

Humanitarianism Without Humans

Parasites, Pharmaceuticals
and Philanthropy

Ari Samsky
monday
OCTOBER

19

12:00 to 1:00

Iowa City Public Library . Meeting Room A



The international pharmaceutical companies Pfizer and Merck each maintain donation programs in which they give away millions of doses of drugs to control tropical disease. Merck donates the drug Mectizan (ivermectin) to control the parasitic disease river blindness (onchocerciasis) and Pfizer donates the drug Zithromax (azithromycin) to control trachoma, a blinding eye infection. This talk draws upon anthropological research to explore how drug companies do philanthropy, how international disease control efforts work, and examines the many unintended consequences of giving away drugs on a massive scale.

Ari Samsky is a cultural anthropologist specializing in medical anthropology, the cultural study of health, illness and medicine. His research focuses mainly on the international pharmaceutical industry. He is interested in how it is changing concepts of medical care and public health, and how industry insiders understand and represent their work. He is currently a Postdoctoral Research Scholar at the University of Iowa's Global Health Studies Program. He received his Ph.D. from Princeton University in May, 2009.



Free and Open to the Public. Refreshments will be served!

This event is sponsored by University of Iowa International Programs, Iowa City Public Library and the Stanley-UI Foundation Support Organization.

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all University of Iowa-sponsored events. If you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation to participate in this program, please contact Amy Green, IP External Relations Secretary, in advance at: 319-335-1433.