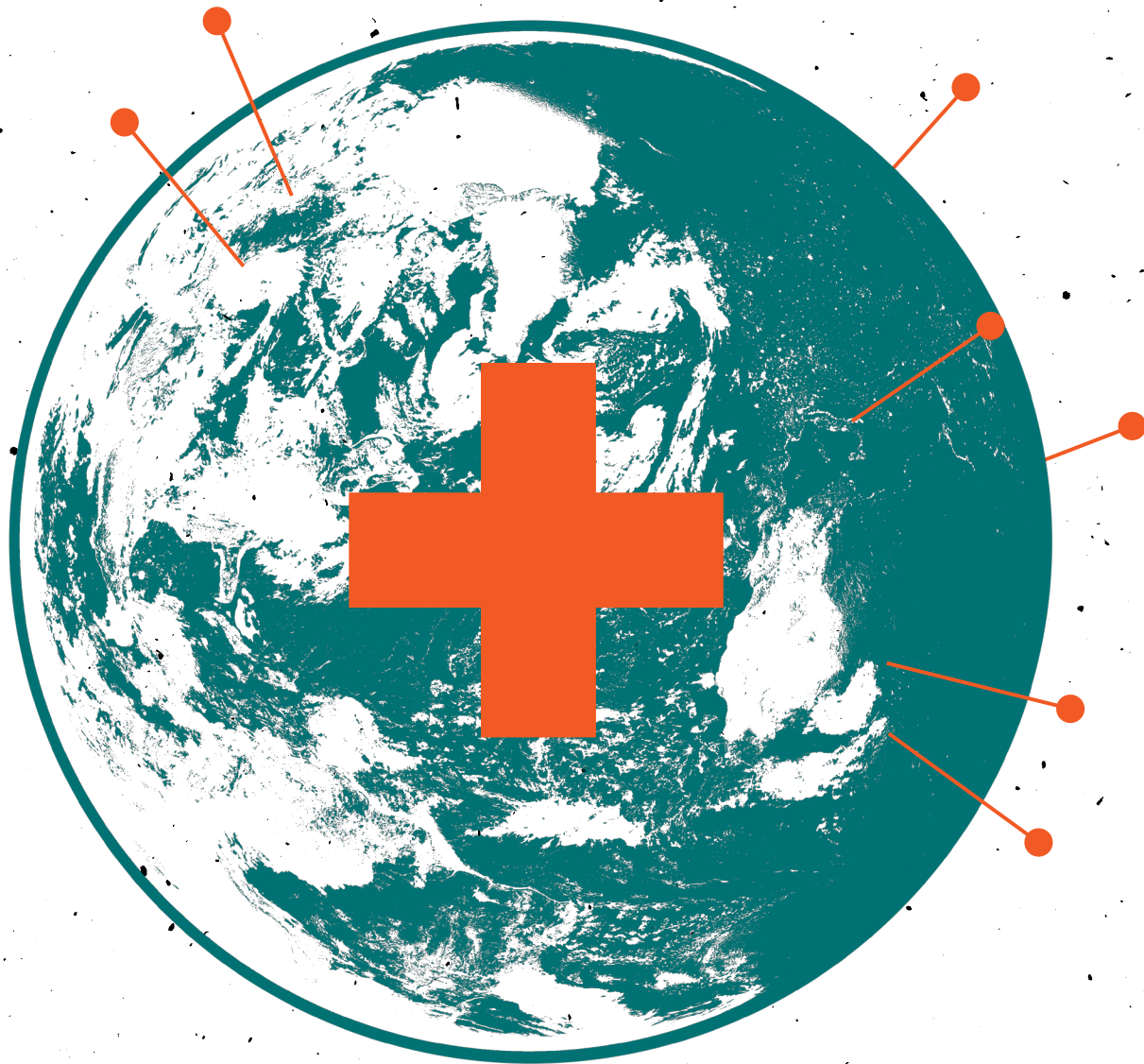


*the*  
**prognosis**

MCGILL'S STUDENT GLOBAL HEALTH JOURNAL  
VOLUME THREE, ISSUE ONE, SPRING 2014





The Prognosis: McGill's Student Global  
Health Journal

Spring 2014

## **The Prognosis**

Spring 2014

Volume 3, Issue 1

### *Editorial Council*

Julien Gagnon, Jennifer McCall, Aliénor Lemieux-Cumberlege, Claire Peterson,  
Sean Coleman, Erin Eady, Jerry Lee, Marc Allard

### *Cover*

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### *Photographs*

Jerry Lee, Wan Jin (Tiffany) Lee, and Torben Hansen.

Wan Jin (Tiffany) Lee provided the photos featured on pgs. 20, 26, 56, which were taken during her voyage in Dominican Republic. She would like to dedicate the photos to the children in DR.

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## **Acknowledgements**

We would like to thank the AUS Journal Fund for making this project possible once again.

The Prognosis is currently developing partnerships with McGill's Global Health Programs (GHP) and the Institute for Health and Social Policy (IHSP). In keeping with the journal's focus on research at the intersection of social, biomedical, global, and local perspectives on health, these organizations are uniquely placed to support the ongoing work of this student-run publication.

GHP currently partners with numerous departments at McGill to promote human well-being, productivity and economic development, and is actively involved in research and training around the globe. Committed to collaborative projects that improve health through educational, clinical, developmental and research programs, McGill Global Health Programs is excited about new avenues to enrich the education of students interested in global health.

The IHSP conducts interdisciplinary research on how social conditions impact health and welfare. In particular it aims to translate research findings in the areas of social inequalities and health outcomes into concrete provincial, national and international policies. With expertise in student training, the IHSP is keen to develop additional opportunities to spread research findings that improve population level wellbeing.





# From the Editor-in-Chief

Dear Reader,

The Prognosis is excited to present to you the third volume of our global health journal. Founded in 2011 by a group of innovative students, the journal covers the emergence of global health as a prominent research topic. The mandate at the time was broad, but novel in terms of university publications: it sought to highlight student research on issues at the intersection of biomedical, social, local, and global perspectives of health.

Within these pages, you will discover that the content of this year's volume adheres to the original vision, while still evolving, addressing the new realities of this dynamic field. For instance, we are featuring a research proposal for the first time. Overall, we have selected seven essays on topics spanning current global health issues that at the same time illustrate the diversity of the student work here at McGill, but also of current international health issues. Their high quality reflects the increasingly vibrant student interest on campus surrounding global health.

We hope that you learn as much as we did from the following articles. This knowledge should inspire you to consider the topic of global health from a different perspective, and engage in fruitful discussions with your peers. The Spring 2014 edition marks a decisive moment for the journal, as The Prognosis is in talks with both the McGill Global Health Program and the Institute for Health and Social Policy to broaden its reach and further its mandate of promoting research on global health issues. Finally, I would like to thank the whole Editorial Board, for without their hard work and commitment over the course of the past year, the final product that you are reading at the moment could not have been possible.

Julien Gagnon  
Editor-in-Chief

# Editorial Board

## Alienor Lemieux-Cumberlege

*Is there a particular global health problem that interests you or that you study/research?*

I'm particularly interested in how state policies and the discourse used by governments when discussing STDs affect popular perceptions of the worse diseases and the efficacy of public health campaigns. My undergrad thesis, to be finished April 2014, focusses on Chinese discourses on sex work and how that affects the spread of HIV/AIDS and the efficacy of prevention and public health campaigns. I am also very interested in autism and chronic illness self-advocacy campaigns and how they influence public health policy. Finally, I am going to be working at the IDRC this summer in their Global Equity in Health Systems program; equity of any form is something I am deeply passionate, and seeing such discrepancies in approaches to healthcare globally means that I'm really excited to learn more and understand how this can be changed.

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## Jerry Lee

*To which health profession do you aspire? Is there a global health specialty that you will pursue?*

I plan to pursue a master's degree in health policy when I graduate from McGill with my BSc in Physiology and Economics. I want to explore the intersection between economic policies and population well-being. Studying health alone is interesting, but looking at how different policies can be implemented to fix global health challenges is so much more exciting!

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## Erin Eady

*Which Millennium Development Goal do you believe we are most likely to achieve by 2015?*

On a global scale, the greatest progress has probably been made towards the targets outlined under goal 1, the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger. For instance, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty has been halved on a global level, and we are close to reaching hunger reduction targets. Considerable gains have also been made in terms of child survival and in the prevention and treatment of malaria and tuberculosis. However, progress towards the MDGs has been uneven: some countries have achieved many, while others have achieved none, and it is typically the poorest and most disempowered who have been left behind. Even where MDG targets have been met, there is still room for improvement. As one example, though the target of 88% of the world having access to safe drinking water has been exceeded globally, this still leaves more than 750 million people without access to safe and clean drinking water.

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## Marc Allard

*Which medical technology do you think has had the strongest impact on global health in your life-time?*



The development of the zidovudine (AZT) and lamivudine (3-TC) two and a half decades ago has proven to be a major medical breakthrough that has positively impacted global health. In the mid-1980s, HIV/AIDS was on the rise and was claiming lives all around the globe. Beyond causing a total breakdown of the immune system, those infected with HIV were subject to social stigma, eloquently portrayed in the film Philadelphia. Although there is still no available cure for HIV/AIDS, the development of HAART (highly active antiretroviral therapy), has allowed people infected with the virus to live long and normal lives. The initial drug cocktail of AZT and 3-TC changed the diagnosis of HIV from a death sentence to a manageable infection. 3-TC was first developed at McGill University and remains a source of pride for the university's community.

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## **Claire Peterson**

*Do you think emerging medical technologies will have more or less of an impact on global health than progress in social science?*

I believe technology is a great equalizer in many aspects of our society. Social change, although important, generally takes significant time and manpower to achieve. Digital technology allows individuals anywhere in the world to connect with healthcare professionals thousands of kilometres away- to send information and receive answers in mere moments. Technology is a small step, but a creative step to circumnavigate adverse social conditions to achieve positive health outcomes where they otherwise may not be feasible. Who knows, maybe technology can help to facilitate social change as well!

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## **Jennifer McCall**

*Do you have a role model in the field of global health?*

I greatly admire Dr. James Orbinski. He is the former president of MSF (Doctors Without Borders) and accepted the Nobel Prize on behalf of the NGO during his tenure. He wrote a book about his global humanitarian work entitled *An Imperfect Offering*, and it confirmed my aspirations to work in medical humanitarian aid. After his time with MSF he co-founded an NGO called Dignitas International and began teaching at the University of Toronto.

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## **Sean Coleman**



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