WHO Director-General consults with NIH during US tour

Fogarty has a friend at the helm of the WHO in Geneva, now that Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has taken up his position as Director-General. Known as “Dr. Tedros,” he previously served as health and foreign minister of Ethiopia, where he got to know Fogarty while collaborating on a Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI) award.

Prior to assuming office on July 1, Tedros spent five days in the U.S., visiting the leadership of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, World Bank, UN, State Department, HHS, CDC and the NIH. While in Bethesda, he met with NIH Director Dr. Francis S. Collins and Fogarty Director Dr. Roger I. Glass, among others.

In his initial address to WHO staff, Tedros pledged to promote global health equity, saying without health, people have nothing. “This is our collective vision: a world where everyone can achieve healthy and productive lives, no matter who they are or where they live.”

Tedros listed four priorities: universal health coverage; health emergencies; women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health; and health impacts of climate and environmental change. He also emphasized the importance of continuing efforts to turn WHO into a more effective, transparent and accountable agency, serving as “the best possible” partner for global health.

“WHO’s work is about serving people, about serving humanity,” he said. “Most importantly, it’s about fighting to ensure the health of people as a basic human right.”

House proposal preserves Fogarty, boosts NIH by $1B

The House appropriations committee with oversight of HHS funding has approved a bill that would continue support for Fogarty, which would have been eliminated under the President’s budget plan. If enacted, the measure would allocate $73.4 million to the Center, a 1.5 percent increase over the current funding level. The NIH would also see a boost, with $35.2 billion proposed for Fiscal Year 2018, which begins Oct. 1. In addition, the bill would mandate that NIH continue to support grantees’ indirect costs, which pay for the administrative and facilities resources required for research.

The Senate is expected to take action on HHS appropriations in September.

Fogarty program launches global health careers

- Cardiologist gains “life-changing” scientific experiences in Africa, India
- Microbiologist establishes collaborations, research site that kick-start career
- Chemist learns scientific and mentoring skills that enable promotion

Read more on pages 6 – 9
People

Georgia health commissioner named CDC Director
Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald has been appointed to lead the CDC. An obstetrician-gynecologist, she has been commissioner of the Georgia Public Health Department for the past six years. As a major in the U.S. Air Force, she served at bases in Michigan and Washington, D.C. She earned a bachelor’s in microbiology from Georgia State and an M.D. from Emory University.

Grigsby to lead HHS Office of Global Affairs
Garrett Grigsby is the new director of the HHS Office of Global Affairs. Grigsby was executive director of the non-profit Christian Connections for International Health. He previously held senior positions with USAID, including director of faith-based and community initiatives. Grigsby also served as a staff member on the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Sharpless will oversee NIH’s Cancer Institute
Dr. Norman E. “Ned” Sharpless has been chosen to head the NIH’s National Cancer Institute. Sharpless comes from the University of North Carolina where he directs the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center and is the Wellcome Distinguished Professor in Cancer Research. An oncologist treating leukemia patients, Sharpless also conducts research on cancer and aging.

Hatchett to helm epidemic preparedness alliance
Dr. Richard Hatchett has taken the role as CEO of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), an alliance between governments, industry, academia, philanthropy and others that exists to finance and coordinate the development of new vaccines. Hatchett previously led countermeasure development programs at HHS and NIH.

Gray tapped as chairman of GACD
Dr. Glenda Gray is the new chair of the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases, a partnership of the world’s largest public health research funding agencies, including NIH. Gray, president of the South African Medical Research Council, has expertise in mother-to-child transmission of HIV, HIV vaccines and microbicides. Early in her career, she received Fogarty training.

Former USAID chief joins Rockefeller Foundation
Dr. Rajiv Shah has assumed the presidency of the Rockefeller Foundation, which has a mission to promote the well-being of humanity throughout the world. Previously, Shah was USAID administrator, where he led the U.S. responses to the Haiti earthquake in 2010 and Ebola outbreak in 2014. He has also held positions at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Global Health Technologies Coalition gets new head
The Global Health Technologies Coalition, an advocacy organization for global health R&D, tapped Jamie Bay Nishi as its new director. Nishi previously was with Devex, a media platform for the global development community. She holds a bachelor’s degree from the College of William & Mary and a master’s in conflict analysis and resolution from George Mason University.

WHO advises on ethics of surveillance
WHO has launched the first-ever international guidelines on navigating the ethical issues presented by public health surveillance. The document outlines 17 recommendations that address topics such as privacy, autonomy, equity and the common good, which it suggests must be weighed by those conducting surveillance.


Young women are next HIV frontier
Adolescent girls and young women are the next frontier to address in stopping new HIV infections, says a study published by the Center for Strategic and International Studies. The U.S. should strengthen efforts targeting these populations to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa.


Pregnant women should participate in trials
An international ethics panel is recommending pregnant women be included in Zika vaccine trials. Following extensive consultations, the working group issued ethics advice on priorities, inclusion and evidence generation. The effort was sponsored by the Wellcome Trust.


Malaria drug protects mice from Zika virus
Hydroxychloroquine, a drug approved by the FDA to treat malaria and certain autoimmune diseases in pregnant women, appears to reduce transmission of Zika virus from pregnant mice to their fetuses, according to an NIH-funded study.


NIH study tracks physical activity globally
Using the largest-ever dataset of human movement, NIH-funded researchers at Stanford University have tracked physical activity by population for more than 100 countries. Daily step data from anonymous smartphone users shows how geography, gender and community type impact physical activity level and how results might inform intervention efforts.

Journal article: http://bit.ly/ActivityData

Report examines global security risk of TB
The U.S. should consider investing in domestic and global TB programs, as well as research to end the epidemic, according to a report issued by the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Innovations in service delivery and discovery of new treatments are needed to protect the U.S. from the risk of drug-resistant TB.

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<th>Funding Opportunity Announcement</th>
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<td>International Research Scientist Development Award (IRSDA) (K01)</td>
<td><a href="http://bit.ly/IRSDA2018">http://bit.ly/IRSDA2018</a></td>
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<td>Planning for Noncommunicable Diseases and Disorders Research Training Programs in LMICs (D71)</td>
<td><a href="http://bit.ly/NCDlifespan">http://bit.ly/NCDlifespan</a></td>
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For more information, visit www.fic.nih.gov/funding

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**CDC exhibit explores Ebola outbreak, aftermath**

Visitors to the CDC museum in Atlanta, Georgia can explore various aspects of the historic 2014-2016 Ebola epidemic in a new exhibit. Titled “Ebola: People + Public Health + Political Will,” the display describes the early days of the outbreak, the heroic work of West African and international healthcare workers and the U.S. response. In addition, it examines issues Ebola survivors continue to face, including stigma.

The exhibition features artifacts, first-person audio testimonials, innovative health communication materials, documentaries, stunning photographs by leading photojournalists and images taken by CDC staff deployed to West Africa. It concludes with an introspective look at “lessons learned” by CDC and its partners, and the efforts to create a public health and societal infrastructure that can conquer diseases such as Ebola before they become international public health emergencies.

Continuing through May 25, 2018, the exhibition was organized and sponsored by the David J. Sencer CDC Museum, the Office of the Associate Director for Communication, the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases, the Center for Global Health and the CDC Foundation.

**RESOURCE**

Website: http://bit.ly/CDCmuseum

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