

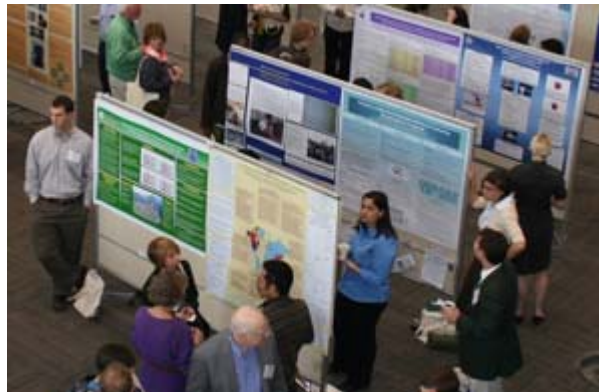
## Physician Assistants Liaison with the Global Health Education Consortium

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Conference attendees view posters and visit exhibits at the Sacramento Convention Center (IAC Poster on yellow mat in foreground).



— From photo taken by Jim Elliott, Kaiser Permanente

Several members of the PAEA International Affairs Committee (IAC) attended and presented posters at the recent Global Health Education Consortium (GHEC) conference, “Global Health Ethics and Human Rights: Practical Applications to Multicultural Healthcare at Home and Abroad,” held April 3-5 in Sacramento, California. A number of members of the AAPA Board of Directors also attended, as well as an impressive roster of national and international experts. GHEC’s mission is to address health needs, human rights, and the global workforce

The focus of the 2008 GHEC conference was global ethics. Speakers addressed a number of ethical concerns and workshops focused on creative ways of addressing the ethics of disparity. The conference’s emphasis was to consider reforming health reform messaging and to address what is a meaningful message for global health ethics and human rights. Globalization has brought both positive and negative benefits and thrown into sharper focus profound global inequities in such areas as advances in medical technologies (i.e., stem cell research), global migration, philanthropy, neuroethics, environmental topics with a medical impact, global health, curriculum, research (i.e., robot ethics), collaboration, partnerships, cross-cultural topics, social justice, and the “digital divide.” GHEC members discussed using terms like “civic social investment” (as opposed to philanthropy) to meet the needs of the “socially weak” (as opposed to “the poor”).

For PAEA, one important piece of news is that GHEC, formally a physician organization, is accepting board nominations in broad categories of health delivery. This may present an opportunity for PAEA to join GHEC in its important work in global health as well as to promote our profession as a viable option for global health. There is also an offer outstanding to PAEA to include a PA student on the GHEC student advisory board, currently comprised of medical students.

PAs have been involved for at least 10 years in GHEC. While there has been no formal liaison between PAEA and GHEC, members of both organizations have seen value in expanding the scope of GHEC from a physician-centered group to one that addresses the multidisciplinary needs of global health. The PAEA IAC has been particularly active in GHEC in past years and has been instrumental in promoting a closer relationship between the two organizations.

Members of the IAC have presented posters at several conferences and attended the 2008 GHEC board meeting in anticipation of forming a more formal liaison.

In the past year the IAC created a module on PAs in the global workforce as part of the GHEC modules project, which can be found at <http://admin.globalhealthedu.org/Documents/28/player.html>. These GHEC modules are designed for use in teaching global health. Modules are developed on a broad variety of topics and can be used as a course or integrated into pre-existing courses to enhance the students' learning related to global health issues.

