



## Editorial

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IT MAY TAKE A ton of oysters before one finds a perfect pearl, but our authors this month have combed the globe to find pearls of wisdom that will improve the health of millions of the world's citizens. These authors discuss a needs assessment survey in Honduras; reforming the U.S. organ donation system; a review of the healthcare systems around the world, and follow pharmacy students as they pursue rotations in India.

Authors Bigelow, Wagner, and Mohler determined that the health needs in a community can best be determined by the people who live there; they review the findings in an article entitled, *“Developing a Comprehensive Epidemiological Community Health Needs Assessment in Yoro, Honduras.”* In this article, they explain that in Honduras people live on less than \$3.50 per day and life expectancy is under 60 years of age. A community-needs survey was developed and subsequently reviewed by a local Honduran speaker familiar with local idioms by authors from the University of Arizona and Cornell. This survey was tested and subsequently it was used in respondent's homes to collect information. When reading this article, one is immediately transported from the present to the past, that is, to a time when life itself hung in the balance on a day-by-day basis; in Honduras the past is the present!

In the United States, many people believe we have a technologically advanced health care system; yet more than 110,000 people are on waiting lists for organ transplantation. Before their names match available resources, many of these people will die. Authors Kershaw, Nunemaker, Hinds, and DeCosta provide suggestions for improving health care in the United States in their article entitled, *“Reforming the U.S. Organ Donation System: Policy Insights from the Experience of Other Countries.”* In this article, organ donation programs in selected countries in Europe, Asia, and Australia are explored. Drawing on these international experiences, possible courses of action are discussed for policymakers to consider in reforming the U.S. organ donation system.

Author and student Sarah Baldwin considers the healthcare systems of 17 countries in her article entitled, *“Healthcare Systems Around the World.”* Rich or poor, nations struggle to meet the health needs of their citizens. Costs continue to rise at alarming rates, barring access for many people to needed health services. Health is a basic human right, and care that improves the lives of all citizens will improve a country. The author summarizes the healthcare systems of 17 countries around the world and makes suggestions for economic and political changes that can increase the availability of quality care at feasible financial costs.

There is no set formula for change; each country is evaluated, and suggestions have been made respective to problems inherent in that country. The goal is to create a sustainable healthcare system that will provide quality care to all citizens.

Author Chandra Sekar discusses pharmacy practice rotations in India. In an article entitled, *“Overseas Advanced Practice Rotation – Unique Opportunity for Personal and Professional Development,”* Dr. Sekar reviews the legal requirements for an approved advanced practice rotation, and the author explains how these requirements can be met in other countries when a person knows and understands that country and its pharmacy system and ensures an integration that meets the needs of regulation as well as education. To assure appropriate quality, the American Council on Pharmacy Education (ACPE) requires that all advanced practice rotations be conducted under the supervision of a U.S. registered pharmacist. As a licensed pharmacist, he met this requirement.