

Improving Health Care World-Wide by Honesty, APP-Implementation and Donating 1% of its Sales by Big Medical and Pharmaceutical Industries?

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You might expect an editorial by a highly esteemed scholar, but this time the writer is a retired Dutch trauma surgeon. Sixty-eight years of age, but not too old to have a dream!

One day Martin Luther King told the world about his dreams of equal rights. April the fourth 2023 it will be 55 years ago he has been murdered for speaking out his dream. The world never stopped sharing dreams after his assignation and I should like to share my dream about health care, however I do realize my dream will not come true this year and maybe never.

My dream as a former doctor: good health (care) for everyone and good circumstances for all health care workers in the world without the threat of violence or punishment because of not doing what a government tells you to do. Let it be possible just to follow our doctors' and nurses' oath. Let there be respect for your efforts made for helping other people everywhere.

The world of (hospital) health care suffered the last two years by COVID-19/Corona with a lot of deaths as its consequence. And even now, people are dying of this virus, especially in China. By "travelling" around the whole world this virus diminished a lot of the normal health care abilities causing a lot of postponed care for patients, who became in need for more health care than they would have if the pathology they were suffering of had been treated at the right moment. Critical care workers had their share of COVID and the postponed care and this will take quite some time to normalize.

Next to this problem, trauma remains a big concern in the whole world. War, traffic, high speed sports, bad infrastructure, felonies, falling at home when becoming of age and nature forces take lives of people of all kinds of ages or they lead to the loss of all kinds of abilities like taking care for yourself. In every country, it brings sadness, sometimes angriness, loss of workforces and leads to an enormous impact on health care resources and thus leads to extreme costs as well. And often to stress and concern for doctors and nurses in ED facilities and the other departments needed for the care for these kind patients.

A lot of Western countries needs more doctors and nurses than they can educate their selves. The shortness of health care workers has many reasons. The jobs are getting less popular among young people because the many working hours and in the Western world because of the lesser income in comparison to lawyers, higher banking employees, consultants, IT-workers and other rewarding jobs after a universal study. Liability after (supposed) malpractice is another problem. And the amount of elderly people in lot of countries causes a bigger need for health care workers. Health care workers from other - often developing - countries are therefore lured away from their home countries. Hereby the amount of available health care workers will decrease in those countries and might decrease health care facilities in such a country. Is this a kind of selfishness?

Is good leadership of the world leaders the only way leading to improvements and making fulfilment of my dream achievable? Less war, improving infrastructure, more attention to our environment, better alertness to spreading contagious diseases and better prepared-

ness for this kind of situations, improving health care systems, decreasing of the demand for hospital care by prevention of diseases like obesity might cause less preventable death, preventable loss of selfcare possibilities, and a good helicopter view for a fair sharing of hospital care world-wide should be the general goal of our leaders.

As doctors and nurses, we can help in starting to make my dream within reach. An important thing is to be honest! Be frank about a new contagious disease rising. Be open after inventing a new therapy. Don't waste time with first publishing your results hoping to get eternal fame, or a Noble price but share your newly acquired insights at once. Share education world-wide. If there is an important, but expensive congress, then let the content of the lectures circulate in developing countries directly afterwards to share the new features, which were discussed. Invite health care workers from medical less experienced countries to update their knowledge in your superb hospital on your expenses or after providing them a grant. And don't ask them to stay in your country if they prove to be excellent but encourage them to return home and help the people in their own country. Medical instruments and diagnostic tools not needed anymore, because the industry provided you with a more sophisticated device in your country, but not yet outdated, might be very useful and needed somewhere else in the world. But only if the standards of medical devices and equipment of the receiving country are met. No dumping of old devices which might cause harm to patients. And make it easy to cry out for help if you as a doctor or nurse are confronted with a problem, you can't solve on your one.

A lot of this already has been realized by small private initiatives and sometimes by NGO' s. And there is the World Health Alliance representing all kind of health care professionals like nurses, doctors, dentists, physiotherapists, and pharmacists doing a great job in patient safety, human resource issues, human rights issues, and combating counterfeit medicines by example. Maybe we need a world-wide APP - the World Health Alliance APP - with possibilities for sharing knowledge, for a second-hand market with good medical devices, for resolving cries out for help with good advice, promptly given, for spreading education possibilities and for meeting other health care workers around the world. Could it be our journal helping to make such an APP? Or should the World Health Alliance be the one to do this? Or Apple, Google or another big Tech company which can give support to develop such an APP (non for profit!)? And could the big medical and pharmaceutical industries do something for the health care world-wide like a big outdoor clothing company just did for the environment by donating 1% of its sales to environmental causes?

I keep on dreaming, but if we don't try, we certainly will lose!

I should like to wish a happy 2023 to all doctors and nurses on earth. And cooperate to make my dream come true!

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