The U.S. Commitment to Global Health R&D

Key Federal Players

The U.S. government — through work conducted in five key agencies and departments — is the largest funder of global health science and technology in the world, helping ensure U.S. innovation and leadership while establishing an unparalleled legacy in global health.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH – is the largest source of global health research in the world. For every research grant awarded by the NIH, on average, seven new jobs are created. Many health breakthroughs, which spur additional public and private R&D activity, begin with NIH-funded research at universities and institutions in all 50 states and through partnerships around the world, fueling our global economy.

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE – focuses health research efforts on diseases such as the flu, malaria, dengue fever, and smallpox. Its efforts contribute to national security and help protect the health of American troops, tourists, business people, expatriates and people worldwide.

THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL & PREVENTION – is present in every local community in the U.S., and in many communities around the world. CDC’s surveillance system tracks and detects diseases across borders, and their rapid response method controls outbreaks and epidemics in order to protect the health and safety of Americans while also strengthening our links to global communities.

THE US AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT – has an on-the-ground presence that works in more than 100 countries to introduce products and interventions to improve health around the world. USAID is a critical partner in U.S. diplomacy efforts that ensure our safety and security here at home.

THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION – approves the marketing and distribution of new or improved drugs and devices. FDA’s approval process ensures our products are safe and applies U.S. quality standards to global health technology and its diffusion in the developing world. This also helps protect consumers and their health no matter where they are.

Global Health Research and Development: working to improve lives at home and abroad.

The Global Health Initiative (GHI) is a comprehensive U.S. government approach designed to strengthen global health systems and maximize the health impact achieved for every U.S. dollar invested. Building on the early success of the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), GHI has identified the promotion of research and innovation in applied science as one of its key principles. Overseen by the GHI Research Committee, this initiative works to improve coordination between the U.S. government and global partners at the country level.

"We cannot wall ourselves off from the world and hope for the best, nor ignore the public health challenges beyond our borders.... The world is interconnected, and that demands an integrated approach to global health.”  Barack Obama  President, United States of America

Source: CRS Report, Global Health, USAID Programs and Appropriations from FY2001-2010.

SMART COLLABORATIONS IN GLOBAL HEALTH
Why Fund Global Health Research and Development?

U.S. government support of global health research and development stimulates job growth, promotes a stable global economy and ensures a safer, healthier world.

- Dedication to eradicating disease is smart economics. In the U.S. alone, polo vaccination over the past 50 years has produced a net savings of $180 billion.*

- Addressing drug resistant TB has led to the adoption of directly observed treatment, short course (DOTS) in the U.S. where close to 12,000 new cases were reported in 2009. Through continued funding of DOTS worldwide, researchers estimate a $1.6 trillion gain to the world’s economy.**

- DoD awarded $40 million to the Texas Plant-Expressed Vaccine Consortium. Within 10 years, the Consortium will support 4,000 jobs and contribute $800 million to Texas’ economy, while producing 100 million doses of vaccine each month.***

Continued U.S. commitment enables us to maximize the unique expertise of each key federal agency and department as they collaborate, often with outside partners, to advance health worldwide.

- U.S. federal agency research on Huntington’s Disease (HD) among people in Venezuela made early diagnosis possible for more than 30,000 Americans with HD and more than 20,000 at risk who carry the gene.*

- CDC, FDA, and NIH-funded researchers rapidly identified SAR S in collaboration with the World Health Organization. This halted the epidemic that infected more than 8,000 people in 30 countries, including the US.**

- USAID, CDC, FDA, and NIH have played distinct roles in the development of a gel for women that is shown to decrease HIV transmission and has widespread public health implications.***

*Source: Families USA’s Global Health Initiative – In Your Own Backyard: How NIH Funding Helps Your State’s Economy (June 2008)
**CDC Trends in Tuberculosis, 2009; Health Affairs, July 2009, vol. 28, no. 4, w730-w742
***Institute for Innovative Therapeutics, Texas A&M University System; The Permyan Group, December 2009.

Less than one penny of every U.S. health dollar goes toward global health R&D.

PARTNERS PATH, GlaxoSmithKline, DoD, USAID, CDC, NIH
LOCATION Kilifi, Kenya and Korogwe, Tanzania
GOAL Develop a vaccine for malaria, which kills 800,000 people worldwide

PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative (MVI), a product development partnership in Seattle, WA and Washington, DC is working to find a malaria vaccine. A trial of the most advanced vaccine candidate, GlaxoSmithKline’s RTS,S, is being supported by MVI and its many partners, including the NIH, CDC, USAID and DoD’s Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR). These partners have been crucial in providing early R&D and on the ground expertise. Malaria kills 800,000 people each year and results in $12 billion in lost GDP annually, but tests show RTS,S may cut the risk of malaria in half.

It is Important to Improve Health Globally

How important would you say it is that the U.S. work to improve health globally through research and development?

30% Very important
48% Somewhat important
17% Not too important
5% Not at all important

Source: Your Congress – Your Health Survey, March 2011
Charlton Research Company for Research America

Global Health Research and Development is Important to the U.S. Economy

How important do you think global health research and development is to the U.S. economy?

28% Very important
48% Somewhat important
20% Not too important
4% Not at all important

Source: Your Congress – Your Health Survey, March 2011
Charlton Research Company for Research America

1101 King Street, Suite 520
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
703.739.2577
Fax 703.739.2372
www.researchamerica.org/global_health