

# Improving screening, expanding access, and advancing research

No woman should die of cervical cancer. For 30 years, PATH has been at the forefront accelerating evidence-based strategies and technologies, with a focus on the places and people disproportionately impacted by cervical cancer. PATH is a leader in public-sector implementation and research on interventions across the life course, from HPV vaccination to effective and accessible treatment.

## High-precision screening

We provide end-to-end support for ministries of health to adopt evidence-based screening approaches: strengthening clinical guidelines, training providers, and adapting health systems. We were among the first to demonstrate successful large-scale implementation of HPV DNA testing within public health clinics.

## Treatment optimization

We shape clinical guidelines and build capacity among providers to perform thermal ablation—an effective treatment method with logistical advantages over more traditional methods, such as cryotherapy, in low-resource settings.

## Expert opinion

We serve as technical advisors to the world's normative bodies, including the development of the WHO's Cervical Cancer Elimination Strategy, Thermal Ablation Guidelines, Cervical Cancer Screening Guidelines for Women Living with HIV/AIDS, and serve on the Gavi Vaccine Alliance HPV team.

## HPV vaccines that meet the needs of low-resource settings

We advance HPV vaccination for adolescent girls through country support to introduce vaccines nationally, work with manufacturers to develop affordable vaccines, and generate evidence for optimal HPV vaccination schedules, delivery, and policies.

## Who we are

**Silvia de Sanjosé, MD, PhD**  
 sdesanjose@path.org

Director, Women's Cancers  
 Barcelona, Spain

**Jennifer Drake, MPH**  
 jdrake@path.org

Team Lead, Sexual & Reproductive Health  
 Seattle, WA, United States

**Kerry A. Thomson, PhD, MPH**  
 kthomson@path.org

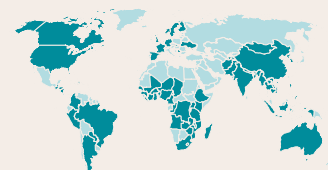
Research Officer, Women's Cancers Seattle,  
 WA, United States

**D. Scott LaMontagne, PhD, MPH**  
 slamontagne@path.org







Director, HPV Vaccine Programs  
 Seattle, WA, United States

## Where we work

We are a global team of 1,500+, working in 70+ countries.

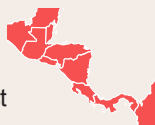


← Accelerating evidence-based strategies and technologies across the life course →

HPV vaccination for adolescent girls	Cervical cancer screening and treatment for adult women	Health systems and policy
<p>Technical assistance for 27 demonstration projects and national introduction of HPV vaccine in 19 countries</p> 	<p>Multi-country validation of a low-cost HPV test</p> 	<p>Introduction of HPV testing in the Central American Region</p> 
<p>Health economic and costing studies on vaccine delivery</p> 	<p>Bench and end-user testing of portable non-gas treatment devices</p> 	<p>Laboratory training and quality assurance program for HPV testing</p> 

## Selected research and service delivery projects

### HPV screening in Central America



PATH's Scale-Up Project was a catalyst for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua to transition to HPV testing for cervical cancer screening and adopt self-sampling. Since 2014, > 300,000 women have been screened with HPV testing, 2 out of every 3 screen positive women received follow-up, and all 4 countries changed their national guidelines to include HPV DNA testing for primary screening.

### Screening for women living with HIV in the Dominican Republic



Women living with HIV have a higher prevalence of HPV and are more likely to experience persistent infection that progresses to cervical cancer than their HIV uninfected peers. PATH is co-leading a NIH-funded clinical trial comparing  $\geq 6$  different screening tests to identify the optimal screening algorithm to detect cervical lesions among women living with HIV in the Dominican Republic.

### Thermal ablation in Honduras



In recognition of the challenges associated with consistently providing gas-based cryotherapy in low-resource settings, PATH conducted a longitudinal clinical trial of thermal ablation in four public-sector clinics in Honduras. Our study found that thermal ablation is a safe and acceptable option for pre-cancer treatment with a high treatment success.



### Looking ahead

PATH continues to evaluate assays and devices that increase coverage and link women to treatment, while maximizing limited resources, including pilot studies of cervical imaging, automated testing, and rapid genotyping for high-risk HPV.

PATH advocates for and supports countries in implementing improved service delivery models to increase access to women-centered cervical cancer screening strategies at large scale for the greatest possible impact. This includes promoting clinic and community-based distribution of self-sampling kits and integrating screening within other reproductive health services, such as HIV and family planning.

With our crosscutting expertise in diagnostics, health economics, procurement, and advocacy, PATH has both the technical knowledge and field experience to assist with assessments, strategic planning, and guideline development as countries respond to the WHO call for cervical cancer elimination.

A woman in Guatemala holds her HPV-DNA self-sampling kit.  
Photo: PATH/Xiomara Celeste Gonzalez



PATH is a global organization that works to accelerate health equity by bringing together public institutions, businesses, social enterprises, and investors to solve the world's most pressing health challenges. With expertise in science, health, economics, technology, advocacy, and dozens of other specialties, PATH develops and scales solutions—including vaccines, drugs, devices, diagnostics, and innovative approaches to strengthening health systems worldwide. [path.org](http://path.org)

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#### Global Headquarters

**Seattle**  
2201 Westlake Ave.  
Suite 200  
Seattle, WA 98121, USA

**Washington, DC**  
455 Massachusetts Ave. NW,  
Washington, DC 20001, USA

**New Delhi**  
15th Floor, Dr. Gopal  
Das Bhawan  
28, Barakhamba Road  
Connaught Place  
New Delhi 110001, India

**Nairobi**  
ACS Plaza, 4th floor  
Lenana Road  
PO Box 76634-00508  
Nairobi, Kenya