

***Tackling the Global Health Workforce Shortage:
The 2010 WHO Global Code of Practice
on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel***



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Wednesday, February 29

12:30-1:20 p.m.

William H. Gates Hall, Room 133

Lunch will be provided.

Long a simmering problem, the global health workforce shortage is now reaching crisis proportions. In the past few decades, migration of health workers has expanded and patterns of migration have become increasingly complex. Increased demand for health workers in high-income countries with aging populations is pulling large numbers of health workers from some of the world's poorest nations, contributing to severe shortages of trained health workers in the poorest countries and remotest areas. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 57 countries now face a severe health workforce shortage, with a total deficit of 2.4 million doctors, nurses and midwives.

Spurred by the urgency of the health workforce crisis and increased global attention to strengthening health systems, in May 2010 Member States of WHO adopted a Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel. This presentation will provide a background on the global health workforce crisis and discuss how the WHO Global Code is a unique and powerful instrument that can potentially assist states in beginning to address the challenges associated with the international recruitment and migration of health personnel. It will also consider the significance of this new instrument for the emerging field of global health law and governance.

Professor Allyn Taylor joined Georgetown University Law Center as a Visiting Professor of Law in 2007 and is a faculty member of the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law. She currently is a Visiting Professor of Law at the University of California Hastings College of the Law for spring 2012. Dr. Taylor has been legal consultant to The World Bank, WHO, the Organization of American States, the Pan American Health Organization, the Overseas Development Council, the Framework Convention Alliance, the National Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, Realizing Rights: The Equitable Globalization Initiative and the International Union Against Cancer. Dr. Taylor holds a J.D. from the University of California at Berkeley (Boalt Hall) School of Law and a masters and a doctorate in international law from Columbia University School of Law where she was a Ford Foundation Fellow in public international law.

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