



2017 AMWHO at UNC Regional Summit
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
April 8, 2017
<http://uncamwho.org>

Dear AMWHO Participants,

It is our honor to welcome you to the 2017 UNC AMWHO Regional Summit, the first regional American Mock World Health Organization Summit in North Carolina. As the Executive Co-Directors, we have worked to uphold the high standards of our forebears and provide you with the immersive, educational, and enjoyable experience that is the standard of AMWHO.

The Summit represents a bold step forward in the evolution of UNC AMWHO, with a dramatic streamlining of the typical conference structure, among numerous other alterations. Incorporating feedback from previous events, we have been working to pioneer novel ideas to improve the traditional AMWHO conference structure. The most significant change has been to condense the event to a single day Summit, rather than the standard two and a half day conference. This shorter time commitment increases accessibility of the AMWHO experience and allows people to test their interest in health policy before committing to larger conferences. Packed into the Summit are all of the classic aspects of AMWHO conferences, allowing participants to still work collaboratively in their committees, hear from fascinating speakers, and receive the support required to craft a successful resolution.

When considering themes for the Summit, we noticed the importance of evolution in a different context: infectious diseases. In 1980, antibacterial treatments and successful public health campaigns led to incidence rate reductions for many diseases, epitomized by the eradication of smallpox. These successes cultivated optimism among health experts. However, infectious disease-causing microorganisms such as the Zika virus have since adapted, allowing them to evolve resistance to treatments of the past. Threats such as multi-drug resistant tuberculosis have emerged as a result, and infectious diseases have made their comeback. It is imperative that nations respond to these emerging infectious diseases swiftly and effectively to keep their citizens--as well as the citizens of the world--safe and healthy. Globalization and an increasingly interconnected world make the spread of infection even easier, necessitating the sort of international collaboration best facilitated by the World Health Organization.

There are a couple of advantages to having **Infectious Disease** as the theme of the 2017 UNC AMWHO Regional Summit. This topic encourages delegates to analyze a pressing issue comprehensively, understanding the social, economic, biological, and political factors that affect public health. We anticipate that this will result in the creation of holistic, collaborative, and innovative resolutions in our committees, and thereby illustrate the challenges and rewards of crafting global health policy for participants.

We hope that the vision we have described sparks your anticipation and curiosity, and we look forward to welcoming you to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on *April 8th, 2017* for the premier UNC AMWHO Summit!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nishita Sheth'.

Nishita Sheth
Executive Co-Director
2017 UNC AMWHO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Chris Lurie'.

Chris Lurie
Executive Co-Director
2017 UNC AMWHO