Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC) Outside Witness Testimony for the Record
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
Testimony Submission by Jamie Bay Nishi, Executive Director, GHTC

On behalf of the Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC), a group of 40 nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and aligned businesses advancing policies to accelerate the creation of new drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, and other tools that bring healthy lives within reach for all people, I am providing testimony on fiscal year 2023 (FY23) appropriations for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA). These recommendations reflect the needs expressed by our members working across the globe to develop new and improved technologies for the world's most pressing health issues. We appreciate the Committee's support for global health, particularly for continued research and development (R&D) to advance new drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, and other tools for long-standing and emerging health challenges, including COVID-19. **To accelerate progress toward lifesaving tools for a range of health threats, we respectfully request increased funding for NIH, including an additional $10 million for the Fogarty International Center (FIC); funding to match CDC's increased responsibilities in global health and global health security, to be reflected in increases for the Center for Global Health (CGH) and National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID); and the creation of a new, dedicated funding line to support BARDA's critical work in emerging infectious diseases (EIDs), which accelerated to unprecedented levels over the past two years and should be sustainably funded beyond the emergency phase of the COVID-19 response.** 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 long-standing and emerging global health challenges that impact people around the world and in the United States.

Coordination is also key: we urge the Committee to request that leaders of Department of Health and Human Services agencies work with counterparts at the State Department and the US Agency for International Development to develop a cross-government global health R&D strategy to ensure that US investments are efficient, coordinated, and streamlined.

While we have made tremendous gains in global health over the past 15 years, millions of people around the world are still threatened by neglected diseases and conditions. In 2019, 1.5 million people were newly diagnosed with HIV, 1.5 million died from tuberculosis (TB), and 1.27 million people died from antimicrobial-resistant bacteria, including TB. Nearly half the global population remains at risk for malaria, and drug-resistant strains are growing. Women and children remain the most vulnerable, especially in low-resource settings: an estimated 7 of every 10 pregnancy-related deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa, also where 1 out of every 14 children dies before the age of 5. 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, both to address unmet global health needs and to address challenges of drug resistance, toxic treatments, and health technologies that are difficult to administer in poor, remote, and unstable settings. The COVID-19 pandemic has only made it more difficult to assess and provide services to address these challenges. It has also highlighted that we do not have all the tools we need to prevent, diagnose, and treat many neglected and EIDs—a reality foreshadowed by the recent Zika and Ebola epidemics. The lifesaving effects of the first generation of COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics demonstrate the power of innovative tools to respond to health emergencies. First-generation COVID-19 vaccines, developed with critical funding from BARDA, NIH, and other US government partners, are highly effective and were built upon past global health research advances. Notably, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is based on technology used in its Ebola vaccine and Zika, respiratory syncytial virus, and HIV/AIDS vaccine candidates, and the

Moderna-National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) vaccine platform was previously used to develop vaccines against other respiratory viruses and the chikungunya virus. This demonstrates how strong, sustained investment in R&D allows us to tackle today's health threats and prepare for those of the future. The US remains at the forefront of global health innovation because of long-term investments in R&D agencies such as NIH, CDC, and BARDA.

NIH: The groundbreaking science conducted at NIH has long underpinned US leadership in biomedical research. Within NIH, NIAID, the Office of AIDS Research, and FIC all play critical roles in developing new health technologies that save lives at home and around the world. FIC, in particular, is a leader in accelerating global scientific progress through international research partnerships, technical assistance, and training. Many FIC-trained scientists have led their countries' responses to COVID-19, Zika, and Ebola, as well as to long-standing challenges such as HIV/AIDS. COVID-19 has underscored that science capacity gaps remain between low- and middle-income countries and high-income countries. With additional funding, FIC could train more scientists in fields relevant to pandemic preparedness, such as disease transmission modeling, and improve global disease surveillance and coordination. We urge appropriators to increase FIC's relatively modest budget by $10 million dollars in each of the next four fiscal years to enable expanded work in new areas, building on the robust increase included in the FY22 LHHS bill.

NIH leadership has long supported the agency's vital role in global health R&D across many institutes and centers and has named global health as one of the its top five priorities. It is critical that NIH continues its long-standing support for research in neglected diseases and EIDs.

CDC: CDC makes significant contributions to global health research, particularly through CGH and NCEZID. CDC's ability to respond to disease outbreaks 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. CDC has responded to over 6,050 emergency outbreaks in over 150 countries between 2005 and 2021, identified disease outbreaks in more than 150 countries, and discovered 12 previously unknown pathogens, and continues to monitor an average of 30 to 40 international public health threats each day. CDC is also a leader in related global health R&D. NCEZID is a leader in the development of diagnostics for global health threats, such as Trioplex, a diagnostic that can differentiate Zika, dengue, and chikungunya viruses, and in early-stage R&D for vaccines for infectious diseases such as Nipah virus and dengue, Lassa, and Rift Valley fevers. 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.

In complement, CGH is a global leader in immunization; public health capacity-building; preventing, detecting, and responding to infectious diseases; and validating innovative tools for use by bilateral and multilateral global health programs. Programs at CGH—including the Divisions of Global HIV and TB, Global Immunization, Parasitic Diseases and Malaria (DPDM), and Global Health Protection—have yielded advances in the development of vaccines, drugs, and other tools to combat HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases like leishmaniasis and dengue fever. GHTC encourages Congress to continue sustainably increasing funding for CGH, particularly DPDM, which has not seen a significant funding increase in more than 15 years. Increased funding for DPDM could lead to greatly improved diagnostic tests and other tools for parasites such as schistosomiasis and malaria and ensure that critical global research infrastructure is maintained and strengthened in the long term.

As global disease outbreaks have grown in frequency and intensity, CDC's work in novel technology development and global health security has only become more important. This includes the agency's work to end the recent Ebola outbreaks in Africa through its international

leadership on the Global Health Security Agenda. GHTC urges the Committee to increase funding to enable CDC's critical global health R&D work at CGH and NCEZID.

BARDA: BARDA plays an unmatched role in global health R&D by using unique contracting authorities and targeted incentive mechanisms to advance the development and purchase of critical medical technologies for public health emergencies. 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 for emerging health threats—an area where other R&D agencies do not operate. BARDA has been a critical funder of countermeasures for naturally occurring health security threats including EIDs such as COVID-19, Ebola, and Zika, as well as pandemic influenza and antimicrobial resistance. To date, BARDA's work in advancing tools for EIDs has largely been funded through emergency supplemental funding. We encourage Congress to create a dedicated funding line of at least $500 million for EID R&D to ensure that BARDA is sustainably and steadily resourced to respond quickly to future threats—rather than wasting precious time waiting for haphazard infusions of supplemental funding during health emergencies.

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 with 89 cents of every US dollar invested in global health R&D going 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. Investments in global health R&D today can help achieve significant cost-savings in the future—a fact made plain by the economic devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now more than ever, Congress must make smart funding decisions. Global health R&D, which improves the lives of people around the world while supporting US health security and economic growth, is a win-win investment.