

Investment in research saves lives and money



facts about:

Global Health

We live in a global society where disease knows no borders. Improving health around the world helps protect Americans at home and abroad. Investing in global health research is the smart thing to do for America and the right thing to do for the world.

*"If you think research is expensive, try disease."
— Mary Lasker 1901–1994*

Today:

- ⌘ Infectious diseases are emerging and spreading geographically at the fastest pace in history.
- ⌘ Chronic diseases are the leading cause of mortality worldwide, representing 60% of deaths.
- ⌘ Military personnel, business travelers and other Americans living and traveling abroad can be exposed to unsafe water and diseases such as malaria, leishmaniasis and dengue.
- ⌘ West Nile virus first appeared in the U.S. in 1999 and has spread to every state except Alaska and Hawaii.
- ⌘ Healthy people are critical to economic growth and political stability.

SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WWW.WHO.INT)
OFFICE OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM INDUSTRIES (TINET.ITA.DOC.GOV)
U.S. ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (WWW.USAMRIID.ARMY.MIL)
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (WWW.CDC.GOV)

The Cost:

- ⌘ The World Bank estimates that a global flu pandemic could cost \$1.5 trillion.*
- ⌘ More than 25 million people have died from AIDS globally, 33 million are living with HIV/AIDS and 15 million children have been orphaned by the epidemic.**

SOURCE: *BURNS, A. ET AL. EVALUATING THE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF AVIAN INFLUENZA. 2006. (WWW.WORLDBANK.ORG/AVIANFLU)
** UNAIDS (WWW.UNAIDS.ORG)

SAVING LIVES
SAVING MONEY

HOW RESEARCH SAVES LIVES:

- ⌘ In 2003, CDC and NIH-funded researchers rapidly identified SARS in collaboration with the WHO. This halted the epidemic that infected more than 8,000 people in 30 countries, including the U.S.*
- ⌘ Research on cholera in Bangladesh led to the development of simple and inexpensive therapies to treat dehydration caused by diarrhea, such as Pedialyte™. Deaths from diarrhea among children have decreased worldwide and greater use could reduce hospitalizations in the U.S.**

SOURCE: *NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (WWW.NIH.GOV)
** KING, C.K. ET AL. MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY WEEKLY REPORT. 2003; 52(RR16): 1-16.

HOW RESEARCH SAVES MONEY:

- ⌘ The U.S. has saved more than \$3 billion after investing \$32 million in the global campaign to eradicate smallpox because costs to treat and vaccinate against the disease were eliminated.*
- ⌘ In Washington state, global health activities generate \$4.1 billion of business activity and nearly 3,700 residents work in global health research or service delivery.**

SOURCE: *CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION
**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON OFFICE OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS. ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF GLOBAL HEALTH ON WASHINGTON STATE'S ECONOMY. (WWW.WASHINGTON.EDU/HOME/INTERNATIONAL/PDFS/WASTATEGLOBAL_ECONOMICIMPACT.PDF)

survivor



NAME: NATALIE WILLIAMS
AGE: 30
CONDITION: DENGUE FEVER

Joining the Peace Corps intrigued Natalie Williams of Porterville, California, who jumped at the opportunity to serve while earning her master of public health degree at The George Washington University. However, one experience she did not anticipate during her time abroad was contracting dengue fever.

As a Peace Corps Volunteer, Natalie spent two years partnering with the Ministry of Health in Sensenti, Ocotepeque, a valley community of coffee farmers on the western border of Honduras. This region is a high risk area for dengue fever, a virus spread by mosquitoes.

Natalie had a severe headache, body aches and a fever for four days. She was severely dehydrated, broke out in a mild rash and had no energy. "I wanted to die my body hurt so bad." The only current treatment for dengue is staying hydrated and taking acetaminophen to keep the fever to a minimum. Thousands of people worldwide are not as lucky as Natalie and die of dengue each year.

Dengue is a growing public health problem, particularly in Asia and the Americas. Natalie knows firsthand the importance and benefits of research. She sees the need for more research on dengue because it will "help protect lives of the poor and will help Americans to understand how global health affects them."

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Hope for the Future:

- ⚡ Promising vaccines for the deadly Ebola and Marburg viruses are being developed by the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases and NIH to protect against outbreaks and bioterrorism threats.*
- ⚡ Researchers funded by public and private sources have developed a method to produce an improved tuberculosis vaccine that would be less expensive, not require refrigeration, eliminate needle injection and be more consistently effective than the current vaccine.**
- ⚡ Scientists have engineered yeast to increase production of the highly effective drug for malaria, artemisinin. This new technique could lead to high-quality, low-cost production of artemisinin, making it more accessible to help prevent the million deaths from malaria each year.***

SOURCE: *WARFIELD KL ET AL. JOURNAL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES. 2007;196: S430-437.

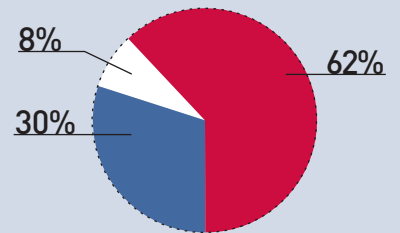
** WONG YL ET AL. PNAS. 2007; 104:2591-2695.

*** RO DK, NATURE. 2006; 440:940-943.

Most Americans Think the U.S. Spends Too Little on Global Health Research

Currently, the U.S. government spends much less than one penny of every dollar on research to improve health around the world. Would you say this amount is...

- Too little
- About right
- Too much



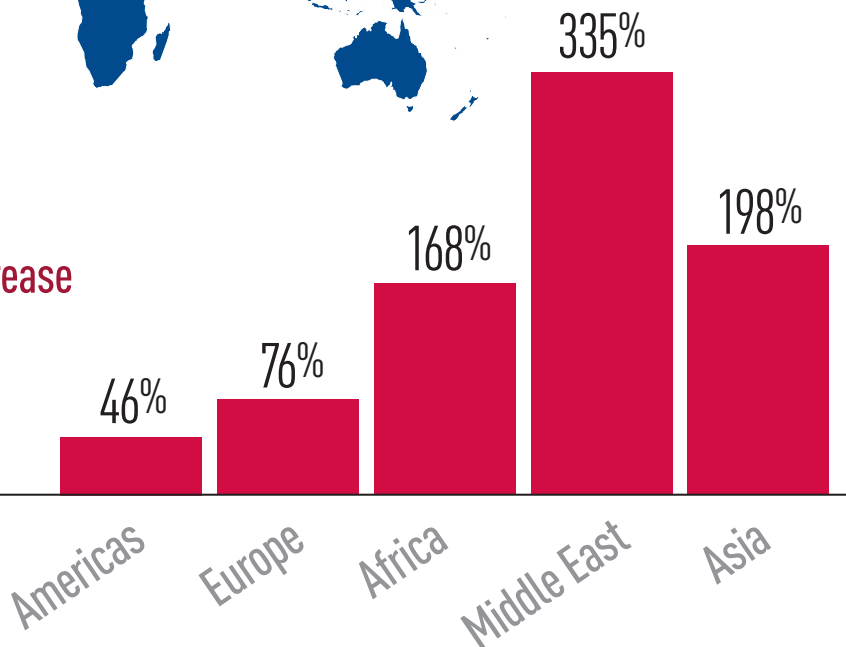
ATTITUDES: GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH
CHARLTON RESEARCH FOR RESEARCH!AMERICA, 2006

The Bottom Line:

Global health research is important to preventing the emergence and spread of diseases and conditions that could endanger Americans and negatively affect the economy. A healthy world population also contributes to greater political and economic stability, which in turn strengthens America's national security.



Percentage Increase in International Tourist Arrivals 1990 to 2006



SOURCE: UNITED NATIONS WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION, TOURISM HIGHLIGHTS 2007 EDITION

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OR the Global Health Council at www.globalhealth.org.

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