

Access to Meds: a Case-Study Approach

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ABSTRACT:

As student interest in global health reaches unprecedented levels, it is timely to examine and understand structural barriers to the access of essential medicines that underlie many global health disparities and crises. While intellectual patent law may appear complex and divorced from the direct practice of medicine and public health, it is in fact one of the most crucial issues facing the future of global health.

This workshop will educate participants on the impact that the World Trade Organization (WTO), the “Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement”, the Doha Declaration, the pharmaceutical industry, and other political players have on the availability of medicines in the developing world. In order to convey these players’ relevance to global health, a case study of Thailand’s on-going struggle to produce an affordable and generic version of Chicago-based Abbott Laboratories’ HIV drug, Kaletra, will be discussed. This workshop will conclude by providing participants with ways they may get involved in the fight for access to essential medicines.



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