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About MEDICC

Founded in 1997, Medical Education Cooperation with Cuba (MEDICC) is a non-profit organization working to enhance cooperation among the US, Cuban and global health communities aimed at better health outcomes and equity. We see that health care especially for underserved populations – can be informed by Cuba's singular universal health system and its evolving health policies, practice, research and education. We also see that the US and other nations' experience in medicine and medical research can inform practice in Cuba and the developing world. Above all, we believe that such cooperation is urgently needed to radically improve global health and achieve the birthright of health for all worldwide.

Vision

Health for All is Possible

Mission

MEDICC promotes cooperation among the US, Cuban and global health communities to improve health outcomes and equity, offering the Cuban experience to inform global debate, policies and practice.

Why MEDICC?

Worldwide, 1.3 billion people live, and die, without health care. Most are in developing countries, but many are among the most vulnerable in today's crisis-ridden industrialized nations, including millions in the USA despite new legislation. Proving that political will, not wealth, is the key to transforming this devastating picture is Cuba's powerful message—a country whose people are achieving excellent outcomes because their health is a priority investment of the scarce resources at hand. Cuba's unique contribution to improving global health outcomes and equity is expressed in three decisive ways:

- **By example:** Cuba's people are healthy, thanks to a universal public health system based on strong community-engaged primary care.
- **By strengthening public health systems globally:** disadvantaged and disenfranchised people in over 70 countries are benefiting right now from Cuba's unprecedented global health cooperation. Over 38,000 Cuban health professionals provide health services in the most precarious places. When disaster strikes (as in Haiti's recent earthquake and cholera epidemic), Cuban health professionals are on the ground and there to stay as long as needed, staffing public health facilities.
- **By training doctors for the world:** over 15,000 doctors have graduated from Cuba's Latin American Medical School (ELAM), the largest medical school in the world, with 20,000 students currently enrolled from and for poor communities worldwide, including the USA. *"The most important contribution Cuba has made to global health is its example – that you can introduce the notion of a right to health care and wipe out the diseases of poverty."*
 Paul Farmer MD, Partners in Health & Harvard University

Cuba: The Scorecard- Outstanding Health Outcomes

- Cuba is among the top 20 countries in progress towards the UN Millennium Development Goals.¹
- Save the Children ranks Cuba as the #1 country in Latin America to be a mother.²
- A woman born in the District of Columbia, U.S.A., has the same life expectancy as a woman born in Matanzas province in central Cuba.³
- Cuba has the lowest HIV rate in the Americas.⁴
- Doctor-to-patient ratio in Cuba is among the world's highest; 61% of physicians are women.⁵
- The leading causes of death are the same for the US and Cuba (cancer, heart disease, chronic lower respiratory diseases, stroke, and unintentional injury).⁶

Sources:

¹ Millennium Development Goals Report Card: Learning from Progress, Overseas Development Institute, London, 2010, page 4, <http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/6014.pdf>

² State of the World's Mother's Report, 2014, Save the Children, http://www.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGjpl4E/b.9126825/k.3E86/Download_the_2014_SOWM_Report.htm

³ The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation State Health Facts, 2010, <http://kff.org/other/state-indicator/life-expectancy-by-gender/>; Anuario Estadístico de Cuba 2009, Edición 2010, Oficina Nacional de Estadísticas (ONE), Havana, 2010, page 41

4 UNAIDS Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic 2013, Page A4, http://www.unaids.org/en/media/unaids/contentassets/documents/epidemiology/2013/gr2013/UNAIDS_Global_Report_2013_en.pdf

5 Anuario Estadístico de Salud 2013, Dirección de Registros Médicos y Estadísticas de Salud, Ministerio de Salud Pública de Cuba, La Habana, 2014, p. 121 A Universal Truth: No Health Without a Workforce, published by Global Health Workforce Alliance and WHO, 2013. page 52.)

6 Anuario Estadístico de Salud 2013, Dirección de Registros Médicos y Estadísticas de Salud, Ministerio de Salud Pública de Cuba, La Habana, 2014, p. 31

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