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# Food and Health in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

The true advantage of a burgeoning field such as global health lies, above all, in its tremendous versatility. This unique trait permits widespread interdisciplinary and cross-curricular interaction in the study of public health, connecting perspectives in economics, public policy, human rights, geopolitics, biological sciences and anthropology, to name just a few. In Volume 3, Issue I of *The Journal of Global Health*, we have chosen to spotlight a topic that, in its ubiquity and simplicity, manages to span each of these various disciplines with tremendous implications for public health: food.

Of course, the impact of nutrition and food—whether its lack or excess—has been a perennial issue for public health analysts worldwide; ending world hunger is one of the United Nations' eight Millennium Development Goals for 2015, and numerous advocacy groups have been established to combat rising obesity rates in industrialized nations. Beyond these well-known issues, however, the true socioeconomic, political and even cultural impact of food is incalculable, especially in an age of rampant globalization. This issue of the *Journal* aims to address some of these far-reaching effects, featuring articles on the illicit adulteration of staple dietary products, such as milk; the shifting cultural attitudes regarding changes in traditional dietary observations and their impact on women's health; and the nutritional impacts of third-party interference in agricultural practices. Each of these pieces provides groundbreaking insight into the role of nutrition in both local communities and large geographical regions, yet they represent only a sliver of food's overall significance to our understanding of global health.

JGH was founded just over two years ago with the objective of providing a vibrant and much-needed forum for student dialogue on contemporary issues in global health. Our well-received podcast series "What is Global Health?" (WiGH?) has allowed us to achieve this goal to an exciting and unprecedented degree, featuring student leaders, world-renowned academics and grassroots activists through a novel medium available to listeners worldwide. However, the print *Journal* remains the bedrock of our organization, and we are pleased to feature the engaging perspectives offered by our authors—both on food and on a variety of other current issues—in what continues to be the world's premier student-run global health publication.

Amit Saha  
Editor-in-Chief



Esther Jung

Front cover design by Kay Lodge

Background photos courtesy of Connie Chen, Esther Jung and Kevin Xu

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*The Journal of Global Health*  
5464 Lerner Hall  
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New York, NY, 10027, USA  
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ISSN: 2166-3602 (Print)  
ISSN: 2166-3599 (Online)

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