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UIC partnerships and World Health Organization alignment in the current global crisis

In this time of global crisis, everyone has been made aware that planet health does and will require increased efforts from every individual and organization to build partnerships around the world. The urgent global task is to reduce health, cultural and socio-economic weaknesses affecting the majority of the population on earth.

The World Health Organization (WHO) represents the global health aspirations and needs of 192 constituent countries. The organization has been at the forefront of managing disease outbreaks for decades, skillfully containing SARS in Asia and repeated outbreaks of Ebola in Africa, preventing these outbreaks from progressing to far more destructive events.

Global partnerships have also characterized the work of many of us in the University of Illinois at Chicago Center for Global Health, as well in the College of Pharmacy, Nursing and in the School of Public Health. The alignment with the WHO goals and network allows many of us and our international partners in low-middle-income countries to obtain mutual benefits in knowledge, impactful enterprises and innovative strategies. In the current crisis, these partnerships are helping us to keep track of the disease, emerging best practices, and roadmaps for return to normalcy.

COVID-19 requires us to work together and support more investments in human and financial resources to be as quick as possible in developing educated choices and saving as many lives as possible. Importantly, not decreasing but supplementing existing funding to the WHO to address the COVID-19 pandemic will expedite the global return to normalcy and protect against future disease outbreaks.