

*Advancing innovation to save lives*

February 22, 2010

Ms. Dana Hyde  
Senior Advisor, Office of the Deputy Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
US Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Ms. Hyde:

We, the undersigned members of the Global Health Technologies Coalition, are writing to congratulate you and your colleagues on the President's new Global Health Initiative (GHI) and to applaud the Obama Administration for its strong leadership in promoting global health. As members of a coalition of nonprofit organizations working to accelerate the development of health technologies for the developing world, we are heartened that "promote research and innovation" was included as one of the seven GHI principles. Implementation and operations research, as outlined in the GHI concept document, are critical components of any global health response, and we applaud the Administration for elevating these activities.

However, **we urge the Administration to broaden its research activities to include development and introduction of new global health tools and technologies** as an additional role where the United States should continue to provide leadership. The United States has long been a leader in advancing science and innovation for the benefit of others and has played a critical role in ensuring that health technologies—such as vaccines to prevent childhood diseases and drugs to treat HIV/AIDS infection—reach those in need. However, providing existing prevention and treatment tools is only one part of the battle against pneumonia, diarrheal diseases, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases. To ensure that we are winning the fight against these global diseases, **the United States must also expand existing investments in the development of new global health technologies such as vaccines, drugs, microbicides, diagnostics, and devices.**

The United States contributes to different phases in the development of new global health technologies for the developing world through a variety of US agencies, including the US Agency for International Development (USAID), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Defense (DOD), and Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Each of these agencies brings complementary strengths and expertise to international health research endeavors. **We encourage any global health-related cross-agency committees to include all of these agencies—including USAID and FDA—and a focus on product development and delivery to improve global health.**

Within the US government, USAID occupies a unique role in global health research and development, providing critical expertise and leadership in product development derived from its international presence. USAID is often the federal agency best suited to support the efforts needed to ensure that basic research breakthroughs are translated into concrete health gains in the developing world. This important role must be protected and sustained. Through the GHI, the United States has a unique opportunity to elevate the role of USAID in innovation. In 2006, USAID outlined its five-year health research strategy in *Report to Congress: Health-Related Research and*

*Development Activities at USAID* and subsequent progress reports.<sup>1</sup> This year is the final year of the strategy. **The Administration should request that USAID develop a new six year strategy for its R&D during the GHI period, and to produce an annual report documenting progress in implementing this strategy.**

The agency frequently accomplishes its product development and delivery goals by working in collaboration with innovative partnerships that leverage the public sector’s commitment to improving global health with the private sector’s ability to efficiently usher new products through clinical development phases. These product development partnerships (PDPs)—many supported in part by USAID—are a successful model for expanding the global health product pipeline, bolstering developing world infrastructure to conduct clinical trials, and developing final products. For example, in mid-2009, 17 PDPs were developing 143 products for HIV, malaria, tuberculosis, dengue fever, hookworm, meningitis, diarrhea, respiratory illnesses, and other diseases. **The invaluable PDP model is one which should be sustained and elevated through the Administration’s GHI.**

A strengthened dedication to global health research will contribute to health gains across the world and will help to maintain the role of the United States as a consistent leader in global health science and technology. We look forward to your leadership in advancing international health through research and we stand ready to assist you in any way possible. Please do not hesitate to contact Kaitlin Christenson, our coalition manager, at [kchristenson@path.org](mailto:kchristenson@path.org) or 202-822-0033, with any questions or for further information about this request.

Sincerely,

**Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation**



**American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene**



**GAVI Alliance**



**Global Alliance for TB Drug Development**



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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Agency for International Development. Report to Congress: Health-Related Research and Development Activities at USAID. May 2006. Available online at [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov). A 2009 progress report, entitled “Report to Congress: Health-Related Research and Development Activities at USAID. An Update on the Five-Year Strategy, 2006–2010”; is available online at: [http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PDACN515.pdf](http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PDACN515.pdf)

**Global Campaign for Microbicides**



**Innovative Vector Control Consortium**



**Institute for OneWorld Health**



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**PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative**



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