Medical Humanitarianism: Possibilities and Pitfalls

Featuring DR. PAUL FARMER

USC LIBRARIES RESOURCE GUIDE

Dr. Paul Farmer is a medical anthropologist, physician and founding director of Partners In Health, an international nonprofit organization that provides direct healthcare services and has undertaken research and advocacy activities on behalf of those who are sick and living in poverty. Dr. Farmer is the Presley Professor of Social Medicine and chair of the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School; chief of the Division of Global Health Equity at Brigham and Women’s Hospital; and the United Nations Deputy Special Envoy for Haiti.

Dr. Farmer and his colleagues in the United States and in Haiti, Peru, Russia, Rwanda, Lesotho and Malawi have pioneered novel community-based treatment strategies that demonstrate the delivery of high-quality health care in resource-poor settings. Dr. Farmer has written extensively on health, human rights and the consequences of social inequality. He is the author of Partner to the Poor: A Paul Farmer Reader; Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor; The Uses of Haiti; Infections and Inequalities: The Modern Plagues; and AIDS and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame. His most recent book, Haiti After the Earthquake, was published in July 2011. He is the subject of Pulitzer Prize winner Tracy Kidder’s Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World. Dr. Farmer is the recipient of numerous honors, including the Margaret Mead Award from the American Anthropological Association, the Outstanding International Physician (Nathan Davis) Award from the American Medical Association, a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation fellowship and, with his PIH colleagues, the Hilton Humanitarian Prize.

EMILY BRENNAN of USC’s Norris Medical Library has selected the following resources to help you discover Dr. Farmer’s works and learn more about medical humanitarianism and global health care. See the online version of this guide at norris.usc.libguides.com/medicalhumanitarianism for links to e-books listed below as well as other journal articles and websites.

Books by Dr. Paul Farmer

Aids and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame
Exposes the racism inherent in the now-discredited supposition that AIDS came to the United States via Haiti. (It was the other way around.) Award-winning author Paul Farmer, now working in Rwanda, updates this 1992 study with a new preface.

Doheny Memorial Library: RA644.A25 F37 2006 (also available electronically)

Haiti after the Earthquake
On January 12, 2010, a massive earthquake laid waste to Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Within three days, Dr. Paul Farmer arrived in the Haitian capital, along with a team of volunteers, to lend his services to the injured. In this vivid narrative, Farmer describes the incredible suffering and resilience that he encountered in Haiti. Having worked in the country for nearly 30 years, he skillfully explores the social issues that made Haiti so vulnerable to the earthquake.

Leavey Library: MCN 1990

Infections and Inequalities: The Modern Plagues
“Aiming to explain why infectious diseases target the poor, he uses harrowing public-health case studies of the pathogenic effects of poverty and other grim social conditions. Farmer provides a well-referenced analysis of everything from cell-mediated immunity to healthcare access issues. The studies show that extreme poverty, filth and malnutrition are associated with infectious disease and what attitudes and behaviors contribute to the lack of understanding about disease.”—Library Journal

Doheny Memorial Library: RA418.5.P6F37 1999
Wilson Dental Library: WA 110 F234i 1999
Partner to the Poor: a Paul Farmer Reader  
Edited by Haun Saussy  
For nearly 30 years, anthropologist and physician Paul Farmer has traveled to some of the most impoverished places on earth to bring comfort and the best possible medical care to the poorest of the poor. Driven by his stated intent to "make human rights substantial," Farmer has treated patients and worked to address the root causes of their disease in Haiti, Boston, Peru, Rwanda and elsewhere in the developing world. In 1987, with several colleagues, he founded nonprofit Partners In Health.

Doheny Memorial Library: RA418.5.P6F375 2010

Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor  
Farmer uses harrowing stories of life and death in extreme situations to interrogate our understanding of human rights. Farmer argues that promoting the social and economic rights of the world's poor is the most important human rights struggle of our times. Farmer challenges conventional thinking within human rights circles and exposes the relationships between political and economic injustice.

Norris Medical Library: W 76 F234p 2005  
Online Library (e-book): HM821.F37 2003eb

The Uses of Haiti  
"The Uses of Haiti tells the truth about uncomfortable matters—uncomfortable, that is, for the structures of power and the doctrinal framework that protects them from critical scrutiny. It tells the truth about what has been happening in Haiti, and the U.S. role in its bitter fate."—Noam Chomsky

Norris Medical Library: F 1928.2 F234u 2003  
VKC Library: F1928.2.F37 2003

Books about Medical Humanitarianism and Global Health Care

Advocacy Organizations and Collective Action  
Edited by Aseem Prakash and Mary Kay Gugerty  
Norris Medical Library: JF 529 A244 2010

Awakening Hippocrates:  
A Primer on Health, Poverty, and Global Service  
By Edward O'Neil, Jr.  
Norris Medical Library: WA 530.1 O65a 2006

Bioethics around the Globe  
Edited by Catherine Myser  
Norris Medical Library: WB 60 B6153 2011

Case Studies in Global Health:  
Millions Saved  
By Ruth Levine and the What Works Working Group  
Norris Medical Library: WA 530.1 L665c 2007

Concepts and Practice of Humanitarian Medicine  
Edited by S. William A. Gunn and Michele Masellis  
Norris Medical Library: WA 530.1 C744 2008

Double Standards in Medical Research in Developing Countries  
By Ruth Macklin  
Norris Medical Library: W 20.55 H9 M158d 2004

Establishing Private Health Care Facilities in Developing Countries:  
A Guide for Medical Entrepreneurs  
By Seung-Hee Nah and Egbe Osifo-Dawodu  
Norris Medical Library: WX 140 N153e 2007

Global Health Disparities:  
Closing the Gap through Good Governance  
By Enku Kebede-Francis.  
Norris Medical Library: W 84.1 K25g 2011  
(also available electronically)

Health, Trade, and Human Rights  
By Théodore H. MacDonald  
Norris Medical Library: WA 395 M135h 2006

Improving Health Service Delivery in Developing Countries: From Evidence to Action  
By David H. Peters  
Online Library (e-book): RA441.5.I47 2009eb

International Health and Aid Policies:  
The Need for Alternatives  
By Jean-Pierre Unger  
Doheny Memorial Library: RA441.5I565 2010

Medicine and Social Justice:  
Essays on the Distribution of Health Care  
Edited by Rosamond Rhodes, Margaret P. Battin and Anita Silvers  
Norris Medical Library: W 84.1 M4897 2002

Public Health and Human Rights:  
Evidence-Based Approaches  
Edited by Chris Beyrer and H.F. Pizer  
Norris Medical Library: WA 525 P976 2007

Removing the Barriers to Global Health Equity  
By Theodore H. MacDonald  
Doheny Memorial Library: RA418.M3229 2009