

I am delighted the Medsin conference is being held at UCL. The energy and ideas of medical students can play an important role in the development of new initiatives for global health. Our world is getting smaller. The challenges for health in the 21st century are formidable. Communicable diseases and the ill-health associated with poverty are still widely prevalent, and the burden of non-communicable disease is increasing as people live longer. Climate change and the global economic crisis will severely test the world's commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. But global networks and communications increase the opportunities for medical students and young doctors to make their voices heard. There are also many other ways to make links with less privileged partners, through electives, overseas attachments, research fellowships at home and abroad, and advocacy campaigns. Global health at UCL has never had such a high profile as today, and students and young doctors represent a key part of our efforts to make UCL a leading centre for research, education and advocacy.

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