

# path TODAY

Program for Appropriate Technology in Health

## “PATH For The Millennium”

*Meeting of Worldwide Staff Focuses on Future*

What are the emerging health needs in developing countries? What role can PATH play in meeting those needs? What approaches seem most promising? What resources are required?

These “strategic” questions inspired lively discussion among program managers at the PATH All-Site Meeting in September. Hosted by the Seattle site, the week-long meeting was attended by staff working in Kenya, Egypt, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Ukraine, Dominican Republic, and Washington, D.C. Representatives from PATH Canada also participated.

Malaria, the re-emergence of tuberculosis, and malnutrition were among the top global health concerns these “front-line” managers identified. Problems such as cancer, substance abuse, and violence—usually associated with the developed world—are becoming major health issues in developing countries as well.



*Staff from PATH's programs around the world met in Seattle in September.*

Staff teams were formed to research several of the emerging health areas and to draft position papers on PATH's potential role. In the coming months, e-mail will criss-cross the globe as team members share information on health trends and priorities in their regions and propose ways for PATH to respond.

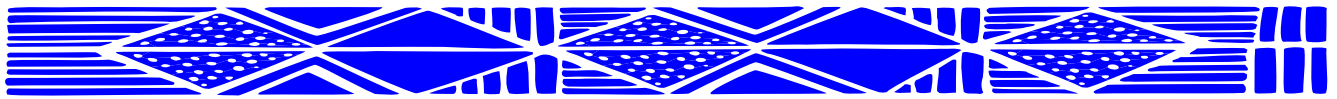
The teams' assignment is to translate the theme of this year's All-Site Meeting—“PATH for the Millennium”—into a set of recommendations for PATH's future.

## Where In The World?

*PATH's Global Presence Is Expanding*

New program activity in Egypt, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Latin America is expanding the list of places where resident PATH staff can be found. With close to 200 employees worldwide, PATH has staff “on the ground” in these locations:

- BOLIVIA (La Paz)
- CAMBODIA (Phnom Penh)
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (Santo Domingo)
- EGYPT (Cairo)
- INDIA (New Delhi)
- INDONESIA (Jakarta, Lombok, and Jayapura)
- KENYA (Nairobi)
- PHILIPPINES (Manila)
- SENEGAL (Dakar)
- THAILAND (Bangkok)
- UKRAINE (Kiev)
- UNITED KINGDOM (London)
- UNITED STATES (Seattle and Washington D.C.)
- VIETNAM (Hanoi)



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

1998 has been a year of growth for PATH. We have more staff in more places around the world. New programs are underway, expanding the scope of our work. PATH's leadership and visibility in global health are on the rise.



Dr. Gordon W. Perkin

What accounts for PATH's strong year? In large measure, our staff. Their hard work and dedication are key to PATH's success. September's energetic All-Site Meeting brought our overseas staff to Seattle and "brought home" the truth that PATH's staff is its greatest asset.

PATH's donors also made this a banner year. USAID increased its support for PATH's flagship technology program, *HealthTech*, which passed its 10-year mark in 1998. Several foundations made substantial awards for PATH's work in family planning, emergency contraception, and other areas. An extraordinary gift from Bill and Melinda Gates for a *Children's Vaccine Program* was matched in spirit by generous gifts from a growing number of individual donors.

Thanks to our donors and staff, PATH carried out more than 90 projects to improve health worldwide in 1998. It was a good year!

Sincerely,

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

## NEWSBYTES



### ***Collaboration lands PATH roles in major global health initiatives...***

Three separate multi-million dollar awards from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) were made recently to consortia of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) for global health projects. PATH is a partner in all three. One is a five-year initiative that will seek to reduce maternal and newborn deaths in developing countries; PATH is one of five partners in the project. Another will support micronutrient interventions by ten NGOs, including PATH. A third will allow USAID Missions worldwide to utilize the technical expertise of eight consortia members, including PATH, in implementing country or region programs related to maternal and child health and nutrition. PATH is a strong proponent of collaboration among NGOs as a way of generating better, more cost-effective solutions to global health problems.



### ***PATH's leadership wins support for timely reproductive health issues...***

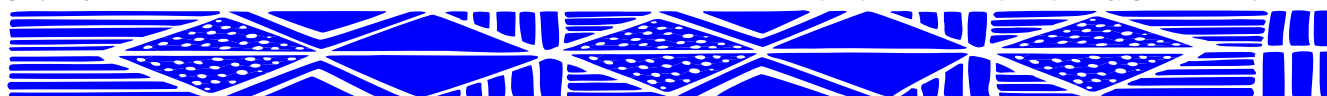
The Wallace Global Fund recently awarded PATH \$125,000 toward elimination of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Kenya. PATH has been a leading force in documenting FGM and working with communities to develop alternative rites of passage for girls. The Packard Foundation has increased its earlier support for PATH's ground-breaking *Washington State Emergency Contraception Pharmacist Project* and has provided new funding for PATH to hold a national workshop in 1999 for states interested in replicating the project; the total amount awarded is \$350,000. In the pilot project, women are able to purchase emergency contraceptive pills directly from pharmacies without first seeing their doctor, an important time-saver since the pills must be taken within 72 hours of unprotected sex.

## "Taking Stock" At Year-End

### *Giving Stock To PATH Offers You Tax Advantages*

**A**s year-end approaches, you may be reviewing your financial affairs and considering charitable gifts to causes that reflect your values and desire to make the world a better place. We hope PATH will be among those you support.

Giving stock—particularly stock you've owned for a year or longer that has appreciated in value—is a tax-smart way to support PATH. You avoid the capital gains tax you would pay if you were to sell the stock. And you can take a charitable deduction for the stock's full market value. To transfer stock from your portfolio to PATH, call your broker and ask him or her to contact Suzanne Tripp, PATH's Director of Development, at 206-285-3500. We can arrange the details of the transfer. *Thank you for supporting PATH.*



## PROJECT PROFILE

# Children's Health Gets A \$100M 'Shot In The Arm'

*PATH Will Lead Global Vaccine Program Created By Bill & Melinda Gates*

A revolution is underway in world health. Several new "miracle" vaccines are now available—or soon will be—that could save millions of lives annually.

Children in the developed world will benefit from these new vaccines almost immediately. But the prospects for the vast majority of the world's children—those who live in poor countries—are far less certain, if history repeats itself.

Now, a bold vision and extraordinary gift are brightening the prospects for children in the developing world.

Bill and Melinda Gates have committed \$100 million to establish the *Children's Vaccine Program*, the world's largest effort to introduce new vaccines to developing countries. Bill Gates explains, "New life-saving vaccines quickly become available to children in the developed world, but recent history shows that children in developing countries have to wait up to ten to fifteen years to receive these same vaccines."

The goal of the *Children's Vaccine Program* is to eliminate or significantly reduce this lag time.

PATH was chosen to lead the

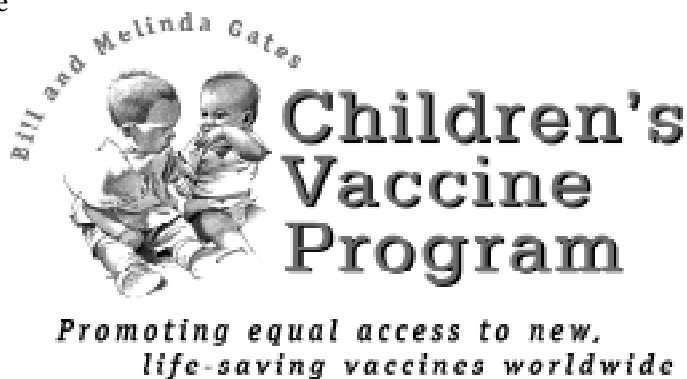
new program. As Dr. Gordon Perkin, president of PATH, notes, "This program represents a major commitment to children's health on the part of Bill and Melinda Gates. It is an honor to have PATH selected as the implementing organization. It is also a great responsibility to ensure the program's success."

Envisioned as a five to ten year effort, the *Children's Vaccine Program* will begin with an immediate focus on new vaccines that protect children against respiratory, diarrheal, and liver disease. **Two to three million children die each year from diseases these vaccines could prevent.**

The program will support, among other activities:

- International meetings to develop consensus on vaccine use;
- Model programs for introducing vaccines into developing countries' public health systems;

*Continued on page 4*



## PATH WORLDWIDE

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

**PATH Ukraine** will continue its *Infectious Disease Health Information Systems Reform Program* for a second year with funding from USAID. PATH is assisting the Ukraine government to improve the quality, timeliness, and utility of data collected and used for public health program management at the local level. Funding also was allocated by USAID for PATH to provide technical assistance and coordination to the disease surveillance components of two major USAID-funded programs, the Chernobyl-related *Childhood Illness Project* and the *Ukraine Birth Defects Project*.

**PATH Kenya** completed a study for UNICEF on female genital mutilation (FGM), a harmful traditional practice that marks the passage to womanhood for some two million African girls annually. PATH gathered data from four districts in Kenya where FGM is prevalent and one district where the practice has been abandoned. The study documents the cultural and religious beliefs that perpetuate FGM, despite some awareness within the communities of its harmful health effects. The study's conclusion—that efforts to eradicate FGM must deal with its social ramifications, not treat it solely as a health issue—will be presented jointly with UNICEF at a December conference. PATH has worked successfully with communities in Kenya to design alternative rites of passage for girls that do not involve physical harm.

Continued from page 3

- Activities to ensure an adequate and competitive global supply of vaccines;
- Efforts to create new and diversified financing mechanisms for vaccine programs.

PATH will manage the *Children's Vaccine Program* through a Secretariat based at its Seattle headquarters. Global partners in implementing program activities include the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the World Bank, the International Vaccine Institute, governments and nongovernmental organizations. Guiding the program is a Strategic Advisory Council composed of eight distinguished international vaccine experts.

## FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY

### PATH's Malaria Test Keeps It Simple

Over two billion people live in malarious regions of the world. As a result, more than 300 million new cases of malaria occur each year, resulting in several million deaths worldwide. Microscopy, the standard method for diagnosis, requires considerable technical skill to perform. It is also labor intensive and impractical when large numbers of samples must be examined.

PATH's immunochromatographic (IC) strip test was designed as a practical alternative for diagnosing falciparum malaria. The test utilizes inexpensive, off-the-shelf components, keeping its production costs low. Health workers with a minimum of training can perform the test, which can be completed in 20 minutes. The simple, rapid IC strip technology enables testing to be done in rural or small clinics or hospitals with accurate results returned the same day, allowing effective patient follow-up and prescription of therapeutic drugs, if needed.

PATH's development of the malaria IC strip test was supported by USAID under the Technologies For Health (*HealthTech*) Program. PATH is now in the process of transferring the production technology to companies worldwide. A Canadian firm began production of the test in July 1998, with companies in India and South Africa to follow soon.



PATH's IC strip test to detect malaria is low-cost and easy to use.

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