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Vision Statement v2

**What world problem are you concerned about?

The attainability and cost of prescription drugs is a critical issue in under-developed countries due to lack of local production sources or infrastructure to produce the necessary medication. In certain first world countries such as the United States, restrictions imposed by the government reduce the competition resulting in grandly inflated prices for medication [1].

**Why is this problem important?

Prescription medication is necessary by many to continue living their day to day lives. Without these, individuals would not be able to live normal lives and could be constantly sick or even pass away from illness. Therefore medication for many is not a choice but a necessity. The monopolization or lack of access of these vital supplements can therefore be manipulated to extremes in order to extract exorbitant economical advantage over the consumer [1].

The negative effects of high costs affect the population negatively as a whole. Those who cannot afford medication become a burden as the enormous costs of their medications is spread among the insured. Others are chained down by the hefty monthly costs of their medication and many more spend a good portion of their salary to keep their own families insured. The result is a much slower economic growth and a weaker market as people have much less left over to spend on luxuries

What aspect of this problem seems particularly important to you?

Easy access to comparable medication is for the most part nonexistent, even in more developed countries like the United States. The accepted interaction is that patients take directly what is prescribed by their doctor, no matter how ridiculous the cost. In many cases, older drugs are reintroduced to secluded markets with inflated prices [1].

That is not to say there aren't many comparable medications available to the public. When it comes to allergies for example, we have slightly different drugs that serve the same purpose like Zyrtec, and Allegra. The key point here is that these deal with common, mild issues compared other medications. For more specific illnesses drug prices can soar, especially when they are necessary for survival. The issue can be traced back decades, resulting in extreme drug price fluctuations when these drug costs come under public scrutiny [2].

**How could a new software system help to solve this aspect of the problem?

Due the extremely low costs of shipping goods nowadays coupled with the ever-increasing response rates and exactitude of shipping companies like Amazon the idea of implementing a government-verified software system overseen by a medical panel for the reviewing and distribution of medications is becoming more and more a realistic possibility.

The system would have different aspects which will be presented from a product's perspective. At first any product to be included in the database would have to be approved by the specific panel of an international medical consortium that deals specializes in the illnesses that the medication hopes to assess. Each panel itself would be made up of verified doctors and specialists in that medical focus from across the world. This group would then review the specifications and trial results of

the drug. The panel would ultimately vote and approve or deny the medication while providing an explanation as to why.

Once verified, a product will be added to the database and categorized according to region, general, and specific treatments. Once diagnosed by a doctor, a patient could pull up and comparable available verified medication from different countries and discuss viable options with their medical examiner.

Upon reaching a decision, the doctor could enter their pin, the database would send out the request to the given provider, and email verification would be sent to the hospital before the medication is shipped to the customer's household.

The most challenging aspect of this project from a developing aspect is to design a solid mechanism that will minimize illegal shipments and be able to defeat cyber-hacking attempts. An important differentiation with this model is that users cannot have accounts, only doctors. However, the users can view the different options through the database in order to access cheaper or more reliable medication.

Why do you think that this idea will make a big impact on the world?

The pharmaceutical industry works off an outdated model in a world that is ever more connected. Stringent regulations make the development of new medications extremely expensive to the point where only a few entities can get through this process. The ability to monopolize an industry within a given region that deals with products that for many are a necessity to life is absurd. With today's resources, the verification and legal use of comparable drugs produced by the best minds from all over the world should be acquirable by the consumer, without many of the restrictions and protections in place to ensure direct profit. Drastic reduction in cost and increased competitively in the pharmaceutical industry would reduce the horrific suffering of many boost

the global economy, removing the incarcerating effects many medications currently impose on the lives of common people.

What sources did you use in writing this Vision Statement?

[1]   Peter. "Why Drugs Cost So Much." The New York Times. The New York Times, 14 Jan. 2015. Web. 29 Sept. 2015...
       http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/15/opinion/why-drugs-cost-so-much.html?_r=0

[2]   19, September. "Manufacturer Reduces Price of AZT by 20%." Los Angeles Times. Los Angeles Times, 19 Sept. 1989. Web. 28 Sept. 2015.
       http://articles.latimes.com/1989-09-19/news/mn-111_1_price-cut

[3]