

# path TODAY

Program for Appropriate Technology in Health

## **PATH Invites You To A Special Event On May 20**

*UNICEF's Executive Director, Carol Bellamy, Will Be Our Guest*

**M**ark your calendar for an evening of "global proportions" on May 20. PATH is honored to have Carol Bellamy, head of the United Nation's Children's Fund (UNICEF), as our special guest.

Beginning at 6:00 p.m., Ms. Bellamy will speak on the *State Of The World's Children*, a subject at the heart of both UNICEF's and PATH's missions. At 7:00 p.m., following her presentation, Ms. Bellamy will join PATH's international board members at a dinner reception to meet PATH's friends and supporters.

Carol Bellamy has been UNICEF's executive director since 1995. She served as director of the Peace Corps from 1993 to 1995, having been a Peace Corps volunteer herself in Guatemala in the early sixties.

PATH and UNICEF have collaborated on numerous projects in many countries around the world. One such collaboration, which is contributing to the eradication of polio worldwide, is described on page 4.

The lecture and dinner reception will take place at Seattle's Museum of History and Industry. There is ample free parking at the museum, which is located south of Husky Stadium just off 520, near the Montlake Bridge.

Admission to the lecture is \$10. The charge for both the lecture and dinner reception is \$75, which includes a donation to PATH. Questions about the event may be directed to Suzanne Tripp, PATH's Director of Development, at (206) 285-3500. Invitations will be mailed in April.



UNICEF/HQ93-1893

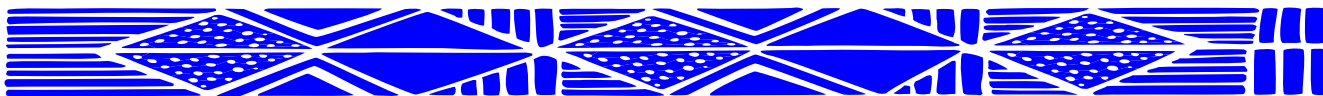
*Carol Bellamy, UNICEF's executive director, will be PATH's guest on May 20.*



*Children in Nepal*

Gordon W. Perkin

*On a single day in December,  
millions of children in Nepal  
were immunized against polio.  
PATH's technology played an  
important role. Story inside...*



## From the President

**H**istorically, PATH has been very successful in winning government and foundation



Dr. Gordon W. Perkin

support. Recent awards continue that trend. PATH's work in AIDS is receiving major new funding from the United States Agency for International Development. The Hewlett Foundation just awarded PATH \$1.1 million for family planning projects.

As PATH begins its third decade, however, new fundraising strategies are needed. Government grants carry restrictions. Some foundations are narrowing their focus. We recognize that PATH's future vitality depends on gaining support from individual donors.

Individuals can offer flexible funding that enables PATH to respond when and where needs arise. Individuals can provide seed money for PATH to develop new technologies and conduct pilot projects that may lead to major grants in the future.

Last year, PATH sought support from individual donors for the first time. We have been tremendously gratified by the response. To all our new donors, whose names appear on this page, we say a heartfelt "thank you" for your generosity.

Sincerely,

**Gordon W. Perkin, M.D.**  
President

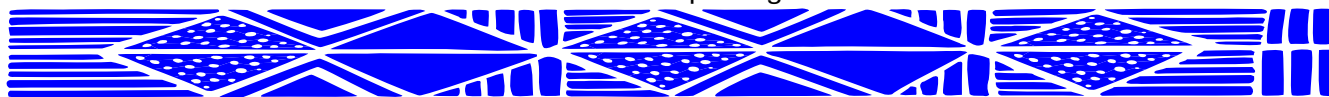
## Newsbytes



**Taking home the gold...** PATH Philippines' trailblazing media campaign won a gold medal at a New York festival showcasing public service advertisements. The award-winning TV ads use metaphors to alert viewers about symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Two ads are aimed at men. One shows water dripping from a faucet; the water turns yellow, then blood-red, illustrating genital discharge. Another uses a slowly corroding pipe to illustrate genital ulcer. A third ad targeted to women shows a white nightgown on a clothesline; a yellowish stain grows bigger as wind rips the nightgown to shreds. The ads end with a call to action, "If you're experiencing these symptoms, go to your health center today." Generating powerful responses from audiences, the ads broke new ground in communicating about STDs.



**First in the nation...** PATH recently launched the Emergency Contraception Pharmacist Prescriber project in Washington State. The first such program in the U.S., it allows pharmacists who enter into a collaborative drug therapy agreement with a physician to prescribe emergency contraceptive pills (two doses of regular birth control pills taken within 72 hours of intercourse and again 12 hours later) directly to women. It is estimated that emergency contraceptives could prevent about half of the 56,000 unintended pregnancies in Washington each year. Partners in the project include the Washington State Pharmacy Association, University of Washington Department of Pharmacy, Washington State Board of Pharmacy, and Elgin DDB Needham. Funding came from the Packard Foundation.



## Project Profile

### All In A Day's Work

#### *PATH's Technology Aids National Immunization Program*

*On a visit to Nepal last December, PATH's president, Dr. Gordon Perkin, witnessed that country's second annual National Immunization Day. One of PATH's technologies played a part. Here's Gordon's report:*

The goal for National Immunization Day was ambitious: to give oral polio vaccine and vitamin A supplements to every Nepali child under the age of five—a target group of about 3.6 million children—in a single day!

I spent several days in the Solu Khumba region of eastern Nepal, where the Himalayan peaks provide a dramatic backdrop to terraced potato fields. Most people live in small villages without electricity. Despite the region's isolation, preparations for the campaign were impressive. Every village I passed through had a large red banner announcing National Immunization Day. Posters were displayed in shops and public buildings.

Distributing supplies throughout the country was a major challenge, particularly since oral polio vaccine requires careful handling. Exposure to heat can damage the vaccine's potency. In Solu Khumba, supplies were sent from Phafu, the regional center, to nine permanent health posts. From there, each health post was responsible for getting supplies to outlying vaccination sites. The 177 sites in Solu Khumba were among a staggering 22,000 vaccination sites across Nepal!

Porters carried the vaccine to remote villages on their backs in insulated coolers stocked with ice packs. It was essential that the cold

chain not be broken en route or at the vaccination site, which in some cases was a small shop or even the home of the local school teacher.



Gordon W. Perkin

*Porters carried the vaccine in coolers to remote areas of Nepal.*

Helping to safeguard the cold chain is where PATH played a role. Every vial of polio vaccine featured a chemically-treated label that would change color if the vaccine was exposed to heat. Simply by looking at the label, one can verify that the vaccine is still potent or should be discarded. This technology, known as the *vaccine vial monitor* (VVM), was developed by PATH with a private sector partner and represents an important breakthrough in vaccine delivery. (For more on the VVM technology, see article next page.)

National Immunization Day on December 7 had the air of a national holiday. Schools were closed and government offices were shut. Parents

*Continued on page 4*

## PATH Worldwide

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

**PATH Thailand** is implementing a project to improve reproductive health services and information available to low-income Muslim adolescents. Project activities, including workshops, counseling and hotline services, and development of media materials, are supported by the Thailand Ministry of Health and United Nations Population Fund.

**PATH Ukraine** is delivering mammography equipment to three sites involved in PATH's USAID-funded breast cancer project. Training in mammography technique and quality control will be carried out in June. In Chernihiv, a region exposed to radiation fallout from the 1986 Chernobyl disaster, PATH is collaborating with the regional cancer center in a pilot mammography screening program. To support that program, PATH has produced educational materials for a breast cancer public awareness campaign.

**PATH Washington, D.C.**, in partnership with the National Council for International Health (NCIH), is promoting international reproductive health courses at U.S. schools of public health by disseminating model curricula. The project is part of a larger effort by PATH and NCIH to make women's reproductive health needs a mainstream public health concern. Funding comes from the MacArthur, Ford, and Turner Foundations.

*Continued from page 3*

and children dressed in their best clothes began lining up at the vaccination sites early in the morning. All the health workers I spoke to were familiar with the VVM and its use. None of the vaccine I observed had to be discarded due to heat exposure, a testament to careful planning and porters with ice packs!

Nearly 100,000 volunteers nationwide were enlisted to help with the campaign, since health personnel could not serve the entire population. The volunteers, who received a few hours training, worked in teams of three. They quickly became adept at dealing with squirming babies and reluctant toddlers. As one volunteer pinched the child's cheeks, a second volunteer would administer drops of polio vaccine and the third volunteer squirted in the vitamin A. Mission accomplished!



Gordon W. Perkin

*A few drops of polio vaccine and vitamin A ensure better health for Nepal's children.*

It was highly satisfying to see the effectiveness of this broad-scale campaign and to see one of PATH's technologies at work.

## ***Focus on Technology***

### **Vaccine Vial Monitors**

*Labels Assure Quality, Cut Waste*

**P**olio vaccine spoils quickly if exposed to heat, yet there is no change in the vaccine's appearance. In developing countries, where refrigeration often is unavailable, health workers had no way of telling if vaccine was spoiled and typically discarded vaccine that had even minor heat exposure.

The *vaccine vial monitor* (VVM), a chemically treated label that changes color when exposed to heat, solves that problem. Under the USAID-supported HealthTech program, PATH worked with LifeLines Technology, Inc., of New Jersey to adapt its food-freshness indicator to public health use. PATH also provided a loan for LifeLines to purchase special label printing equipment.

Calling the VVM a major breakthrough in vaccine delivery, UNICEF and other aid agencies estimate a savings of \$10 million annually because still-potent vaccine will no longer be discarded. And with a means to assure vaccine quality, the goal to eradicate polio by the year 2000 is within reach. UNICEF now requires VVMs on all polio vaccine it distributes worldwide. VVMs for measles and other vaccines are under development.



*Heat exposure causes the square "tag" to darken.*

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#### **Newsletter**

*Editor:* Suzanne Tripp

*Layout:* NanCee Sautbine and  
 Diane Lachman

*Mailing:* Amsale Mengistu

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To learn more about PATH, visit our Web site at <http://www.path.org>.

#### **Headquarters:**

##### **PATH**

4 Nickerson Street  
 Seattle, WA 98109-1699  
 Tel: 206-285-3500  
 Fax: 206-285-6619  
 E-mail: [info@path.org](mailto:info@path.org)

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