

# path TODAY

Program for Appropriate Technology in Health

## ***Roll-Out of Uniject™***

*PATH Invention Goes Into Broad-Scale Use*

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, representatives from PATH joined dignitaries from several international agencies and businesses at the P.T. BioFarma factory in Bandung, Indonesia. As the Minister of Health and Social Welfare for Indonesia struck a ceremonial gong, the world's first Uniject™ filling and packaging system was officially launched.



*The Uniject™ processing system in Indonesia is the world's first, but others will soon follow, putting the PATH-designed injection device into global use.*

Uniject™ is an injection device invented by PATH. Its unique features are designed to simplify and improve the safety of injections. It is prefilled, thereby ensuring the correct dosage. It cannot be reused, thus eliminating the risk of disease transmission from reuse of an improperly sterilized syringe. And it is easy to use, allowing less-skilled health workers to give injections.

PATH licensed Uniject™ to Becton Dickinson and Company (BD), whose highly-automated factory in Singapore can produce 100 million Uniject™ devices annually. From there, the devices are shipped to pharmaceutical companies around the world to be filled with vaccines and other medicaments.



*Uniject™ was designed by PATH to make injections safer and easier to administer.*

Uniject™ was designed by PATH to make injections safer and easier to administer. P.T. BioFarma, Indonesia's vaccine manufacturer, is the first company to install a Uniject™ processing system, which fills the devices with hepatitis B and tetanus toxoid vaccine. Other installations are imminent. Attending the launch in Indonesia were senior officials from Aplicaciones Farmaceuticas, a Mexican firm that will fill Uniject™ with Cycloferm™, a monthly injectable contraceptive, starting early next year. At least 37 pharmaceutical companies worldwide are pursuing plans to use Uniject™ with a variety of medicaments.

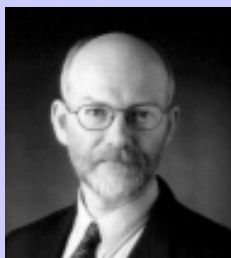
For PATH, the roll-out of Uniject™ marks a major milestone in our development and introduction of "appropriate technologies" to improve global health.



*One day after the factory launch, Indonesia's Minister of Health joined midwives to inaugurate field use of Uniject™ in a national campaign to immunize all newborns against hepatitis B.*

## From the President

As you read in *path TODAY* about substantial grants awarded for various programs, you may get the impression that all of PATH's funding needs are covered by foundations and government sources.



Dr. Christopher J. Elias

In fact, as important as these institutional grants are in helping PATH to achieve its global health mission, gifts from individuals are just as vital.

PATH's expertise in such areas as immunization and reproductive health has grown over time. The large-scale programs we now manage build on earlier activities, often initially supported by individual gifts.

PATH conducts research to understand emerging health issues and identify potential solutions, then carries out pilot projects to test innovative approaches on a small scale. Once success is demonstrated, it's possible to attract large grants for wider implementation.

That's why we are especially grateful for gifts from individuals for general support of PATH. Such gifts provide flexible resources that can be used where most needed. In contrast, grants from foundations and government agencies are usually restricted to specific activities. Individual donors provide the vital margin for innovation that keeps PATH on the "cutting edge."

Thank you for your support of PATH!

Christopher J. Elias, M.D.

## Newsbytes



**Off to (another) Healthy Start..** Based on the success of an earlier PATH project on the island of Lombok in Indonesia, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) recently awarded PATH \$8 million to replicate the *Healthy Start Project* in West and East Java. The project will institute home visits by midwives to all infants and mothers within seven days of birth. Since 80% of Indonesian infants are born at home, such visits are key to ensuring that newborns receive their first immunizations. The project will also focus on women's health and nutrition during pregnancy as well as family planning, safe birth, and breastfeeding. The project's goal is to help families and communities to give their children a healthy start in life.



Training midwives to vaccinate infants born at home is a key strategy in PATH's Healthy Start Plus project.



**Getting the goods..** Many developing countries lack experience and expertise in procuring supplies of essential health products. Under two major USAID-funded initiatives, help from PATH is on the way. As a subcontractor on the *Rational Pharmaceutical Management Plus (RPM+)* Project, PATH will assess current vaccine procurement capabilities and constraints in designated countries, then provide training to strengthen the countries' procurement systems. As a subcontractor on the *DELIVER* Project, PATH will provide technical assistance to developing countries related to procurement of contraceptives. PATH's budgets for the five-year *RPM+* and *DELIVER* projects are \$542,000 and \$1.2 million, respectively.



**More funds for HIV/AIDS prevention..** A recent \$2.8 million award from USAID will extend PATH's role for two more years in the Philippines' national *AIDS Surveillance and Education Project*. Since 1993, PATH has assisted two dozen local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to provide HIV/AIDS awareness and counseling programs for high-risk groups as well as the general population. The new funding will continue various outreach activities and add a focus on advocacy. Specifically, PATH and partner NGOs will advocate for enforcement of existing laws protecting children against prostitution, sexual exploitation, trafficking, and HIV infection.

## Project Profile

### ***PATH in Latin America and the Caribbean***

*A Variety of Projects Address Health Needs of the Region*

**T**he level of PATH activity in Latin America and the Caribbean is significant and growing. Currently, there are 19 projects underway in 14 countries. The projects highlighted below demonstrate some of the ways PATH is having an impact on health in the region:

**Primary Health Care:** PATH provides leadership in Latin America for the PRIME Project, a global training initiative funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Since 1997, a PATH staff person based in the Dominican Republic has served as the Latin America Regional Director for the project. Technical assistance provided by PATH and other PRIME partners has included efforts to improve reproductive health training for primary care providers in 13 states of Mexico.

**Immunization:** PATH is the implementing agency for the *Bill & Melinda Gates Children's Vaccine Program (CVP)*, which seeks to make new, lifesaving vaccines available in developing countries. In Latin America, CVP's primary partner is the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). Currently, PAHO is conducting disease burden studies in five Latin American countries—Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Uruguay—to gather economic data concerning vaccina-

tion against pneumococcal diseases (bacterial pneumonia and meningitis), which will help guide immunization policy formulation and implementation at a later stage.

**Nutrition:** PATH's recent work in the area of nutrition has focused on alleviating micronutrient deficiencies, which cause serious health problems affecting millions of people in the developing world. A key strategy involves Ultra Rice™ premix, a fortified rice product for which PATH holds the patent rights.



Hernando Flores

*Ultra Rice™ premix provides vital nutrients for children's healthy development.*

Studies in Brazil demonstrated the clinical effectiveness of vitamin A fortified Ultra Rice™ premix. Now PATH is working with government officials, nutritionists, and rice packagers in that country to introduce Ultra Rice™ premix into school lunch programs in Pernambuco State.

**Family Planning:** PATH has been a leader in global efforts to increase women's knowledge of and

access to emergency contraception (EC), a method of preventing pregnancy by taking a specific dose of oral contraceptive pills shortly after unprotected intercourse. The Hewlett Foundation recently awarded PATH \$1 million for a three-year project to strengthen the capacity of pharmacists in developing countries to offer convenient and timely access to EC, along with other reproductive health information and services, particularly for adolescents. Additional funding from the Compton Foundation enabled PATH to do a more extensive assessment of EC in Latin America, which resulted in the selection of Nicaragua as one of three countries (Kenya and Indonesia are the others) where Hewlett-supported model programs for pharmacy-based approaches to EC will be implemented.

**Cervical Cancer:** PATH is one of five agencies forming the *Alliance for Cervical Cancer Prevention (ACCP)*, which was awarded a \$50 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 1999 for a five-year cervical cancer prevention initiative. Cervical cancer is the leading cancer killer among women in the majority of developing countries, yet it can be prevented through early detection and simple treatment. In Peru's San Martin Region, PATH is collaborating with PAHO in an ambitious program that aims to



*Continued from page 3*

screen 90,000 women between the ages of 25 and 49; PATH's focus is on promoting community participation. In Mexico, PATH's design for a low-cost, magnifying device for cervical cancer screening is being piloted as an alternative to laboratory-dependent Pap tests.



*Staff from PATH, PAHO, and the Ministry of Health are working together on a cervical cancer screening program in Peru.*

**Microcredit and Health:** PATH is helping a Salvadoran organization, Asaprosar, to link microcredit for women and health. Asaprosar operates several health centers serving impoverished communities in El Salvador; it began a microcredit program as a way of addressing women's income needs. Through PATH's *Fund For Technology Transfer*, Asaprosar obtained loan capital to expand the program to reach many more borrowers. In addition, PATH trained Asaprosar staff in financial management and helped them design health education materials to meet their clients' needs. The number of credit groups (each composed of 15 to 20 borrowers) has tripled since the project began, and the groups' weekly meetings provide a forum for disseminating information about health and family planning that the women's new earning power enables them to pursue.

By working with grassroots groups, private-sector enterprises, and ministries of health, PATH has forged partnerships to carry out important initiatives to improve health in many Latin American and Caribbean countries.

## **Save The Date!**

**Jane Fonda Will Speak at Event for PATH and Planned Parenthood**

Mark your calendars for a very special event! On Thursday, March 15, 2001, PATH and Planned Parenthood of Western Washington will co-sponsor a luncheon in Seattle benefiting both organizations. Our guest speaker will be Jane Fonda, who will highlight issues affecting adolescents both in the United States and around the world. Check the PATH website in early January at [www.path.org](http://www.path.org) for details, or call Suzanne Tripp, PATH's Director of Development, at (206) 285-3500.

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