Cuba has developed a world-class health care system that provides universal access to its own citizens while committing to one of the most extensive international health outreach campaigns in the world. The country has trained thousands of foreign medical students for free under a moral agreement that they serve desperate communities. To date, over 110,000 Cuban health care workers have served overseas.

Where No Doctor Has Gone Before looks at the dynamics of Cuban medical internationalism to understand the impact of Cuba’s programs within the global health landscape. Topics addressed include the growing moral divide in equitable access to health care services, with a focus on medical tourism and Cuba’s alternative approach to this growing trend. Also discussed is the hidden curriculum in mainstream medical education that encourages graduates to seek lucrative positions rather than commit to service for the marginalized. The author shows how Cuba’s Escuela Latinoamericana de Medicina (ELAM) serves as a counter to this trend.

Robert Huish is an assistant professor at Dalhousie University in the Department of International Development Studies. He has published widely on how development strategies, notably through health care and sport education programs in Cuba, have worked to transform conditions of poverty and sub-development throughout the global South. He teaches courses on global health, poverty and human rights, and pedagogies of activism for development.

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A second GLOBAL HEALTH INTERNATIONALISM presentation will be held on March 1, 2013 at 3:00 pm
Room B151, School of Population and Public Health, 2206 East Mall, Vancouver BC:

Philanthro-capitalism, Global Health and the New Washington Consensus
Matthew Sparke, University of Washington