

# Review of: "Public Health Student Internship: An Opportunity to Explore System, Self, and Society"

Marcelo Villalón<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Universidad de Chile

**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The authors reflect on an experience in contact with the real world that contributes to renewing our societies at a professional and sociopolitical level through the new generations. The design and execution of the internship reflects an ethical-epistemological position that places a disciplinary and citizen training at the center in a framework of critical thinking, which reinforces the hope in university work when this is pertinent.

The experience proposed as a formal communication emerges from a developing country. This enriches the predominant academic literature on public health, originated mainly in developed countries. In real world of our developing countries various health problems coexist. Communicable (characteristic of developing countries), non-communicable and external causes, trauma and violence (the latter two more characteristic of developed countries) whose confrontation is more complex because it involves, among other things, the freedom associated to different lifestyles (decision patterns). The solutions are also more complex, since along with financial resources, they presuppose robust democracies with institutional stability, both features still in process in developing countries. This specific complexity of developing countries requires, at the same time, to push and to be patient constantly, having aims at short, middle and long-term.

So, as a suggestion, I would take care of a better balance between recognizing the legacy to be maintained (the effectiveness of strategies that have reduced infant mortality and communicable diseases based on notions such as the natural history of disease and the levels of prevention, which guide intersectoral work, are notable still valid and powerful examples of "traditional" public health) with the contribution of new approaches (such as those of the social sciences) that recognize the advances and to continue together improving the health population level, the purpose of public health.