invitation- Brocher Foundation (Switzerland) workshop proposal

December 27, 2018

My colleague, Michael McCarthy and Cristina Richie are applying for a Brocher Foundation 1.5 day multidisciplinary symposium grant to explore the Ethical, Legal and Social Implications of "New Medical Development Research: Addressing the 10/90 Gap" (see abstract below). The objective of the symposium is to bring together a high caliber of scholars from a variety of backgrounds to discuss this issue, with an eye towards publication. The event will take place between July and October 2020 at the Brocher Centre on the shores of Lake Geneva (Switzerland).

**Abstract**:

The WHO Commission on Health Research for Development set as priority to close 10/90 gap, which came from a 1990 assessment that approximately 90% of medical research conducted benefits roughly 10% of the global population. While this gap has narrowed, health challenges that plague the majority of the world are still under represented in health research prioritization driven largely by economic opportunity and technological innovation. Within this paradigm, and given the historic abuses of research subjects, research ethics has focused consistently on protecting the rights of research subjects, while questions of social ethics have been considered too infrequently. This symposium considers an alternative paradigm for health research and the ethical framework that begins by prioritizing the health needs of both vulnerable individuals and their communities. The presenters will analyze the ethical and economic factors of the current research gap, propose possibilities to further health research collaboration among research institutions, and identify alternative research priorities from the perspective of vulnerable individuals and communities.

We are writing to see if you would be interested in being considered as a speaker for our symposium, should our proposal be accepted. Your responsibilities would include attending the event, speaking at the event, and contributing to a scientific report about the symposium results. The Brocher Foundation offers a grant up to a maximum of 7’000 Swiss francs to cover the travel expenses of 12 speakers, but more can attend if they can secure their own funds.

If you are interested, please respond with:

- a short bio (3 sentences)

-  an abstract on the topic you would speak on (250 words)

- if you are based in the US or outside the US

- if you have external funding or would require funding from Brocher

- your primary discipline/s (choose from list below)

Anthropology, Law, Bioethics/Medical ethics, Biology, Health Economics,  Medicine,  Science and technology studies, Geography,  History of Medicine,  Philosophy,  Psychology,  Political Science,  Sociology, Epidemiology, Other, please specify

**We would appreciate receiving your abstract by Wednesday January 2, but no later than Wednesday, January 9.**

Thanks very much,

Cristina Richie, PhD

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