

path TODAY

Program for Appropriate Technology in Health

PATH Welcomes Three New Board Members

International Board Reflects PATH's Global Mission

PATH elected three new board members at its annual meeting in May, while bidding a fond farewell to three longtime directors—Gordon Duncan, Lee Lott, and Judy Rea—whose terms ended this year.

PATH is governed by a ten-member board of directors. According to the bylaws, the majority of board members must be nationals from countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America/Caribbean so that they may reflect and inform PATH's global mission. Current board members hail from Bangladesh, Chile, Egypt, Kenya, Thailand, and Zimbabwe as well as the United States. All are leaders in public health or business.

The three newest members, all U.S. citizens, also bring a wealth of experience that will help guide PATH's programs and policies:

Molly Joel Coye, M.D., is founder and CEO of the Health Technology Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the use of new health technologies in the U.S. Molly's career has spanned the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. She served as health commissioner in two states, New Jersey and California, at critical moments in the evolution of managed care. Molly also was the director of the west coast office for The Lewin Group, a leader in healthcare policy, strategic planning, and management consulting. Fluent in Spanish and Chinese, she has served as a consultant with the World Health Organization, Pan American Health Organization, and other institutions in Latin America and Asia. Molly lives in San Francisco.

Steve Davis is president and CEO of Corbis Corporation, which owns rights to over 65 million historical, fine art, and other images, and is the purveyor of the largest digital image collection in the world. Steve oversees Corbis' product development, sales, marketing, and new business activities. A lawyer by training, Steve has expertise in intellectual property. Prior to joining Corbis, he practiced law with the Seattle firm of Preston Gates & Ellis. In the 1980s, Steve worked in Asia on international refugee and human rights issues, and he currently serves on the board of United Way International. Steve lives in the Seattle area.



Dr. Molly Joel Coye



Mr. Steve Davis



Mr. Vincent McGee

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Where have Colin Powell, Hillary Clinton, and Jane Fonda been recently?

At events with PATH! See inside for stories and photos...

From the President

PATH's annual board meeting in May is a pivotal point in our year, a time to review past activity and look ahead to new endeavors. This year's meeting was my first as PATH's President, and I found it exhilarating.



Dr. Christopher Elias

Our board members travel from as far away as Bangladesh and Zimbabwe to attend the week-long meeting in Seattle. Their dedication is inspiring, and PATH benefits greatly from their breadth of experience and vision.

Staff made numerous presentations to update board members on PATH's program areas, ranging from emergency contraception to the new Meningitis Vaccine Project (see story on page 3.) These are exciting times at PATH!

The week was not all work. Seattle-area donors joined us for a reception, and our board members enjoyed having the chance to meet and personally thank some of the people whose generosity sustains PATH's efforts.

Three new board members, introduced in this newsletter, were elected: Molly Coye, Steve Davis, and Vincent McGee will be great additions to PATH's board.

Three board members also completed their terms. I would like to express special thanks to Judy Rea, Lee Lott, and Gordon Duncan for their many years of outstanding service to PATH.

Christopher J. Elias, M.D.

Newsbytes



Colin Powell takes his cue from PATH in Kenya... On his recent African tour, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell lent his support to PATH's HIV/AIDS prevention campaign in Kenya. Speaking at an event organized by PATH that got wide media coverage, Powell heartily endorsed the campaign's theme, "Niulize," which means "Ask me." Getting communities to talk about the epidemic is key to raising awareness and changing behavior, Powell agreed, and he spontaneously used "Ask me" as a refrain throughout his remarks.



With PATH's youth murals as a backdrop, Colin Powell spoke about AIDS during his visit to Kenya.



Hillary Clinton greets Ukrainian breast cancer survivor group leaders...

U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton was among those who welcomed participants to the National Breast Cancer Coalition Annual Advocacy Training Conference in Washington, D.C., in May.

Attending the conference for the first time were representatives from Ukraine: Larysa Lopata and Svitlana Oliynyk, leaders of breast cancer survivor groups in Kyiv and L'viv, respectively, and Alla Kovtun from PATH's Kyiv office. PATH helped to form the first survivor groups in Ukraine two years ago; now groups exist in several Ukrainian cities. As well as bringing survivors together for mutual support, some groups also provide volunteer outreach to newly diagnosed, hospitalized, breast cancer patients.



Sen. Clinton with (l. to r.) Alla Kovtun of PATH, Larysa Lopata, and Svitlana Oliynyk.

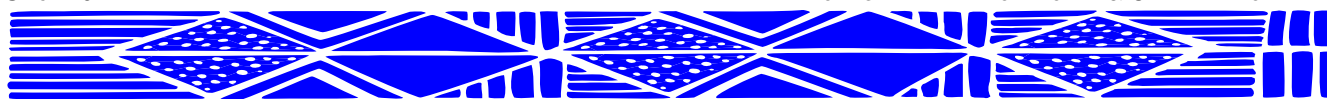


Jane Fonda highlights the needs of adolescents at PATH events in Seattle...



Jane Fonda with PATH President Chris Elias in Seattle.

Actress and activist Jane Fonda was the keynote speaker at a luncheon in Seattle in March that raised funds for PATH and Planned Parenthood. Ms. Fonda told the audience of 380 about her involvement in programs that support adolescent girls in the U.S. and the developing world. During the afternoon, Ms. Fonda participated in a symposium organized by PATH, the Population Council, and the International Women's Health Coalition that focused on the health and social needs of adolescent girls in developing countries.



Project Profile

\$70 Million Program Puts Meningitis Vaccine On Fast Track

PATH is Co-Leader in Effort to End African Epidemics

Meningococcal meningitis is an infection of the brain that can progress over several hours to death. It is the most feared disease in Africa's "meningitis belt" which stretches across 20 countries from Senegal to Ethiopia.

Now, the goal of eliminating this devastating disease, which seemed a distant dream, has been put on the fast track. In May, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation pledged \$70 million for the ***Meningitis Vaccine Project***, led by PATH and the World Health Organization.

"This generous donation will finance the development, manufacture, and pilot introduction of a new, tailor-made vaccine in sub-Saharan Africa," said Dr. Christopher Elias, President of PATH. "Unlike some of our global health problems where the solution is somewhat uncertain, we know that the science is there for developing a vaccine."

Epidemics occur almost every year in Africa. Between 1988 and 1997, 704,000 cases of meningitis and 100,000 deaths were reported, with many others going unreported. This year's outbreak killed more than 4,000 Africans, mostly the young.

Infants less than a year old are at greatest risk. Even with antibiotic treatment, at least one in 10 infected children will die, and another 10 to 20 percent are left with brain damage,

hearing loss, and paralysis. Untreated, up to 50 percent of cases result in death.

The type of meningitis causing epidemics in Africa is rare in industrial countries. Manufacturers traditionally are reluctant to make the substantial upfront investment in developing a vaccine for a disease concentrated among poor countries. Such countries can not afford the prices that would allow manufacturers to recoup their costs.

"We believe the new meningitis vaccine can be ready for use within five years," said Elias. "If that happens, this project will represent the first time that the public sector has successfully commissioned the development of a vaccine that is critically needed by Africa but that would not otherwise have been made by the private sector."



R. Franco

Hopes are bright for a meningitis vaccine for Africa.

PATH Worldwide

PATH has 20 offices in 12 countries implementing local, regional, and global programs. Here are highlights from a few:

The Malaria Vaccine Initiative (MVI) at PATH, based in Rockville, Maryland, achieved a major milestone in May when children in The Gambia, West Africa, received their first dose of a promising malaria vaccine. This first trial, involving 90 children between 6 and 11 years old, is testing the safety and immune response of a vaccine developed by GlaxoSmithKline, the world's largest vaccine maker. All the children are doing well. The vaccine was previously tested in adult volunteers in four countries, including The Gambia, where it showed a 70 percent efficacy rate, higher than any other malaria vaccine candidate. The MVI at PATH seeks to accelerate the development of promising malaria vaccines and ensure their availability for the developing world.

PATH India's campaign to promote use of oral contraceptives is catching on. Sales of the pill jumped more than 20 percent in the four northern states covered by the campaign, which is part of a broader PATH effort in India to promote products for child and reproductive health. Although widely available, oral contraceptives have never gained popularity in India and usage is the lowest in the world. The campaign ran television ads in prime time that targeted women and promoted the benefits of the pill as a woman-controlled contraceptive method.



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Vincent McGee served as executive director of the Aaron Diamond Foundation from 1986 until 1996. Under his leadership and in accordance with the donors' wishes, the foundation spent its assets in a ten-year span, giving away \$220 million, including major support to create and sustain the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York headed by Dr. David Ho. Since 1996, Vincent has continued to assist Irene Diamond with her personal philanthropy. He has extensive experience as a consultant with foundation, corporate, and individual donors. Vincent served on the board of Amnesty International USA for ten years, including two years as board chair, and he currently holds several board memberships. Vincent lives in New York City.

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Christopher J. Elias, M.D., M.P.H.

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PATH on the Web

The Internet is proving to be an "appropriate technology" for carrying out PATH's global mission. PATH currently implements six websites that provide a wealth of information about programs and resources aimed at improving health worldwide. Our own website at www.path.org provides the latest news about PATH's programs, technologies, and more. In addition, we invite you to visit these informative web sites:



www.rho.org—Reproductive Health Outlook is especially designed for reproductive health program managers and decision-makers in developing countries and provides in-depth information on 12 important reproductive health topics.



Consortium for Emergency Contraception

more than 25 member organizations, including PATH, working to expand access to and ensure safe and appropriate use of emergency contraception worldwide, with emphasis on developing countries.

www.ChildrensVaccine.org—The Bill and Melinda Gates Children's Vaccine Program at PATH promotes equal access to new, lifesaving vaccines worldwide.



www.MalariaVaccine.org—The Malaria Vaccine Initiative at PATH seeks to accelerate the development of promising vaccine candidates and ensure their availability in the developing world.

www.alliance-cxca.org—The Alliance for Cervical Cancer Prevention is a group of five international agencies, including PATH, working to clarify, promote, and implement strategies for preventing cervical cancer in developing countries.

