

Letter to the Editor

Global Health Training—One Way Street?

Dear Sir:

In the last issue of the *Journal*, Crump and Sugarman, on behalf of the Working Group on Ethics Guidelines for Global Health Training,¹ propose a set of ethics and best practice guidelines for training experiences in global health. The manuscript acknowledges the issues of reciprocity and long-term partnerships between developed and developing country partners. However, global health training, as the manuscript reflects, is still focused on training students from rich countries (paying high tuition fees to their institutions), and not quite contributing to leverage the underlying disparities.

We want to comment on the important issue of bi-directionality, introduced early on page 1179 (“*Although the guidelines are predominantly focused on ethical issues for programs sending trainees from wealthier to less wealthy settings, many of the principals also apply to bi-directional trainee exchanges*”) and not further elaborated in the paper. As health researchers living and working in a developing—less wealthy, less developed, under-resourced, or poorer—country, we have to disagree with such a limited conception. If the goal is to maximize benefit for every party involved—assumedly this is precisely why it is called global health—then these guidelines and their potential impact will probably be very limited. The proposed guidelines basically disregard the big challenges (mainly economical) and great potential advantages of bi-directional flow of trainees. Furthermore, scarce consideration has been given to South-South training exchanges, which could be more culturally appropriate. We hope this comment can contribute to give more consideration and support to the North-South, South-North, and South-South flows of trainees, in the settings of real “global” health.

J. JAIME MIRANDA
School of Medicine
CRONICAS - Centro de Excelencia en Enfermedades Crónicas
Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia
Miraflores
Lima, Perú
E-mail: Jaime.Miranda@upch.pe

PATRICIA J. GARCIA
School of Public Health
Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia
San Martin de Porres
Lima, Perú
E-mail: patricia.garcia@upch.pe

ANDRES G. LESCANO
Department of Parasitology and
Public Health Training Program
U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit 6
Lima, Perú
School of Public Health
Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia
San Martin de Porres
Lima, Perú
E-mail: willy.lescano@med.navy.mil

EDUARDO GOTUZZO
Instituto de Medicina Tropical “Alexander Von Humboldt”
Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia
Lima, Perú
E-mail: eduardo.gotuzzo@upch.pe

HECTOR H. GARCIA
Department of Microbiology
School of Sciences
Center for Global Health – Tumbes
Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia
Lima, Perú
E-mail: hgarcia@jhsph.edu

REFERENCE

1. Crump JA, Sugarman J, and the Working Group on Ethics Guidelines for Global Health Training (WEIGHT), 2010. Ethics and best practice guidelines for training experiences in global health. *Am J Trop Med Hyg* 83: 1178–1182.