

UNIVERSITIES ALLIED FOR ESSENTIAL MEDICINES

Background



Who we are

- Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM) is a coalition of students and faculty at about 25 research universities across North America.
- Our goal is to improve access to medicines in poor countries through university action.
- We operationalize this goal through a two-fold mission:
 - (1) to determine how universities can help ensure that biomedical end products, such as drugs, are made more accessible in poor countries; and
 - (2) to increase the amount of research conducted on neglected diseases, or those diseases predominantly affecting people who are too poor to constitute a market attractive to private-sector R&D investment.

What we do

- Our activities take place at both the chapter level and the international level.
- At the chapter level, we petition for changes in the policies and practices at the universities we attend.
 - For example, at the University of California-Berkeley, administrators announced a Socially Responsible Licensing Initiative (<http://ipira.berkeley.edu/docs/sociallyresponsible10-05.pdf>) in part because of discussions with the Berkeley UAEM chapter.
- At the international level, we convene groups of students—in consultation with faculty members and other experts—to determine how best to improve access to medicines in poor countries through research and policy analysis.
 - For example, a consensus UAEM Policy Statement was released in October 2005 after a meeting at Georgetown University bringing together over 75 students representing 28 universities (see <http://www.essentialmedicine.org/Oct2005PolicyStatement.pdf>).

How you can get involved

- Join UAEM through our website at: <http://www.essentialmedicine.org>
- Figure out what steps your university currently takes to ensure access to its innovations in poor countries by talking to faculty members, technology transfer officers, and administrators who set the university research agenda.
- Learn more about the access and research gaps through organizations like Médecins Sans Frontières (see <http://www.accessmed-msf.org/>) and build awareness on your own campus.