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*“...written with impressive knowledge and with the compassion of a medical doctor who has worked in the poorest countries of the world and whose life has been marked by the miseries he has come across. This book is a moving and pressing appeal to all people of good will.”*

*Rhena Schweitzer Miller, former director of the Schweitzer-Bresslau Hospital in Lambarene, Gabon, and daughter of Albert Schweitzer, MD*

*“Rarely has global health been provided with such a needed guide at just the moment when a tipping point has been reached in visualizing the possibility of narrowing the health equity gap in the world.”*

*William Foege, MD, MPH, Senior Advisor to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Former Director of the CDC, and Former Executive Director of The Carter Center*

## **American Medical Association Announces Publication of Two Books on Global Health Disparities and Volunteer Service**

### ***Awakening Hippocrates: A Primer on Health, Poverty and Global Service and A Practical Guide to Global Health Service***

Health professionals need to better understand the reasons for global health disparities, which is a key issue on the AMA’s agenda for the United States—reducing racial and ethnic disparities in health care. **Awakening Hippocrates: A Primer on Health, Poverty, and Global Service** aims to help medical personnel better understand the reason for global health inequality and inspire them to volunteer their services to those who are in need.

**Awakening Hippocrates** examines the state of global health affairs and, through the author’s personal experiences and research, illustrates the need for medical volunteering. The book examines the rich world’s mostly failed response to global poverty and how the “forces of disparity,” including history, racism, sexism, trade imbalance, and infectious diseases, among

others, have kept change from the poor. Seven exemplary health professionals who have dedicated their lives to service are profiled. The author contends that global health inequality is a solvable problem, and that health professionals are an essential part of the solution, both through service abroad and political action at home. The crucial “first step,” he argues, is engaging the problem directly by working among the poor.

*A Practical Guide to Global Health Service* profiles approximately 300 organizations that place health service volunteers. Each profile includes practical information about length of service terms, personnel sought, language or religious requirements, and availability of funding, training, and room and board. The Guide also prepares health professionals for service opportunities by addressing common obstacles such as fear, time and money constraints, and familial and work obligations, as well as the essentials of preparation for service abroad.

#### About the Author

Edward O’Neil Jr., MD, is a board-certified internist/ emergency physician and Founder of Omni Med, ([www.omnimed.org](http://www.omnimed.org)) a non-profit organization that compiles data on health service organizations and runs health education programs in Belize, Kenya, Guyana and Thailand. Dr. O’Neil is the father of three and has run Omni Med since 1998, taking no salary for his work there. Ed is a practicing emergency room physician at Caritas St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center in Boston, where he works part time. Dr. O’Neil will take no profits from the proceeds of either of these books; all proceeds will go directly to Omni Med in the hopes that it will propel more providers into global health service.

Dr. O’Neil says, “My ultimate goal is to catalyze a revolution in the medical profession, propelling more providers into global health service. Accomplishing that goal carries far greater value to my mind than any monetary reward ever could”.

These books reflect a renewed focus of the AMA: to inspire the direct involvement of physicians in activities to change the future of health care.

### **Awakening Hippocrates: A Primer on Health, Poverty, and Global Service**

**ISBN: 1-57947-772-0**

### **A Practical Guide to Global Health Service**

**ISBN: 1-57947-673-2**

**American Medical Association**

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For more information or to schedule an interview with the author, please contact Newman Communications at (617) 254-4500.