

## Focusing on pneumonia

### Pushing toward a new vaccine

At this time of year, news headlines often remind us that pneumonia can kill—in the United States, the elderly are especially at risk. Yet few of us know that, worldwide, pneumonia is the leading killer of *children*. In developing countries, it kills nearly a million each year. And PATH is one of only a handful of groups tackling it.

### The power of vaccines

Caused by a group of bacteria known as pneumococcus, pneumonia is an acute respiratory disease in which fluid fills the lungs, keeping oxygen from reaching the bloodstream. It can also cause brain and bloodstream infections (meningitis and sepsis). The disease ravages the small bodies of infected children, leaving them listless and struggling for breath.

While antibiotics can sometimes help, they are often out of reach in the developing world. Families may not be able to pay for treatment, or the nearest clinic may be more than a day's journey—and then may not have the right medication.

That's why vaccines are so important in low-resource settings. Not only is prevention a better bet than treatment—especially in the age of antibiotic resistance—but vaccines offer lasting protection in a few brief encounters with the health care system.



David Jacobs

PATH is tapping the latest science to tackle the world's leading killer of children.

Often, vaccination campaigns can reach whole communities at once.

PATH is working to bring the power of vaccines to bear on pneumonia.

### Common protein for a common good

Vaccines to prevent pneumonia are already being used in industrialized nations, but they are not fully effective or available in developing countries, where the burden is heaviest. Why?

More than 90 strains of pneumococcus exist worldwide, and they vary by region. The current vaccine was developed for the strains found mostly in the United States. Additional vaccines are needed to broaden coverage and increase availability to children everywhere.

Partnering with vaccine manufacturers, academic and research institutions, and various international health organizations, we're tapping the latest science to develop new options.

Continued inside

### Mark your calendar!

Don't miss the 2007 Breakfast for Global Health on May 22 at PATH's headquarters in Seattle. This annual event gathers support for PATH's Catalyst Fund. If you would like to attend or would consider serving as a table captain, please contact Julie Prujan at 206.788.2463 or [jprujan@path.org](mailto:jprujan@path.org).

DEAR FRIENDS,

As we take stock of global health successes of the past year, here are just a few of the accomplishments in which PATH was involved:

**Eleven million children** in northern India received a vaccine that will protect them against deadly and debilitating Japanese encephalitis.

**Half a million bednets** were distributed in Zambia to protect families and communities from malaria.

Research identified **domestic violence as a global health problem**.

For people around the globe, vaccines for malaria and cervical cancer, diagnostic tests that don't require expensive equipment, and tools that can help protect babies against HIV transmission from their mothers are closer than ever before.

As a supporter of PATH, you are an essential component of our success, sharing our commitment to giving people around the world equal access to the information, technologies, and services that can protect them against disease. Although much remains to be done—to reduce deaths among new mothers and their infants; to stop epidemics like AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria; and to give health systems the power to deliver new technologies and solutions—we *are* making progress.

As we reflect on 2006 and gear up for the coming year, we are grateful for your support. Together we can make a difference in the health and lives of people around the world.

Christopher J. Elias, MD, MPH  
President



M. Dorigabekova

PATH's nonprofit leadership means that a new pneumonia vaccine will be available where it is needed the most.

Continued from front page

Among the most promising developments is a “common protein” vaccine that would protect against the many strains of pneumococcus in countries hardest hit by the disease.

We've already identified one promising vaccine candidate and are working with its creator, biotechnology firm Intercell AG, to prepare for Phase 1 clinical trials, which will test the vaccine's safety. Clinical trials are a critical first step in bringing protection to children everywhere.

### Beyond the laboratory

In addition, we're researching ways to streamline vaccine production so that it is affordable to public health systems in resource-poor countries. In the past, it has taken up to 15 years for new vaccines to become available in developing countries. PATH's involvement at every step of vaccine development—from discovery to distribution—means that a new pneumonia vaccine will reach the places where it's most needed without delay. ●

### Facts from the field

Since 2000, PATH and the China Family Planning Association have reached millions of adolescents through a comprehensive program that teaches life skills—specifically how to prevent sexually transmitted infections, avoid sexual coercion in the workplace, and set goals. Visit [www.path.org](http://www.path.org) and search for “China Adolescent Health Project” to learn more.





## Milestone in immunization coverage

More children in Cambodia are getting the best protection science offers, thanks to efforts by the Cambodia Ministry of Health and its partners—including PATH. According to a recent health survey, 67 percent of all children are fully vaccinated, up from 39 percent just five years ago. This helped generate a 40 percent decline in infant mortality and decrease immunization dropout rates by 37 percent. What worked? It was a specific focus on reducing infant mortality and increasing vaccination rates. The Ministry of Health identified weaknesses within the country's immunization program and set out to reform various systems, from vaccine financing to delivery.



Richard Lord

## New IRA rollover options for donors

In August, the United States enacted new pension reform legislation, and now taxpayers 70½ years old and older can roll money from an IRA to a qualified nonprofit, such as PATH, without first having to pay taxes. This applies only to gifts of \$100,000 or less made in 2006 and 2007.

Your contributions and support are vital to PATH. Donations are pooled in our Catalyst Fund and used for preliminary research or projects that may lead to larger grants once a concept is proven viable.

The IRA rollover provision is one of several ways you can support our work. Our website highlights several other options—convenient online donation, gifts of stock, tribute gifts, corporate matching funds, and workplace giving. You may also use the enclosed envelope. For more information, check out our website ([www.path.org](http://www.path.org)) or contact PATH's development director, Jan Jacobs, at 206.788.2475 or [jajacobs@path.org](mailto:jajacobs@path.org).

## Making an impact in the workplace

Thanks to everyone who supported PATH this fall during our first year as a Global Impact member charity. Global Impact connects employees in their workplaces to a network of 50 US-based international charities. Find out more at [www.path.org/contribute](http://www.path.org/contribute).



## News to note

The November issue of *Glamour* magazine invited readers to support PATH and our efforts to prevent cervical cancer. We're working with an array of partners to make sure new vaccines for human papillomavirus, which causes most cervical cancers, are available in developing countries.

The September 8 issue of the *Puget Sound Business Journal* highlighted our record achievements to support the Catalyst Fund by encouraging individual giving for preliminary research that could produce breakthroughs in global health. ●

## PATH'S MISSION

*is to improve  
the health of people  
around the world by  
advancing technologies,  
strengthening systems,  
and encouraging  
healthy behaviors.*



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## A chance to give

From a young age, Brandon Schaefer heard about the issues plaguing the developing world. His aunt and uncle inspired him with stories of working internationally for organizations such as Doctors Without Borders and the Peace Corps. “My uncle is a doctor, and he chose to do something selfless with his career. In a way, this motivated me.”

In his early twenties, Brandon had the opportunity to travel to Africa. “I saw people working 12-hour days and still living in poverty, simply because of where they were born,” he said. “I walked away from that experience knowing that better health and education were keys to helping people advance.” He also wondered how he could impact the situation.

Three years later Brandon would have an unexpected opportunity to act.

As a child, Brandon played poker with his dad for pocket change. As a student at the University of Washington, he took his game to a new level—and

ended up winning big. Brandon and his friend headed to a European poker tournament that resulted in a one-two finish—and sizable winnings—for the pair. “I feel fortunate to have come into this money. Most of my friends will tell you that the money didn’t change me all that much, but it did provide an opportunity to help.”

During his holiday break last December, Brandon visited PATH, eager to put his own good fortune to broader use. “The PATH product development shop impressed me the most; the science and discovery working to make the lives of people better—it was fascinating.” He added, “I really do believe my donation to PATH means something significant.”

Brandon notes that giving to PATH wasn’t a random decision and that



Courtesy of Brandon Schaefer

When Brandon Schaefer (center, with his brother and guide) traveled to Africa, the experience left wanting to do something for global health. At 26, he’s one of PATH’s youngest donors.

he considered donating to numerous organizations. “I knew PATH would be smart and strategic with the donation,” he said.

Individual donations to the Catalyst Fund like Brandon’s support the heart of our work—the innovation, invention, and early exploration that have the power to transform ideas into projects with worldwide impact. Thank you, Brandon! ●