Dear IPPNW students!

I have been an IPPNW student for the most part of my medical studies. I can tell you: this movement you guys are also part of has brought so many great things to my life!
The one that probably changed my life the most is Peace through Health and Medical Peacework.
I am very sorry I was hindered to be here in person today to tell you about it in this plenary!
Neil will have introduced you to many important aspects in this field by now, I am sure he has more than made up for my absence!

Still, I’d be happy to share with you some statements of young IPPNW activists all over the world, that I had gathered for today. So sit back, relax, and enjoy the ride...
Peace through health for me is bringing together two basic human needs who cannot exist alone. There is no peace without health and no health without peace.

Claudia Raichle, Germany
The concepts of peace through health and medical peace work are important for me as they acknowledge peace as an essential condition for health. Moreover, this is a further motivation and professional obligation to engage in peace initiatives using our medical expertise.

Okka Kimich, Dublin
Peace through Health for me means eliminating deprivation factors by providing health care (including food, hygiene and water) for the population and thus removing an important reason for a breach of peace or hostile action.

Roman Sandoz, Switzerland
"Peace through Health for me is the possibility to contribute to a sustainable culture of peace. As doctors, we can do this by bridging cultural, ethnic and political divides through professional medical exchange, medical aid programs and health-based community outreach.

Every time we as doctors come out of our office and remind politicians and the public of the fact that war is a disease, show them the link between war and bad health and propose solutions to end violence and insecurity, we are bringing about peace ... through health."

Alex Rosen, Germany
Peace is brain and love is heart of humanity.
Healthy heart and brain is life line for survival.

Abhinav Singh, India
Medical Peace Work is what made me start medical school. A set of skills which need teaching and training, a principle I want to adhere to every day, wherever I am!

Ursula Völker, Germany
We in El Salvador contributed to change the national law to control SALW by doing action oriented research, with that I learnt that health workers can make a difference when others sectors have less trust or when it is a matter of life and health. Health workers and medical students could help with:

- Action oriented Research
- Teaching and educating others in the community and medical peers
- Linking the impact of war and violence on health
- By using knowledge on mental health and diseases to improve quality of life
- Sharing Best Practices

Emperatriz Crespin, El Salvador
“Peace through Health” for me is a discipline that has, to date, been harshly underrated by the international community, particularly in the context of post-conflict peacebuilding. PtH initiatives are a source of tremendous potential.

When I reflect on “Medical Peace Work”, I think of all the motivated health professionals who refuse to give up hope that they can, through the tools and skills they have at hand, contribute essentially to bringing hope and a sense of normality into the lives of people affected by conflict and war.

Dana Rosen, Cameroon/Germany
Peace through Health for me is like a very precious pair of glasses, which allows us a new way of viewing the two things we have committed to spend our lives working for: peace and health.

At the same time, it is like a very valuable toolbox, equipping us with techniques to work towards peace (through health), but also a like a manual showing us how to make use of the powerful skills we already have!

Eva-Maria Schwiehost, Germany
Hoping that you got some inspiration and food for thought by the personal statements, I am very much looking forward now to meeting some of you in today’s workshop at 1:30, where we can explore further how we ourselves can get active in Peace through Health!

But let me add some suggestions of resources whose value I cannot emphasize enough!!

THE book by two of the main and founding thinkers of Peace through Health, one of whom you just had the honour to meet ;-) 

Available through Kumarian Press (just google the title of the book)

The other one being the Medical Peace Work online course and textbook, offering you a profound, extensive but still well structured resource of knowledge... a very fun and effective way to get yourself familiar with all kinds of aspects of Peace and Health!
Welcome to the Medical Peace Work online course!

This course is an introduction to Medical Peace Work for doctors, nurses, public health workers and other health professionals and their students.

In particular it is meant for those who

- want to strengthen their peace and conflict competencies.
- intend to work for humanitarian, development, human rights, or medical peace organizations abroad or at home.
- want to improve health outcomes for their patients and communities in violence-prone settings.

Objectives

When you have finished this course you should be able to:

- apply a public health approach to war and other forms of violence
- demonstrate knowledge about the health impact of direct and structural violence on individuals and societies
- highlight the range of different ways in which health care workers can contribute to the reduction of peace deficits
- identify health professionals’ own peace qualities and demonstrate awareness of other useful peace skills
- recognize and exploit opportunities for violence prevention and peace promotion at your workplace and in clinical practice.

Thank you for your attention and see you later in the workshop!