Prescription for the People
Quigley, Fran

Published by Cornell University Press


⋙ For additional information about this book
https://muse.jhu.edu/book/56377
Over the years, I have had many opportunities to be an advocate, writer, and teacher connected to important human rights efforts. But I am fairly new to the struggle for access to medicines. My ignorance has one advantage: I have been able to see the campaign for medicine access through an outsider’s eyes. Often, those eyes have stared in bewilderment at the thick layers of complexity and technical language that obscure the core claim of the campaign: access to medicines is a moral imperative and a human right.

Those layers of complexity are applied by defenders of the status quo, who are happy to intimidate the rest of us into throwing up our hands in frustration. But more seasoned advocates confess that they too can lapse into relying on technical vocabulary and little-known references. My hope is that this book serves to dismantle much of that intimidating barrier.

As you may imagine, my ignorance also brought significant disadvantages to this project. I have had a lot to learn. The extent to which I have been able to overcome those disadvantages is to the credit of five groups of people.
The first group is represented in the extensive endnotes. This brief, straightforward book is built on hundreds of references to more in-depth work by others. Those scholars, activists and patients were my teachers in a self-study access-to-medicines master class. They are all deserving of my thanks and of the thanks of all of us who care about increasing access to essential medicines. Some of the most prolific and incisive writers on this topic deserve special recognition, especially Ellen t’Hoen, James Love, and Brook Baker.

The second group consists of the dozens of access-to-medicines experts who carved precious time out of their hectic schedules for conversations or interviews with me. Some of the interviews led directly to parts of this book, and all helped provide the background for its content. So, my heartfelt thanks goes to, in alphabetical order, Malini Aisola, Alejandra Alayza, Keaton Andreas, Brooke Baker, Stephanie Burgos, Krista Cox, the late Tobeka Daki, Sophie Delaunay, Al Engelberg, Andrew Goldman, Linda Greef, Ethan Guillet, Zahara Heckscher, Julia Hill, Jordan Jarvis, Joanna Keenan, Rachel Kiddell-Monroe, Sandeep Kishore, Stephen Lewis, Javier Llamoza, James Love, Marcus Low, Hannah Lyon, Luz Marina Umbasia, Manuel Martin, Mary-Jane Matsolo, Peter Maybarduk, Fifa Rahman, Manon Ress, Judit Rius Sanjuan, Claudio Ruiz, Zack Struver, Catherine Tomlinson, Els Torreele, and Heba Wanis.

The third group are the Indiana University McKinney School of Law students who contributed their talents in researching, checking sources, and offering feedback on various portions of the book. Sarah Asrar conducted interviews with medicine activists in India and helped write an article based on that experience. Darwinson Valdez interpreted for several interviews. Jessie Howenstine deserves particular thanks because she spent many hours cleaning up the endnote references and offered insightful and very helpful comments on various drafts of this book. Jessie, Chris Stack, M.D., and my sister, Katy Quigley, were inspiring sources of much-appreciated enthusiasm for this book and the cause it promotes.

The fourth group includes Jessie and others who gave their time to read all or parts of this book in draft form and then offered suggestions that significantly improved what you are reading now. Those readers include Katy Quigley, Peter Maybarduk, and Bob Healey. I am very grateful to both for the hours spent reading and providing honest and supportive feedback. Carmel Williams, executive editor of the Health and Human Rights
Journal, published my first-ever in-depth piece on access to medicines and subsequent articles, and she both provided encouragement and suggested paths to better writing on this topic. Suzanne Gordon enthusiastically supported this book and called on her extensive experience in health advocacy, health care, and journalism to consistently provide guidance that made each draft better than the last. As always, Ellen White Quigley was my first and most trusted reader and editor.

The final group deserving of acknowledgement here has formed the core of this and every other project I ever have or will undertake. With Sam, Katie, and Jack, I have been enormously blessed with children who are kind, super-smart, and funny. That means they take after their mother, of course. This book is dedicated to her. Ellen provides a bottomless spring of love, patience, wisdom, and support far beyond anything I could ever deserve.
Prescription for the People