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University of Michigan Health OER Student Team

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Our CGI U Commitment

Our commitment is to make comprehensive health curricula available as open educational resources (OER) to healthcare educators and students in order to increase the number of trained healthcare workers and to provide up-to-date continuing education materials for practicing healthcare workers.

Why Health OER?

There are large gaps in quality and of access to healthcare between developing and developed countries. In addition, there are large differences in quality and access to care within countries. The inadequate density and distribution of healthcare providers negatively affects health outcomes around the globe. In Africa in particular, too few health care professionals are being trained to meet local needs. A key barrier in both developed and developing countries is the lack of instructor capacity to teach both basic and clinical sciences, complicated by the duplication of effort in developing learning materials that can be shared as OER.

In 2000, the United Nations member nations created the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), an ambitious plan to drastically improve economic and social conditions in developing countries by 2015. The MDGs include eight goals ranging from education to poverty to the environment. Three of the eight goals focus on health specifically:

1. Reduce child mortality
2. Improve maternal health
3. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases

Distribution of Health Workers

- Equalize access to knowledge
- Impact teaching and learning
- Make these materials useful in developing countries
- Learn from their use and development outside the U.S. [3], [4]

[1] CC BY William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Presentation at University of Michigan, October 23, 2008

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