



path TODAY

Program for Appropriate Technology in Health

What's In A Name?

'Appropriate Technology' Key To PATH's Mission of Improving Health Worldwide

The acronym is easier to remember, but our full name tells the real story. "PATH" stands for Program for Appropriate Technology in Health. The name sums up PATH's mission and unique role in international health.

PATH seeks health solutions that are "appropriate" for developing countries in terms of being practical, affordable, and culturally acceptable. Developing countries have very limited budgets and few trained personnel to devote to health. PATH's approach is to find relatively simple, low-cost means that can have a major impact on improving health for many people.

For PATH, "technologies" include products as well as strategies and information for bringing about health improvements. PATH develops new technologies—or adapts existing ones—for infant and maternal health, immunization delivery, diagnosis of major diseases, and other key areas. And PATH provides technical assistance for developing countries' efforts in family planning and reproductive health, child survival, AIDS prevention, and other public health needs.

PATH's emphasis on "appropriate technologies" complements rather than duplicates the work of other international health organizations. Where others are involved in delivery of services, PATH focuses on the tools that can improve health. PATH's problem-solving approach, applied in more than 800 projects in 85 countries during the past twenty years, has helped improve health for millions of people.



PATH finds affordable, practical means to improve the health of women and children in developing countries.

Chris Hedrick Joins PATH's Board

PATH Welcomes Former Peace Corps & Microsoft Executive

PATH is pleased to add Chris Hedrick as a new board member. Chris has varied experience in public service and corporate philanthropy as well as a strong commitment to PATH's mission, based on his experience as a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal. Chris later served as an assistant director of the Peace Corps.

"My Peace Corps experience opened my eyes to the challenges and constraints facing developing countries in trying to meet basic needs and improve people's lives. I'm impressed

with PATH's approach and believe it offers creative, viable solutions that have broad impact," Chris remarked.

In June this year, Chris became Director of Strategy and Operations for the Gates Library Foundation. Established with a \$200 million gift from Bill and Melinda Gates, the foundation is dedicated to bringing computers and Internet access to public libraries in the US and Canada. Previously, Chris was senior program manager in Microsoft's corporate contributions office, managing the company's support for education



Chris Hedrick

and launching its first national philanthropic initiative, Libraries Online. Last year, Chris helped PATH secure a donation of Microsoft software valued at \$100,000.

We welcome Chris' leadership as PATH moves forward with plans for expansion and new fundraising initiatives. PATH's board will now total nine members, the majority of whom are from developing countries.

From the President

World AIDS Day on December 1st focuses attention on the devastating impact AIDS is having around the world. Hardest hit are developing countries, where 20 million people are infected with HIV and obstacles to controlling the epidemic are formidable.



Dr. Gordon W. Perkin

PATH was one of the first agencies to address the problem of AIDS in developing countries, starting in 1987 with a project aimed at increasing condom use by sex workers in Thailand. In the past decade, PATH has managed AIDS projects in over 35 countries.

Recently, PATH received good news in relation to our AIDS activities. The United States Agency for International Development awarded major cooperative agreements to three groups of non-governmental organizations working collaboratively on different aspects of AIDS prevention in developing countries. PATH is the only agency to have a role in all three projects.

We are pleased by this recognition of PATH's expertise in AIDS. Most significant, however, is that this funding will expand PATH's efforts in fighting AIDS worldwide.

Sincerely,

Gordon W. Perkin, M.D.
President

Newsbytes



PATH leads a training mission for Chinese family planning managers...

Twenty representatives from the China Family Planning Association (CFPA) received two weeks of training in Seattle and Washington, D.C., in September. A huge, non-governmental organization with one million branches and 80 million members, CFPA provides family planning information and counseling throughout China. Notably, CFPA serves unmarried couples not included in China's national family planning program and safeguards reproductive rights. CFPA asked PATH for training in reproductive health and operation as a non-governmental organization based on PATH's extensive family planning work in China.



Training for the China Family Planning Association included visits to Seattle health agencies.



PATH conducts a study tour for Ukrainian breast cancer specialists...

Nine Ukrainian doctors visited Seattle for two weeks in October to learn American approaches to detection and treatment of breast cancer. The study tour included visits to the University of Washington, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, and several other breast cancer centers. A memorable experience for the Ukrainians was observing the "Race For The Cure"—a community event to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer. PATH organized the study tour as part of its three-year, \$3.8 million project funded by USAID to help Ukraine improve its breast cancer programs. Incidence of breast cancer and deaths from the disease have risen sharply in Ukraine in the past decade.



Announcing PATH's new website... We invite you to visit PATH's website at www.path.org—same location as before but a great new look! Features include: a "What's New" section, where press releases and new items are highlighted; a "Publications" section, which includes recent issues of PATH's reproductive health journal, *Outlook*, plus a catalog of PATH technologies; and a "Links To Other Sites" section, which puts hundreds of public health websites just a click away. Every quarter, we'll highlight a new in-depth section—this quarter, in recognition of World AIDS Day, we're focusing on PATH's programs related to AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Project Profile

Fighting AIDS Worldwide

PATH Works On Several Fronts In AIDS Prevention

In Nepal, a popular radio soap opera tells the story of "Min." Home after working in another country, Min donates blood for his sister-in-law, then fears he may have infected her with HIV because he had sex with a prostitute while away. After a harrowing week of waiting for test results—and various subplots related to AIDS—Min is greatly relieved to learn he is HIV-negative. His experience inspires him to educate his fellow villagers about the threat of AIDS.

Getting the message out about AIDS is something PATH has been doing in developing countries for more than a decade. The radio drama about "Min" is just one example. PATH's expertise in information, education, and communication strategies has helped increase awareness of AIDS in over 35 countries.

In the Philippines, PATH manages the educational component of the government's national AIDS program. Started in 1992, the project recently got high marks from outside evaluators and funding has been extended to the year 2000. The project operates in eight sites and involves 23 local agencies. PATH provides technical assistance to these agencies in interpersonal counseling, mass media, and reaching high-risk groups. In one program aimed at Filipino dock workers, demand for condoms quadrupled after the AIDS awareness program got underway.

A pioneer in using media such as illustrated brochures for low-literate villagers, comics, radio and TV to fight AIDS, Path has added a new tool.



The story of "Min" promoted AIDS awareness in Nepal through radio and comics.

PATH's AIDS counseling software product, *RiskAdvisor*, helps individuals assess their personal risk of HIV infection. Taking laptops to the Port of Manila, Filipino counselors found *RiskAdvisor* made it easier for dock workers to talk about embarrassing topics, and the program's graphic "risk meter" made a strong impression.

Increasing condom availability and use is key to AIDS prevention. For many years, PATH has promoted condoms for family planning and disease prevention. Through its leadership role in condom quality research, PATH helps set international standards and specifications. PATH assists developing countries with international procurement and has advised 21 governments on the feasibility of local condom production. In addition to its own research on condom quality, PATH has established independent condom quality management laboratories in 17 countries.

AIDS is taking a terrible toll in the developing world. About 20 million people in developing countries are

PATH Worldwide

PATH's nine offices around the world oversee programs both in-country and regionally. Highlights from a few sites:

PATH Indonesia and **PATH Seattle** are collaborating with the French agency, Association for Preventive Medicine, to study the impact of vaccination with Hib vaccine on respiratory illness and meningitis in young children on the Indonesian island of Lombok. Infant mortality rates are high on Lombok, and over half of infant deaths are due to respiratory causes. The study is funded in part by USAID.

PATH Thailand has trained 345 pharmacists in Cambodia to provide treatments for children with diarrhea or acute respiratory infections, the leading causes of child morbidity and mortality. The Cambodian practice of self-medicating puts pharmacists in a key role in treating illness. Implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the Pharmacy Association, the project includes a radio and TV campaign and an outreach program to educate parents about prevention and treatment of the diseases. Funding comes from the McKnight Foundation and UNICEF.

PATH Seattle is working with six clinics in Washington and Oregon on a field evaluation of a low-cost, monocular magnifying device for cervical cancer screening. Cervical cancer is the leading cancer killer among women in developing countries, where Pap tests are rare, yet the disease develops slowly and is easily treatable if detected in time. The device was developed by PATH and its private sector partner, O'Ryan Industries Inc. of Vancouver, Washington, with funding from the National Institutes of Health.

Continued from page 3

infected with HIV, representing about 90 percent of cases worldwide. PATH is working on several fronts to fight the epidemic: finding creative and effective ways to increase AIDS awareness and change people's behavior; increasing the availability of high-quality condoms; and developing technologies for diagnosis and screening blood (see article below). PATH's expertise is recognized in its designation as a World Health Organization Collaborating Center on AIDS.

You can see screens from *RiskAdvisor* and panels from a comic book version of Min's story on PATH's website at www.path.org. And if your computer has sound, you can even hear "Min" speak!

Focus on Technology

HIV Test Meets Global Needs

In developing countries, testing blood for HIV is often problematic. Procedures used in developed countries are too expensive, too complex, and not easily available. As a result, donated blood may be inadequately tested and transfusions may spread HIV infection. Patients who travel long distances to health centers are unlikely to return days later for test results, and opportunities for counseling are lost.

PATH's HIV Dipstick Kit is a rapid, low-cost, easily performed test for detection of antibodies to HIV-1 and

HIV-2. The test does not require sophisticated equipment, produces results in under 30 minutes, and costs about 60 cents, significantly less than comparable tests. Evaluations by the World Health Organization found the test highly accurate.

PATH has transferred the technology to manufacturers in India, China, Indonesia, Thailand, and Argentina. More than three million HIV Dipstick Kits have been sold worldwide.



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Gordon W. Perkin, M.D.

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Taking Stock – And Giving It

Gifts of Appreciated Stocks Can Benefit PATH – And YOU!

Many people who've invested in the stock market have enjoyed financial gains as the Dow Jones average has set new records. December is a good time to "take stock" of your investments and consider sharing your good fortune with charity. Does your portfolio reflect the global economy? Then perhaps you'll "think globally" in your charitable giving, too, by supporting PATH.

Giving PATH appreciated stock you've held for more than a year offers you advantages. If you were to sell the stock, you'd owe tax on the appreciation. By giving the stock to PATH, you avoid this tax and, instead, receive a deduction for the full market value of the stock. As a charitable organization, PATH can sell the stock and avoid tax, stretching your gift to fund more projects around the world. Call PATH's Development Director, Suzanne Tripp, for more information.