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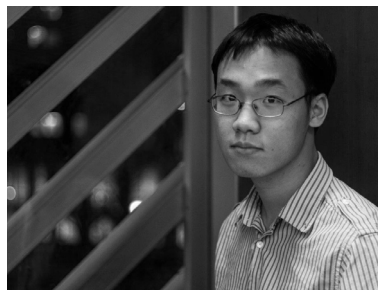
# Reconciling Western & Traditional Medicine

**T**he *Journal of Global Health* seeks to provide students with a medium to facilitate public health dialogue in an increasingly interconnected world, a world that both greatly enables and poses new challenges to the study of human health. In a globalized world, we sometimes lose sight of the most fundamental and critical component of global health: health, in and of itself. We urge you to reflect on the meaning of the word “health.” What does it mean to be healthy?

Health provides humankind with the conditions necessary to exercise their individual agency and the ability to live life to its fullest and, in doing so, derive a sense of lasting satisfaction. In this issue of JGH, we ask you to consider the challenge of integrating complementary and alternative medicine into the modern protocols of Western medicine, two distinct and prolific fields all too often viewed as irreconcilable universes of discourse in spite of their fundamental, shared objective of promoting human health. A lack of mutual understanding between two medical communities has led to the emergence of a culture of stigma that we feel is counter-productive, harmful and fundamentally unhealthy.

We often equate “health” with “healthcare,” but we do not realize that the biomedical side of “health” constitutes a very small sliver of the entire spectrum of what it means to be “healthy.” In order to truly understand “health,” we must consider all of the factors that provide humans with the conditions that allow them to thrive. These factors run the gamut from the biomedical, economic and scientific to the anthropological, sociological and historical.

To explore the incredibly multifaceted nature of “health” in an increasingly interconnected world is the objective of JGH. Our Columbia-based team has recently launched a podcast called “What is Global Health?” (WiGH?), which seeks to examine the moral quandaries faced by public health researchers and scientists at the decision-making level and whether these dilemmas are the same ones faced by people involved in entirely different fields of discourse. Through WiGH?, we hope to bring together the voices of prominent scientists, activists, thinkers and student leaders representing the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. By fostering greater interdisciplinary dialogue on the fundamental moral questions in health, we hope to synthesize cross-curricular and cross-cultural solutions to major public health problems in a globalized world.



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Editor-in-Chief

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