaction of the thematic groups of New Century Scholars.

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