

April 5, 2023

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Capito
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies.
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee:

As members of the Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC)—a group of more than 45 nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and aligned businesses advancing the creation of new drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, and other tools for global health—we write to highlight the critical role of US programs that support global health research and development (R&D) and encourage your continued support for this important work.

Our request: In fiscal year 2024 (FY24), we strongly urge the Committee to support global health research by:

- Increasing funding for the **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**, including US\$116.1 million for the **Fogarty International Center (FIC)** as well as robust funding for the **National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)** and the **Office of AIDS Research (OAR)**.
- Fulfilling or appropriating higher than the President's Request for the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID)** and **Global Health Center (GHC)**.
- Appropriating a new \$775 million line for the Pandemic Preparedness and Biodefense program in the **Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response** (\$400 million in the President's Request) and \$500 million total across all relevant accounts for antimicrobial resistance (AMR) for the **Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA)**.

Global health R&D is a practical and moral imperative

Why global health matters: Global health is a bipartisan cornerstone of US foreign policy. Supporting the public health of partner countries has practical and moral justifications:

- It protects Americans from national health security threats, increases global political stability, lifts economies, and most importantly, saves millions of lives.
- These benefits require only small investments. In fiscal year 2023, global health was less than *seven cents* of every \$100 of discretionary public spending. And **investments in global health**

are highly effective. In the last 20 years, investments in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, alone, have saved 25 million lives.

Still, millions of people die every year because we do not have the technologies to save them.

The challenge: In 2021, 1.6 million people were killed by tuberculosis, 1.5 million people were newly diagnosed with HIV, and 247 million people were infected by malaria. In 2019, at least 1.27 million people were killed by antibacterial resistance. More than 1 billion people worldwide are affected by neglected tropical diseases, a group of 20 diseases caused by a variety of pathogens. Women and children are often most vulnerable, especially in low-resource settings. In the future, the world is likely to face new pandemic threats.

The United States, as a biomedical research powerhouse, can change history through relatively small public investments.

New medical products are needed to overcome neglected diseases; to beat AMR; to replace outdated and toxic treatments; to defeat future pandemics; and to better reach low-resource, remote, and unstable settings. Examples of the technologies we need include:

- A vaccine and cure for HIV/AIDS.
- New treatments and prevention technologies for malaria.
- Shorter tuberculosis treatment regimens and a more effective vaccine.
- Better diagnostics and new treatments for neglected tropical diseases.
- A universal pandemic vaccine
- New antibiotics and other tools to address AMR.
- New tools to address insecticide resistance.
- And *many others*.

Why public investment is needed: US government support for this research is critical because the private sector typically does not invest in technologies that have limited profit potential.

- Public investments often seed multi-sector funded product development partnerships, or PDPs: nonprofit organizations that convene government, science, private-sector, and community partners to develop new global health technologies.

NIH Fogarty: An underfunded supporter of global research collaboration

NIH's FIC accelerates science, partnerships, and technical assistance with partner countries to advance new technologies for pressing health challenges, delivering significant scientific results across diseases ranging from Ebola to Alzheimer's and foreign goodwill with less than one-quarter of one percent of the total NIH budget.

What is needed: We urge Congress to provide \$116.1 million in funding for FIC in FY24.

- Fogarty needs more resources for an expanded role in pandemic preparedness and global health research capacity-building.
- This funding would benefit reciprocal innovation: new global health innovations can benefit health care systems in rural and low-income areas of the United States to drive down healthcare costs, improve public health, and strengthen health security.

Why FIC matters: FIC has forged decades-long international partnerships and trained thousands of scientists around the world who now hold high-ranking academic and government positions and have moved the needle on neglected and emerging infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, COVID-19, Zika, and Ebola.

- These investments improve public health in the United States. They strengthen the world's ability to detect emerging and novel disease threats sooner and create platforms for partnerships between scientists in the United States and other countries.
- FIC investments lead to new tools or interventions designed for low-resource settings and these innovations can be deployed back in the United States, where they can drive down costs and improve access to health care in rural settings.

NIH NIAID: A major funder with incoming new leadership

NIAID is the world's largest funder of global health R&D and is undergoing a historic leadership change.

What is needed: We urge Congress to increase funding for NIAID so that the institute can continue to provide robust funding for poverty-related and neglected tropical diseases research programs.

Why NIAID matters: NIAID is the world's leading sponsor of research that leads to new global health technologies.

- NIAID supports basic research that expands our fundamental knowledge of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and neglected tropical diseases. This research leads to new ideas for how to defeat these diseases.
- NIAID also supports the early-stage development of vaccines, drugs, and diagnostics for poverty-related and neglected tropical diseases, often in partnership with other US agencies and product development partnerships.

CDC: A global health technical hub

CDC's **GHC** and **NCEZID** track global diseases and support the development of new medical technologies important for global health. The new deputy director for global health will link cross-agency global health activities.

What is needed: We urge Congress to increase funding for GHC and NCEZID to support CDC's global health research work.

Why GHC matters: **GHC** provides core technical support and validates tools for use by US global health initiatives such as PEPFAR, the President's Malaria Initiative, and USAID's Neglected Tropical Diseases Program. **GHC** monitors global drug and insecticide resistance.

- **GHC** leads global health security efforts. It monitors 30 to 40 international public health threats on average each day, has responded to more than 6,050 emergency outbreaks in more than 150 countries since 2005, and has discovered 12 previously unknown pathogens.
- **GHC** hosts the **Division of Parasitic Disease and Malaria (DPDM)**, which provides services to people in the United States and around the world. Until fiscal year 2023, DPDM had not received a substantial funding increase in 15 years. **Additional funding is needed to maintain DPDM's labs as the world's gold standard.**

- GHC leads US engagements in the Global Health Security Agenda, an international mechanism for countries to coordinate and prepare for future pandemic threats.
- GHC recently uncovered the spread of an invasive mosquito species in East Africa that could accelerate the spread of malaria.

Why NCEZID matters: NCEZID provides expertise to track and prevent infectious disease threats.

- NCEZID serves as an international reference hub for identifying unknown viral and bacterial diseases and provides advanced laboratory services for CDC researchers to safely study hazardous pathogens.
- NCEZID supports early-stage research of vaccines for diseases like Nipah virus, dengue, and Lassa and Rift Valley fevers and develops rapid diagnostic tests for bubonic plague, rabies, Zika, Ebola, Lyme disease, and other parasites.
- NCEZID monitors the spread of diseases and emergence of new variants, indicating to developers when new technologies are needed.

BARDA: An EID funder without EID funding

BARDA sponsors the late-stage development of vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, and other medical devices for naturally occurring biothreats that lack a commercial market—including EIDs, pandemic influenza, and AMR. We urge Congress to provide BARDA with additional, dedicated funding for its EID work.

What is needed: We urge Congress to appropriate \$775 million for BARDA to establish a new division for EIDs and \$500 million total for AMR across all relevant accounts.

Why it matters: BARDA prioritizes national health security, but many of the products it supports have a global impact: at least 82 AMR innovations, at least 100 products for COVID-19, and 8 FDA-approved products for Ebola and Zika.

- BARDA is the best mechanism for sponsoring the late-stage development of EID products to prepare for future health security threats, **but surprisingly, most of BARDA's EID work has only been funded through emergency supplemental appropriations.**
- In 2019, drug-resistant bacteria killed 1.27 million people. BARDA supports AMR research through several mechanisms, including CARB-X, a public-private partnership that manages the most promising early-stage development pipeline of AMR products in the world and has already accelerated 18 R&D projects that entered or completed first-in-human clinical trials.
- First-to-market products for health emergencies are often difficult to use in low-resource settings in rural and low-income areas in the United States and around the world.

We strongly recommend that you support global health research through increased or sustained funding for NIH (including FIC, NIAID, and OAR), CDC (including GHC and NCEZID), and BARDA. This work is important for defeating the diseases and conditions the world faces today and the threats we may face in the future.

We stand ready to work with you to advance US leadership in global health and global health innovation and ask that support for global health R&D not come at the expense of other humanitarian assistance and development accounts.

Now more than ever, Congress must make smart budget decisions. Global health research that improves the lives of people around the world while supporting national health security and economic prosperity is a win-win federal investment.

Please do not hesitate to contact GHTC Executive Director Jamie Bay Nishi at jnishi@ghtcoalition.org if you have questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,



American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene



AVAC



Bay Area Global Health Alliance



Social Innovation in Drug Resistance Program, Boston University



Center for Global Health Innovation



Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, U.S.



CHReAD



Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative*



**Elizabeth Glaser
Pediatric AIDS Foundation**
Fighting for an AIDS-free generation

Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation

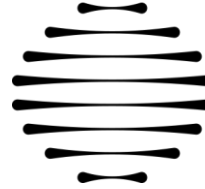
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Diagnosis for all

FIND



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**Global Health
Investment
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GHIC



GHTC
global health **technologies** coalition
Global Health Technologies Coalition



Translating science
into global health impact

IAVI



IVCC Building Partnerships
Creating Solutions
Saving Lives

Innovative Vector Control Consortium



**INTERNATIONAL
VACCINE INSTITUTE**

International Vaccine Institute



Medicines for Malaria Venture

Medicines for Malaria Venture



PATH

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