

GOSA Conference 2007:

Intellectual Property Law, Traditional Knowledge, and Access to Essential Medicines

March 24, 2007

First Nations Longhouse

University of British Columbia

General Conference Information:

The Global Outreach Students Association (GOSA) is a student-based, multi-disciplinary group which provides students with opportunities to learn about health and development issues both locally and abroad. GOSA began at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in 1994 with the support of the College of Health Disciplines. Each year, GOSA members participate in an international health project in South America, a homework club in the downtown eastside to promote literacy, and we host an annual Health Conference at UBC. This year, we are holding the conference as a free event so it is well accessible to the student body; all the organizers are involved on a voluntary basis.

This year, the theme of our conference is *Intellectual Property, Traditional Knowledge and Access to Essential Medicines*. We will be focusing on issues such as intellectual property rights, bioprospecting and biodiversity, biopiracy/ indigenous knowledge, and the patenting and licensing processes of technology at UBC. Currently, universities conduct more than half of Canada and the U.S.'s basic research and are responsible for several important health technologies. As UBC is a national leader in research, we chose this theme because we would like to acknowledge the role universities play in global public health. We are working closely with another student group, the Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM) to create some momentum on these issues; we would also like to use this conference to lobby UBC to improve access to health goods in developing countries by changing their technology licensing policies. A change in these procedures could significantly impact the availability of essential medicines in the developing world.

FREE admission, including lunch.

Register by contacting gosa.ubc@gmail.com.

Program:

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9:00-9:15	Registration
9:20-10:20	Dr. Pat Howard (SFU) "Bioprospecting or Biopiracy?"
10:20-11:20	Dr. Kelly Bannister (UVic) "Accessing Traditional Knowledge and Biodiversity: Rights, Responsibilities, and Key Issues"
11:20-12:00	Leigh Beamish and Mike Gretes (UAEM) "Intellectual Property and the Role of Universities in Providing Access to Technology"
12:00-12:45	Lunch
12:45-1:15	Dr. John Hepburn (UBC) "Role of Intellectual Property in the Process of Drug Development"
1:15-2:00	Dr. Bob Hancock (UBC) "New Antimicrobial Therapies for Developed and Developing Countries"
2:15-3:00	Dr. Steve Morgan (UBC) "Can Patents Promote Efficiency and Equity in Pharmaceutical Innovation?"
3:00-3:45	Cailin Morrison (MSF) "Trading Away: Free Trade agreements, Intellectual Property Rights and Access to Medicines"