

Basel, 10 May 2021

Letter of motivation – *Medicus Mundi Schweiz*

Dear Martin, dear Board members,

I am writing to express my interest to become a member of the *Medicus Mundi Schweiz* (MMS) board. I very much support the main aims of MMS in political advocacy, networking, exchange and to focus on specific topical areas like digital health, implementation research.

I think MMS has made strong progress in recent years to make the topic of global health more visible here in Switzerland, to provide arguments for development cooperation, and to highlight our interdependencies. This is not to say that development cooperation is perfect – and there are many areas with room for improvement. The current pandemic has made clearer than ever how inequitable our world is and how privilege and power imbalances pervade our domain, and also much closer to home.

In a country like Switzerland where we all meet one another at least twice it is extremely important to work as a network. MMS has a key role to play here – giving visibility to the contributions of different members and reinforcing the message that together we can go further.

I hold the position of Head of the Health Systems Unit at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH) and so of course have additionally an institutional interest in the work of MMS. There has been a long history of Swiss TPH support to the Board of MMS with Nicolaus Lorenz and Bernadette Peterhans – so I step here into a well forged path.

Swiss TPH is one of the few institutions in global health that brings research, education and training as well as consulting together under one roof. This makes of course for many differences but helps to open the eyes to varying points of view, perspectives and ways of working. All of us collaborate with partner countries and are currently engaged in a process to contribute to the overall decolonization of global health and increase diversity and inclusion – all of which requires tough conversations and a spirit of mutual learning.

My main thematic areas are primary health care, quality of care, human resources, health financing and more recently through multisectoral mandates the interface between nutrition and health. I oversee mandates for several donors and have also a track record of working with foundations and the private sector.

I would be grateful if you will consider my motivation to join the board and look forward to the outlook to work together.

Kind regards,



Helen Prytherch PhD, MPH