Public Health Organization

Mission Statement

The purpose of the organization shall be to protect and safeguard the public health and safety of the community by promoting healthy lifestyles and raising awareness through education. Public health is acknowledged as what our society does collectively to assure the conditions for people to be healthy. We affirm the World Health Organization’s understanding of health as a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

Relationship to National Organizations

PHO provides opportunities for members to attend networking and professional development events organized by the American Public Health Association (APHA). Members also have access to the latest public health news and research distributed by APHA.

The Institute for International Medicine (INMED) is a nonprofit educational organization that offers didactic instruction in the full range of global health topics via online, hybrid, and in-classroom courses, as well as through conferences. Some of these courses and conferences are available at a discounted price or at no cost for PHO members.

Through PHO’s partnership with the American Public Square, a bipartisan nonprofit that organizes quality public discourse, its members can attend and even organize forums about topics in public health.

Advocacy, Leadership, and Community Service Activities

AIDS Walk – Raise funds and awareness for AIDS research and services in Kansas City.

APHA Annual Meeting & Expo – Visit the world's largest Public Health Expo and meet with hundreds of exhibitors from leading organizations and public health professionals.

American Public Square Forums – Listen to expert panelists with opposing views civilly discuss various topics and join the public discourse as part of the audience; PHO members can organize their own forums about topics of their choosing.

INMED Humanitarian Health Conference – Network with leading health experts in the world, take courses on how to navigate the unique challenges of serving underserved patients around the world.

Medical Mission Trip – Provide access to health care in underserved and vulnerable communities around the world to improve the health, wellness, and quality of life of those populations most in need.
National Public Health Week – Raise awareness for behavioral health, communicable diseases, environmental health, injury and violence prevention, and access to healthcare through various activities and presentations during National Public Health Week in April.

Rose Brooks Center Drive – Raise supplies and awareness for adults and children at the Rose Brooks Center, the leader in innovative domestic violence programs and support.

Sojourner Health Clinic – Fill and counsel on prescriptions every Sunday at a free clinic for homeless and underprivileged population in downtown Kansas City, Missouri; Sojourner is developed and managed by UMKC medical and pharmacy students with faculty supervision.

MedZou Diabetes Clinic – Students at the Columbia campus have the opportunity to assist at the MedZou free clinic and provide pharmacy counseling services to patients there.

Convoy of Hope – Students at the Springfield campus attend regular service events through convoy of hope in which they perform service activities such as packaging materials for natural disaster victims.

Awards

PHO offers a variety of awards to its members for exemplary leadership skills and involvement. In the 2018-2019 academic year, Sophie Didier received the PHO Senior of the Year Award.

2019-2020 Advisor and Officers

Advisors: Dr. Mark T. Sawkin (Kansas City), Jamie Hall (Columbia), Lisa Cillessen (Springfield)

President: Jacob Huffman
President-Elect: Garrett Towler
VP of Development – Christian Makuch
Treasurer – Noah Cahill
Secretary – Amy Turlington
Springfield Liaison – Kristen Koch, Allison Jacobs
Columbia Liaison – Cameron Grahl

How to join

Students interested in joining PHO can register online at https://roogroups.umkc.edu/organization/PHO.

Email Jacob Huffman at jahn54@mail.umkc.edu for more information.