

## **Haiti Assistance in the Earthquake Aftermath – January 22, 2010**

As you know Haiti is devastated and there are emails going around inviting some specialties to travel to Haiti to help out.

While it is phenomenal that so many groups are getting involved, a united front is a more powerful front. IUSM is one of the largest medical schools in the nation. If the IUSM medical community was to come together and make a collective donation, we could set a powerful example for others to follow. To help make the technical and coordination aspects of this effort as easy as possible, We have set up an IUSM page through the Partners in Health website.

This AOA project (approved by Dean Brater) is to get the word out to donate money. Colleen Kiernan MSIV has stepped up to lead the project. She has investigated and identified Partners in Health as a responsible organization. Below is taken from the email Colleen wrote to her classmates.

The goal of creating this relationship with Partners in Health was to make it EASY to donate, to contribute to an organization of physicians actively working in Haiti and to unite as the IUSM community to make a difference. The realization of this goal can take any shape or form that you so choose.

Partners in Health is a non-profit organization which has been in Haiti for over 20 years, and PIH physicians including Dr. Paul Farmer are already on the ground. Through the PIH website, we can track IUSM donations, discuss fundraising efforts and strategies, and take pride in a communal effort as members of the state of Indiana's only medical school. Many fundraising ideas have already been put forth, but we need more ideas and suggestions, and we strongly encourage anyone and everyone to get involved. We especially hope that leaders and members of SIGs, MSC, AMA, AOA, and other IUSM groups will actively participate and come together in this important school-wide endeavor.

The IUSM donation website for Partners in Health can be found at the following link:  
<http://act.pih.org/page/group/IndianaUniversitySchoolofMedicine>