

**Global Health Technologies Coalition Outside Witness Testimony for the Record  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies  
US Senate**

**Testimony submission by Jamie Bay Nishi, Director, Global Health Technologies Coalition**

Chairman Blunt, Ranking Member Murray, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the fiscal year (FY) 2019 appropriations for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Biological Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA). We appreciate your leadership in promoting the value of global health, particularly continued research and development (R&D) to advance new drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, and other tools for longstanding and emerging health challenges.

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC), a group of more than 25 organizations working together to advance policies that can accelerate the development of global health innovations that combat global health diseases and conditions and save lives at home and around the world.

**To achieve this goal, we respectfully request maintaining robust funding for NIH, providing funding to match CDC's increased responsibilities in global health and global health security—at minimum level funding of \$488.62 million for the CDC Center for Global Health (CGH) and \$614.57 million for the CDC National Center for Emerging Zoonotic and Infectious Diseases (NCEZID)—and supporting new, dedicated funding for BARDA's critical work in emerging infectious diseases, at a minimum of \$300 million.**

We also strongly urge the Committee to continue its established support for global health R&D by urging leaders at the NIH, CDC, the Food and Drug Administration, and other entities within the US Department of Health and Human Services, like the Office of Global Affairs, BARDA, and the NIH Fogarty International Center, to join leaders of other US agencies to develop a cross-government global health R&D strategy to ensure that US investments in global health research are efficient, coordinated, and streamlined.

GHTC members strongly believe that sustainable investment in R&D for a broad range of neglected diseases and health conditions is critical to tackling both longstanding and emerging global health challenges that impact people around the world and in the United States. My testimony reflects the needs expressed by our members, which work with a wide variety of partners to develop new and improved technologies for the world's most pressing health issues.

**Critical need for new global health tools:** While we have made tremendous gains in global health over the past fifteen years, millions of people around the world are still threatened by HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), malaria, and other neglected diseases and conditions. In 2014, TB killed 1.5 million, surpassing HIV/AIDS deaths. Sub-Saharan Africa saw 1.4 million new HIV infections. Half the global population remains at risk for malaria with drug-resistance growing. One out of 12 children in sub-Saharan Africa dies before the age of five, often from preventable diseases. These figures highlight the tremendous global health challenges that remain and the

need for sustained investment in global health R&D to deliver new tools to combat endemic and emerging threats.

New technologies are critical to address unmet global health needs and new challenges like drug resistance, replace outdated or toxic treatments, and overcome barriers in administering current technologies in remote settings. Particularly in our era of globalization where diseases know no borders, investments today in global health innovations will mean millions of future lives saved—at home and around the world.

### **Research and US global health efforts**

The United States is at the forefront of innovation in global health, with NIH, CDC, and BARDA leading much of our global health research.

**NIH:** The groundbreaking science conducted at the NIH has long upheld US leadership in medical research. Within the NIH, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the Office of AIDS Research, and the Fogarty International Center all play critical roles in developing new health technologies that save lives at home and around the world. Recent activities have led to the creation of new tools to combat neglected diseases, including vaccines for dengue and trachoma, new drugs to treat malaria and TB, and multiple projects to develop diagnostics, vaccines, and treatments for Ebola. Leadership at NIH has long recognized the vital role the agency plays in global health R&D and has named global health as one of the agency's top five priorities.

We recognize and are grateful for Congress' work to bolster funding for NIH, including through the *21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act*. It remains critical that support for NIH considers all pressing areas of research—including research in neglected diseases. To deliver on the remarkable progress being made across the institutes, it is vital that we renew our commitment to health research and maintain steady support for the NIH.

**CDC:** The CDC also makes significant contributions to global health research, particularly through CGH and NCEZID. CDC's ability to respond to disease outbreaks, like recent episodes of Zika and Ebola, is essential to protecting the health of citizens both at home and abroad, and the work of its scientists is vital to advancing the development of tools, technologies, and techniques to detect, prevent, and respond to urgent public health threats. Important work at NCEZID includes the development of innovative technologies to provide a rapid diagnostic test for the Ebola virus, a new vaccine to improve rabies control, and a new and more accurate diagnostic test for dengue virus. The center also plays a leading role in the National Strategy for Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria, to prevent, detect, and control outbreaks of antibiotic resistant pathogens, such as drug-resistant TB.

Programs at CDC's CGH—including the Global HIV/AIDS, Global Immunization, Parasitic Diseases and Malaria, Global Disease Detection and Emergency Response, and Global Public Health Capacity Development programs—have also yielded tremendous results in the development and refinement of vaccines, drugs, microbicides, and other tools to combat HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases like leishmaniasis and dengue fever. In

addition, the CGH plays a critical role in disease detection and response, working to monitor and respond to outbreaks, develop new tools to help detection efforts, train epidemiologists in high-burden regions, and build capacity of health systems.

CDC's work in novel technology development and global health security has significantly expanded due to the increasing frequency of global disease epidemics and engagement with the international community on a coordinated Global Health Security Agenda (GHSa). This increased responsibility has only been supported with one-time supplemental funding, not sustainable appropriations. As threats multiply, this will jeopardize CGH operations, scale-back important programming, and ultimately put American health security at risk.

GHTC urges the Committee to dedicate new, targeted resources to continue the GHSa work and maintain all global health security activities. This funding should not come at the expense of other vital global health activities at CDC, and we support appropriations for CDC CGH and NCEZID at no less than FY18 levels.

**BARDA:** BARDA plays an unmatched role in global health R&D by providing an integrated, systematic approach to the development and purchase of critical medical technologies for public health emergencies. By leveraging unique contracting authorities and targeted incentive mechanisms, BARDA partners with diverse stakeholders from industry, academia, and nonprofits to bridge the "valley of death" between basic research and advanced-stage product development for medical countermeasures—an area where more traditional US government research enterprises do not operate.

With these unique assets, BARDA has played a vital role in the development of urgently needed countermeasures for emerging infectious diseases (EIDs) like Ebola and Zika, developing at least three Ebola vaccine candidates, at least six diagnostics for Zika, and at least five Zika vaccine candidates in under two years. To date, BARDA's work in advancing tools to protect against the threat of EIDs has been funded through emergency funding. To ensure the continuation of this critical work and forward-looking investments, GHTC supports the creation of a separate line item for EIDs within BARDA, with an authorization at a minimum of \$300 million.

**Innovation as a smart economic choice:** In addition to bringing lifesaving tools to those who need them most, investment in global health R&D is also a smart economic investment in the United States. **\$0.89 cents of every US dollar invested in global health R&D goes directly to US-based researchers. US government investment in global health R&D between 2007 and 2015 generated an estimated 200,000 new jobs and \$33 billion in economic growth.**

Furthermore, investments in global health R&D today can help achieve significant cost-savings in the future. New therapies to treat drug-resistant TB, for example, have the potential to reduce the price of TB treatment by 90 percent and cut health system costs significantly.

Now more than ever, Congress must make smart budget decisions. Global health research that improves the lives of people around the world—while at the same time supporting US interests, creating jobs, and spurring economic growth at home—is a win-win. On behalf of the members of the GHTC, I would like to extend my gratitude to the Committee for the opportunity to submit written testimony for the record.