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NGDI Member and Partner News

Dr. Robert EW Hancock Receives 2 CIHR Grants for his Innate Immunity Peptide Work

Design and Function of Antimicrobial and IDR Peptides 5 year operating grant for \$787,000.

The therapy of infectious diseases is under threat because antibiotic resistance is rising rapidly, while very few new drugs are under development or entering the clinic. One promising group of compounds are called host defence or antimicrobial peptides. These are small proteins that are produced by virtually all organisms, including plants, insects, and humans. Host defence peptides are a major component of the immune defences against infections because they lead to the death of microbial pathogens and modify immune responses. Our lab has been developing modified versions of these molecules as a new treatment for infections, and took first generation antimicrobial peptides into clinical trials. Here we propose to develop even more effective peptides to enable their successful clinical development as therapeutics for infections. Specifically, we will determine whether these peptides work in combination with and improve the activity of conventional antibiotics.

Anti-Biofilm Therapy 1 year \$160,000

The current therapy for infectious diseases is facing twin threats. On the one hand antibiotic and antiviral resistance is rising rapidly; on the other there are relatively few novel compounds or strategies under development or entering the clinic. The frequent growth of bacteria as biofilms, which are surface-associated bacterial communities that grow in a protective matrix, is of great concern. Biofilm infections are especially difficult to treat with conventional antibiotics, and are a major problem in trauma patients with major injuries and individuals with an implanted medical device, causing 60% or more of all clinical infections. Here we propose to perform pre-clinical investigations on specific peptides as a novel treatment for biofilm infections, preparatory to commercialization.

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Nester Korchinsky Student Leadership Award goes to Olga Pena



Congratulations to Olga Pena, Founder of the [Accessible Science Initiative](#) who was presented with the Nester Korchinsky Student Leadership Award at the 2013 [UBC Student Leadership Conference](#).

Olga receives her award at the closing keynote at the Student Leadership Conference, January 12, 2013.

This award was initiated in honour of the leadership of Dr. Nestor Korchinsky, who was a professor at UBC and the Director of Intramural Programming for 38 years. Dr. Korchinsky's leadership and initiative created one of the most renowned intramural programs in the country, as he saw a need in the university community and filled it by creating what is now UBC REC. The award, presented annually at the UBC Student Leadership Conference, is meant to recognize a student who embodies Dr. Korchinsky's spirit of leadership and initiative at UBC and potentially in the wider community as well.

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CDRD Co-Founds Alliance for Drug Development

Alliance of Translational Research Centres Established to Accelerate Global Drug Development

London, United Kingdom and Vancouver, Canada – January 21, 2013 - At the Canadian High Commission in London UK today, six of the world's top translational health research centres announced they have come together to form a new **Global Alliance of Leading Drug Discovery and Development Centres**. The aim of this alliance is to strengthen the international academic and/or not-for-profit drug development and commercialization network to ultimately improve the rate at which academic research is translated into new medicines.



The founding organizations are:

- The Centre for Drug Research and Development (CDRD), Canada
- Lead Discovery Center (LDC), Germany
- The Scripps Research Institute, Scripps Florida, United States
- The Centre for Drug Design and Discovery (CD3), KU Leuven R&D, Belgium
- Medical Research Council Technology, United Kingdom
- Cancer Research Technology, United Kingdom

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NGDI News



NGDI-UBC 2012 Annual Report

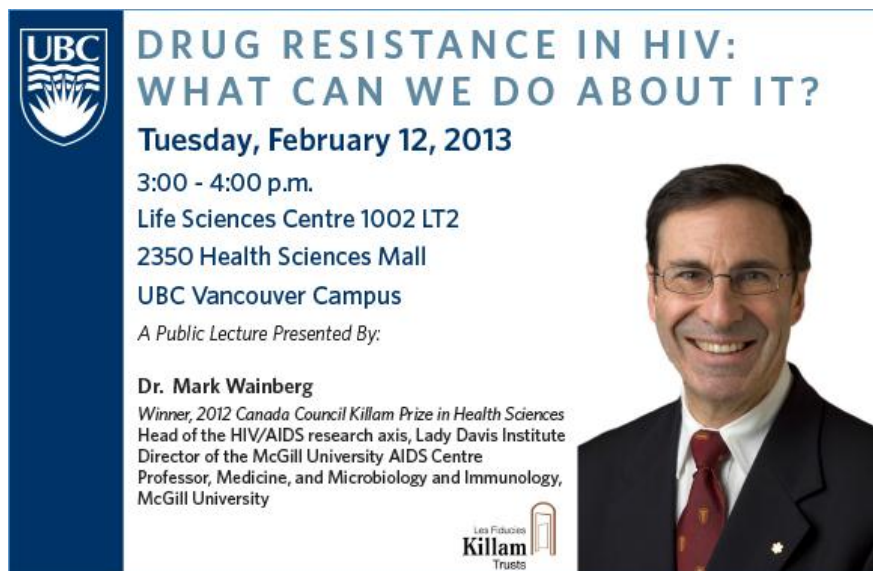
The NGDI-UBC Annual Report was released on Thursday, January 31st. In addition to last year's section, this report adds in the NGDI Project Pipeline, Member Profiles, and a complete list of our Membership.

The report is available for viewing [here](#).

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Upcoming Events

Drug Resistance in HIV: What can we do about it?



UBC DRUG RESISTANCE IN HIV:
WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?
Tuesday, February 12, 2013
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Life Sciences Centre 1002 LT2
2350 Health Sciences Mall
UBC Vancouver Campus
A Public Lecture Presented By:
Dr. Mark Wainberg
Winner, 2012 Canada Council Killam Prize in Health Sciences
Head of the HIV/AIDS research axis, Lady Davis Institute
Director of the McGill University AIDS Centre
Professor, Medicine, and Microbiology and Immunology,
McGill University

Les Filiales
Killam
Trusts

CIHR Open Forum with Dr. Alain Beaudet (CIHR President) and Dr. Jane Aubin (CIHR Chief Scientific Officer)

Topic: Update on Restructuring of CIHR Open Grants and Peer-review System

Date: February 13 (Wednesday)

Time: 3:00-4:30 pm

Site: Life Science Institute (Lecture Theatre 1)

CIHR's President, Dr. Alain Beaudet and CIHR Chief Scientific Officer, Dr. Jane Aubin will be visiting UBC to host an open forum on the new CIHR grant programs. [\[top\]](#)

Celebrate Research Week, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Celebrate Research Week is an engaging public showcase of events and activities that represent UBC's strengths and diversity in research. For Celebrate Research 2013, the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences is pleased to present:



Sex & Drugs & Reproductive Health
celebrate research 2013

Sex & Drugs & Reproductive Health

Monday, March 4, 2013

9 a.m. – 12 p.m. (reception to follow)

Room 1201, Pharmaceutical Sciences Building,
2405 Wesbrook Mall, Vancouver (reception hosted
in Atrium)

RSVP to [Barb Conway](#) by March 1, 2013.

This public event features three dynamic speakers in the area of women's reproductive health:

Cynthia Harper, PhD; Associate Professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences, University of California, San Francisco;

Presentation Title: **Pharmacy Access to Emergency Contraception and Beyond ...**

Joy Johnson, PhD, RN, FCAHS; Scientific Director of CIHR's Institute of Gender and Health; Professor, School of Nursing, University of British Columbia;

Presentation Title: **Reproductive Health: Considering the Nexus of Sex, Gender and Health**

Mary Stephenson, MD, MSc, FRSCS, FACOG; Professor and Head, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Illinois College of Medicine at Chicago.

Presentation Title: **Recurrent Pregnancy Loss: Major Contributions from UBC**

Please visit this page again for event updates.

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NGDI Distinguished Lectureship Seminar – March 6, 2013 4-5 pm

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Peter Singer, Grand Challenges Canada as he discusses Canada's role in tackling Grand Challenges in Global Health

Canada Tackles Grand Challenges in Global Health

Event: NGDI-UBC Distinguished Lectureship Seminar

Date: Wednesday March 6, 2013

Time: 4:00 - 5:00 pm (reception to follow)

Location: Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, 2405 Wesbrook Mall, Room 1201, London Drug Auditorium

Download [poster](#)

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Funding Opportunities

Stars in Global Health – Canada Direct Entry to Phase II

The *Stars in Global Health – Canada Direct Entry to Phase II* program seeks proposals from Canadian innovators who can prove a bold idea has reached proof-of-concept and is ready to transition to scale in order to achieve impact. For more information and to apply, click [HERE](#).

Deadline: February 6, 2013, at 11:59 p.m. ET

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Job Opportunity at Grand Challenges Canada

Grand Challenges Canada is currently recruiting for the position of **Project Coordinator** to support our scaling innovations program.

This position is located in Toronto, Ontario. Recruitment will be administered by the University Health Network.

Closing Date: **February 8, 2013**

For further information and to apply online please

visit: <http://www.recruitingite.com/csbsites/uhncareers/JobDescription.asp?SiteID=10031&JobNumber=695831>

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Saving Brains – Scaling Impact

The *Saving Brains* initiative seeks bold ideas for products, services, policies and implementation models that protect and nurture early brain development in a sustainable manner. For more information and to apply, click [HERE](#).

Deadline: February 11, 2013, at 11:59 p.m. ET

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IRSPUM-CRCHUM Fellowship Program Postdoctoral Fellowship

The University of Montréal Public Health Research Institute (IRSPUM) and the Research Centre of the University of Montreal Hospital Centre (CRCHUM) are offering a joint two-year post-doctoral fellowship, to encourage the recruitment of students in one of the following domains : risks to health, global health and health care systems and services.

For information:

http://www.irspum.umontreal.ca/Portals/0/SoutienRecherche/IRSPUM_CRCHUM_Postdoctorat2013%28E%29.pdf

The deadline for applications is February 14, 2013.

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Medicines for Malaria - Open Call for Projects

MMV welcomes projects in the hit-to-lead and lead optimization stages for new families of molecules specifically addressing the key priorities of the malaria eradication agenda: transmission blocking via the human host, and prevention of *P. vivax* relapse through killing of liver stage hypnozoites or reactivating them so as to be killed in the blood stages. In addition, proposals are sought for novel chemical series with a long half-life (ideally >10h in rodents) and confirmed *in vivo* efficacy that could have potential for well tolerated *P. falciparum* chemoprophylaxis or asexual blood stage treatment in humans. Any proposals based on existing chemotypes must clearly address known issues.

Please note that early target validation falls outside of our mandate.

Finally, we also welcome proposals on novel translational study concepts that enable early confirmation of relapse prevention, transmission blocking and prophylactic activity in humans. Further instructions and the application template can be found on the right-hand side of this page. All applications using the specified template should be sent electronically to proposals@mmv.org by **12 noon CET March 15th, 2013**.

Instructions [Information required for submission of Letter of Interest \(LOI\)](#)

Template [Template for submission of LOI](#)

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Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies

Upcoming program deadlines: **March 1** for Exploratory Workshops and International Visiting Research Scholars, **June 1** for Distinguished Scholars in Residence program. The Institute's programs focus on bringing together distinguished researchers, from both the University of British Columbia and across Canada, to spend time at the Institute. These residencies, ranging in term from one month to one year, encourage the interaction of scholars from a variety of disciplines interested in exploring new research directions. For more information click [here](#).

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2013-2014 CIHR Fellowship in Health Law, Ethics and Policy

For more information, please visit the program website at <http://hlepc.ca>.

The application deadline is March 15, 2013

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Saving Lives at Birth: Round III Request for Applications



Grand Challenges Canada, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Government of Norway, the Bill &

Melinda Gates Foundation, and the U.K. Government (Department for International Development) invite global problem solvers to answer their third call for innovative prevention and treatment approaches to dramatically reduce maternal and newborn deaths and stillbirths in poor, hard-to-reach communities around the time of childbirth.

Specifically, the Challenge seeks to identify and develop transformative approaches that integrate new science and technology, better service delivery models, and improved "demand side" innovations that empower pregnant women and their families to practice healthy behaviors and be aware of and access health care during pregnancy, childbirth, and the early postnatal period, especially the first two days after birth.

The partners anticipate awarding 25 seed grants and 5 transition-to-scale grants as a result of the request for application (RFA). Actual number of awards in each category may vary.

Learn more and answer their call for innovative ideas:

- Download a copy of the [RFA](#)
- Submit your application no later than **March 28, 2013**, 2:00 p.m. EST.
- Send any questions on the RFA to: grandchallenge2013@usaid.gov by February 8, 2013, at 2:00 p.m. EST.
- Visit our [website](#) to meet our community of innovators.

Please help us spread the word and share this notice with a broad range of experts in a variety of disciplines. Help us spark transformational change and accelerate substantial and sustainable progress against maternal and newborn deaths and stillbirths at the community level. Together, we can transform insurmountable development challenges into solvable problems.

For more information, visit www.savinglivesatbirth.net.

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6th Millennium Technology Prize

Nominations accepted **Jan 14 to July 31, 2013**, for more information click [here](#).

Technology Academy Finland has today called on universities, research institutes and industrial organisations from around the world to nominate candidates for the sixth Millennium Technology Prize – one of the World's leading science and technology awards. The Grand Prize Winner(s) will be announced at a ceremony in Helsinki in June 2014. With a prize pot of at least one million euros, the award is given every two years by Technology Academy Finland (TAF), an independent foundation established by Finnish industry in partnership with government and academic institutions.

The winner(s) of the prize is responsible for an innovation that has changed or has a potential to change people's lives for the better. The innovations must have been applied in practice and are proven to deliver extensive change

now and in the future, stimulating further cutting edge research and development in science and technology. The prize can be awarded to a single individual or to a team and is open to innovators of all nationalities and to those working in all fields of technology apart from military technology. [\[top\]](#)

Canadian Students are invited to 'Colour Outside the Lines' to drive change in Canada's Health Systems

TORONTO, Jan. 15, 2013 /CNW/ - Leaders in innovation from across industry, not-for-profits, and academia, have joined forces to create a unique competition that calls on Canadian students to help solve some of our greatest health system challenges. *Colour Outside the Lines: A Reverse Innovation Challenge for Canadian Health Systems* ('Colour Outside the Lines') invites students to submit innovations from emerging markets that have the potential to improve Canada's health systems.

"Translating innovations that were created for the developing world to the industrialized world has been called 'reverse innovation'. The goal of Colour Outside the Lines is to identify and test reverse innovations from across the globe, and show how they can be developed into business models that will improve the health of Canadians," said Dr. Peter Singer, CEO of Grand Challenges Canada and Director of the Sandra Rotman Centre, which is one of the sponsoring partners behind the challenge.



Colour Outside the Lines is a collaborative initiative among organizations committed to unlocking the power of innovation: the International Centre for Health Innovation at Ivey, the Sandra Rotman Centre, the Institute for Health System Transformation & Sustainability (IHSTS), Medtronic, Roche, TELUS Health, and GE Healthcare. The challenge was borne out of a shared belief among its supporting partners that by forming new collaborations across borders and disciplines, we can draw lessons that will generate solutions needed to improve health systems around the world.

"To make meaningful improvements to our health systems, we must challenge our way of thinking and find new ways of innovating. This includes looking beyond our own backyards for the next big ideas. We believe there is much that can be learned from the experience and successes of unexpected sources, such as those of emerging markets," said Dr. Anne Snowdon, Chair of Ivey International Centre for Health Innovation, founding partner behind the Challenge.

The target audience for the challenge is students; however, submissions are also welcome from any individuals or organizations with an interest in shaping the future of health care in Canada. **The deadline for application submission is May 31, 2013.** Winners will be announced in September 2013 and awarded their funding at the 2013 Ivey Global Health Conference in November.

The winning submission will receive \$50,000, and two runners-up will also be selected, each receiving \$25,000. Prize money is dedicated to moving the proposed reverse innovation forward and applying it to a Canadian health system. Winners will be determined by an evaluation committee composed of the challenge's partners.

Submission details, frequently asked questions, videos and more, can be found at: www.colouroutside.ca.

Twitter: [@iveyhealth](https://twitter.com/iveyhealth) (#colouroutside)

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Call for Papers

Call for the Second Compendium of innovative health technologies: medical devices and eHealth solutions 2013

eHealth - World Health Organization – WHO

Call PDF file at: <http://bit.ly/ZHF2Yo>

Medical devices and eHealth solutions have the potential to improve lives. However, too many people worldwide suffer because they don't have access to the appropriate health technologies. This call highlights the importance of these innovative technologies towards improved health outcomes and the quality of life. WHO aims to raise awareness of the pressing need for appropriate design solutions. The Compendium series was initiated to encourage a dialogue between stakeholders and stimulate further development and technology dissemination.

The annual publication serves as a neutral platform to introduce health technologies that have the potential to improve health outcomes or to offer a solution to an unmet medical need. The Compendium series specifically focuses on showcasing innovative medical devices and eHealth solutions that are not yet widely available in under-resourced regions. It is designed to help developing countries to become aware of appropriate health technologies in support of their environment.

The previously published compendium series can be viewed at:

www.who.int/ehealth/resources/compendium2012 ,

www.who.int/medical_devices/innovation/compendium2012

eHealth Submission form: <http://bit.ly/VSZxeh> Medical Device submission form: <http://bit.ly/10fk0lh>

The deadline for submission is **15 March 2013**

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Human resources for universal health coverage

Mubashar Sheikh,^a Ties Boerma,^b Giorgio Cometto,^a & Robbert Duvivier^a

a. Global Health Workforce Alliance Secretariat, Geneva, Switzerland.

b. World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland.

Bulletin of the World Health Organization – February 2013 The deadline for submissions is 10 March 2013

Website: <http://bit.ly/11oh2dR>

Universal Health Care (UHC) was defined by the World Health organization in 2005. Since then it has gained increased recognition as a framework for embracing various global health priorities. New evidence, policy options and advocacy in support of the progressive achievement of UHC have been the focus of the World health report: health systems financing and of numerous global health events. In 2011 the World Health Assembly adopted a resolution on UHC, and in 2012 a United Nations General Assembly resolution bolstered political momentum in support of UHC and underscored the need for an “**adequate, skilled, well-trained and motivated workforce**”. In this context ensuring that appropriate HRH strategies and priorities are embedded in the UHC and post-MDG agenda becomes crucial.

The Bulletin will publish a theme issue on HRH and universal health coverage to provide an opportunity to identify the changes in HRH investment, production, deployment and retention required to achieve UHC.

Its publication will coincide with the **Third Global Forum on Human Resources for Health, to be held in Recife, Brazil, on 10–13 November 2013.**

The Third Global Forum is convened by the Global Health Workforce Alliance (GHWA) – a multisectoral partnership established in 2006 to spearhead the response to HRH challenges – in conjunction with WHO, the Pan American Health Organization and the Government of Brazil.”

The deadline for submissions is **10 March 2013**.

Manuscripts should respect the Bulletin’s Guidelines for contributors (available at: <http://submit.bwho.org>) and mention this call for papers in the cover letter. All submissions will be reviewed by peers. [\[top\]](#)

Theme: Human Development: Vulnerability, Inclusion and Wellbeing.

9-12 September, 2013 - Managua Nicaragua

The call for papers is available at: <http://bit.ly/UD6Rxs>

Submission of proposals **until 15th March 2013**, Economics and Business Faculty, Universidad Centroamericana - Managua, Nicaragua

The conference will look at the reality of Nicaragua and Central America from the perspective of human development. Over the past 20 years Nicaragua has experienced high rates of economic growth and made significant progress in social indicators, particularly in relation to the Millennium Development Goals. However, gender, ethnic, racial, spatial and social inequalities still persist. These inequalities in the opportunities that people have to live lives they have reason to value constitute serious obstacles to progress in human development and to the sustainability of the MDGs achieved. The 2013 HDCA Conference will provide an opportunity to support the design of public policies to tackle the causes of poverty and inequality.

Inequality generates vulnerability. People have fewer opportunities to satisfy their basic needs and cannot exercise or sustain valuable capabilities. For example, inequality in access to education and basic social services limits people’s opportunities to participate actively in economic, social and political life.

Therefore, reducing inequalities requires an in-depth analysis of the causes and persistence of social exclusion, particularly of specific social groups. The design of social inclusion policies is central to human development and to people’s wellbeing.

The 2013 HDCA Conference aims at establishing conceptual frameworks and programmes of action to reduce inequality, vulnerability and social exclusion in Latin America and beyond.

Contacts : email: hdcauca@ns.uca.edu.ni Website : <http://bit.ly/VnPdv6>

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Upcoming Conferences

2013 Canadian Conference on Global Health

“Are we making an impact?”

<http://www.csih.org/en/ccgh2012.asp>

October 27-29, 2013

The Westin Hotel, Ottawa

Since 2000 the MDGs have provided a well-publicized focus on eight health and development goals. However, missing from these goals are other important global health challenges including mental health, non-communicable disease and disabilities. Important global health issues including equity and health-system strengthening have received too little attention. Planning for the Post 2015 Agenda is underway, and it is critical that the global health community works to ensure that health stays in the agenda, while being integrated into future sustainable development strategies.

The 20th Canadian Conference on Global Health will be examining the impact of MDGs and other current initiatives, and the potential impact of future initiatives:

- MDGs: Progress made and lessons learned
- Are we Making an Impact? The Remaining Challenges
- The Post 2015 Agenda

You are invited to submit a proposal to host a sub-plenary at the 2013 Canadian Conference on Global Health. A sub-plenary session is a 1.5 self-directed session which immediately follows a morning plenary and must relate to the theme. Please review the [PDF with instructions and link](#) to apply online.

Call for sub-plenaries deadline is March 4, 2013!

19th Canadian Conference on Global Health . October 21-23, 2012 . Delta City Centre Hotel - Ottawa, Canada

- [Final Program](#)
- [Abstract Book](#)
- View our [blog posts on the sessions!](#)
- [View the posters](#)
- [Powerpoint presentations](#) (PDFs)

The Canadian Conference on Global Health remains the only annual conference in Canada that focuses primarily on global health and health in development, and the only Canadian peer review forum for knowledge building and program development related to global health and development. It is the primary space for Canadians working in global health to connect annually with each other and our partners in developing countries.

This program has been accredited by the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Ontario chapter for up to 18 Mainpro-M1 credits. This event is an Accredited Group Learning Activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and approved by Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians.

Contact:

Sarah Brown, Conference Manager, sbrown@csih.org, Questions? [Email us!](#)

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Global Health: Innovation - Implementation – Impact

Consortium of Universities for Global Health Annual Meeting

March 14 - 16, 2013 Washington, DC - USA

Website: <http://bit.ly/WpL378>

“.....More than ever, there is a need to guide the future of global health through action. The complexity of today's global health challenges requires harnessing the skills and energies of many disciplines in developing innovative and effective solutions. As the global health community, it is our duty to determine how best to guide our collective efforts as well as those from the unprecedented rise of new professionals now graduating from global health programs.

The message is clear: it is time for greater Innovation and greater focus on Implementation with an eye towards a positive and long-lasting Impact on health outcomes.

To examine the cutting edge issues in several areas:

- Innovations and interventions to improve health conditions
- Global Health Justice: Human Rights, ethics, governance and policy
- Interactions and interconnectedness of government policy on health outcomes
- Partnerships and capacity-building for education and research in global health

- Role of the private sector: Embrace, engage, avoiding conflicts of interest
- Determinants of culture change in education of practice
- Training the global health workforce
- Technology: Advancements, set-backs, implications and outcomes....”

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Global Health & Innovation Conference, 2013

Presented by Unite For Sight, 10th Annual Conference

Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, USA

Saturday, April 13 - Sunday, April 14, 2013

<http://www.uniteforsight.org/conference>

"A Meeting of Minds"--CNN

The Global Health & Innovation Conference is the world's largest global health conference and social entrepreneurship conference. This must-attend, thought-leading conference annually convenes more than 2,200 leaders, changemakers, students, and professionals from all fields of global health, international development, and social entrepreneurship. Interested in presenting at the conference? [Submit a social enterprise pitch abstract](#) for consideration.

Keynote Addresses

- **Jeffrey Sachs**, PhD, Director of Earth Institute, Columbia University; Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, Professor of Health Policy and Management, Columbia University; Special Advisor to Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon
- **Sonia Ehrlich Sachs**, MD, MPH, Director of Health, Millennium Village Project, Earth Institute, Columbia University
- **"The Origins of Health: Our Behavior and Our Environment," Al Sommer**, MD, MHS, Dean Emeritus, Bloomberg School of Public Health, and University Distinguished Service Professor

See link for complete list of session speakers.

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Conference Universal Health Coverage in Low-Income Countries: Ethical Issues

Harvard University Program in Ethics and Health, Boston, Massachusetts - April 18-19, 2013

Website: <http://hvrld.me/XHvSH9>

Until very recently, universal coverage ("UC") has been achieved in the health systems primarily in the wealthiest countries. Though there have been notable exceptions, including Cuba, it has been assumed that most of the world's peoples would have to wait until economic development in their countries lifted them into the world's upper class.

While maintaining a constructive and optimistic frame of mind is essential for progress toward UC, it is necessary also to identify the key ethical dilemmas arising in trying to extend the health system to all with so few resources. The choices are unavoidable:

- Between goals of UC (including financial protection against catastrophic medical expenses; health; and personal and national overall wellbeing);
- Between dimensions of UC (who is covered; what is covered; what share of costs are covered); and
- Trade-offs within and between each of these

Each country will resolve these dilemmas in its own way. Our hope is that this conference will enhance their capacity for ethical deliberation in UC, so that the ethical choices can be made responsibly and thoughtfully.

Adam Wagstaff, World Bank, **Alex Voorhoeve**, London School of Economics and Princeton University, **Alicia Yamin**, Harvard University, **Dan Brock**, Harvard University, **Davidson Gwatkin**, Results for Development Institute and Johns Hopkins University, **Gita Sen**, Indian Institute of Management and Harvard University, **Larry Temkin**, Rutgers University, **Lydia Kapiri**, McMaster University, **Matthew Adler**, University of Pennsylvania, **Mickey Chopra**, UNICEF, **Nir Eyal**, Harvard University, **Norman Daniels**, Harvard School of Public Health, **Peter Vallentyne**, University of Missouri, **Till Baernighausen**, Harvard University, **Toby Ord**, University of Oxford and **William Hsiao**, Harvard University

Location: [The Inn at Longwood Medical \(Best Western Boston\)](#)

Longwood Hall, 342 Longwood Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts

Registration: No fee. Space limited. Registration required. Please register on our [registration website](#).

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Reports of Interest

Sustaining the drive to overcome the global impact of Neglected tropical diseases

WHO Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases – January 2013

Available online PDF at: <http://bit.ly/Wd5LXs>

“.....The second WHO report builds on the growing sense of optimism generated by the 2012 publication of the WHO Roadmap.

Commitments on the part of ministries of health in endemic countries, global health initiatives, funding agencies and philanthropists have escalated since 2010, as have donations of medicines from pharmaceutical companies and the engagement of the scientific community.

This report marks a new phase and assesses opportunities and obstacles in the control, elimination and eradication of several of these diseases. Unprecedented progress over the past two years has revealed unprecedented needs for refinements in control strategies, and new technical tools and protocols. The substantial increases in donations of medicines made since the previous report call for innovations that simplify and refine delivery strategies.

However, some diseases, including especially deadly ones like human African trypanosomiasis and visceral Leishmaniasis, remain extremely difficult and costly to treat. The control of Buruli ulcer, Chagas disease and yaws is hampered by imperfect technical tools, although recent developments for yaws look promising.

The report highlights progress against these especially challenging diseases, being made through the development of innovative and intensive management strategies.

Innovations in vector control deserve more attention as playing a key part in reducing transmission and disease burden, especially for dengue, Chagas disease and the Leishmaniases. Achieving universal health coverage with essential health interventions for neglected tropical diseases will be a powerful equalizer that abolishes distinctions between the rich and the poor, the young and the old, ethnic groups, and women and men....”

Highlights of the report include:

- Eradication of guinea worm is in sight. WHO reports a reduction in reported cases of dracunculiasis (guinea-worm disease) with only 521 cases between January and September 2012 compared with 1006

confirmed cases for the same period in 2011 and of human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness) to less than 7000 in 2011 from a high of 30 000 annual cases at the turn of the century.

- Rabies has been eliminated in several countries, with WHO eyeing regional elimination of this preventable disease by 2020. A new strategy which involves the early detection and use of antibiotics to treat Buruli ulcer has drastically reduced suffering and disability from this chronic and debilitating skin condition.
- An evaluation of WHO's new strategy, which aims at eradicating yaws by 2020 using a new oral antibiotic treatment designed to replace those developed in the 1950s (which mainly centered on delivering injections of benzathine benzylpenicillin).
- Threats posed by dengue: in 2012, dengue ranked as the fastest spreading vector-borne viral disease, with an epidemic potential in the world, registering a 30-fold increase in disease incidence over the past 50 years. The world needs to change its reactive approach and implement sustainable preventive measures

While it defines the concept of elimination and eradication, the report also analyzes some challenges that remain at country level. It emphasizes the need for national disease control programmes to improve coordination and integration. It highlights the need to strengthen human resources and to work with other sectors such as education, agriculture and veterinary public health in disease control programmes....”

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Strengthening Mechanisms to Prioritize, Coordinate, Finance, and Execute R&D to Meet Health Needs in Developing Countries

Peter Hotez, Rachel Cohen, Carol Mimura, Tadataka Yamada, and Stephen L. Hoffman

January 15, 2013 **US Instituto of medicine IOM Global Health Interest Group**

Available online at: <http://bit.ly/13Hk7Vt>

“.....Globally, the co-authors recognized that public financing for global health R&D requires a broad range of actors from both the public and private sectors. Thus, accelerating innovation may require a “blurring” of the traditional boundaries and firewalls that exist among industry, universities, and governments. Ultimately, it may become necessary to use public funds to support private and not-for-profit entities, including multinational companies, biotechs, and product development partnerships; such public funding for R&D carried out in the public interest will need to come with strong conditions that will guarantee affordability and access for patients.

Increasingly, it will become necessary to support public–private partnerships (PPPs). A promising example is a forthcoming PPP initiative between five major Japanese pharmaceutical companies, the Japanese government, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

As mentioned above, we concur that establishing a Global Health R&D Observatory represents an important first step for prioritizing global health R&D needs and gaps. A wellmanaged and transparent observatory will be essential, especially if funding pools become established. At present there is no politically legitimate system for R&D priority setting at the global level, so an observatory would be a key starting point.” [\[top\]](#)

Health in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: A need for a Social Determinants of Health Approach

ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and UNAIDS – 2013

Joint statement of the UN Platform on Social Determinants of Health

Available online PDF [18p.] at: <http://bit.ly/Xd6yGM>

The UN Platform on Social Determinants of Health is an informal mechanism to provide coordinated support to Member States with implementation of the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health. The Platform also advocates placing the social determinants of health highly on the global development agenda, and fostering coherent action on the social determinants of health. Currently, the platform involves staff from ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and UNAIDS.

This is an informal document, and does not represent the official positions of the organizations. It aims at informing how best to consider the social determinants of health aspects in the post-2015 global thematic consultations organized under the United Nations Development Group. Annex 1 aims to briefly illustrate the concept of the social determinants of health as applied to the ideas of the specific thematic groups, give some examples of why health is important to each specific theme, and show how each theme could contribute to health. The descriptions are compilations from various sources, and are not intended to be exhaustive. More specific papers will be required for more detailed inputs. [\[top\]](#)

2013 Annual Letter from Bill Gates

I am writing to share my fifth annual letter about the work our foundation and its partners are doing. From time to time we should step back and celebrate the way that the right goals and smart innovation have done so much to improve the lives of people. In previous annual letters, I've focused on the power of innovation to reduce hunger, poverty, and disease. But any innovation—whether it's a new vaccine or an improved seed—can't have an impact unless it reaches the people who will benefit from it. That's why in this year's letter I discuss how innovations in measurement are critical to finding new, effective ways to deliver these tools and services to the people who need them most. You can read my letter at billsletter.com. Together, we can create a world in which all people have the chance to lead a healthy and productive life. Thank you for taking the time to learn more. [\[top\]](#)

Evidence for Health: From Patient Choice to Global Policy

Anne Andermann -McGill University, Montreal Canada

Foreword by Tikki Pang, Visiting Professor, National University of Singapore, and former Director, Research, Policy and Cooperation, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland. Cambridge University Press – December 2012

Excerpt PDF : <http://bit.ly/VQBhg3> Website: <http://bit.ly/UWrNSD>

“.....The purpose of this book is to better understand how to improve the health of individuals, populations and the global community. What are the major threats to health? What are the causes of poor health? What works to improve health? How do we know that it works? What are the barriers to implementation? What are the measures of success? These are some of the key questions that will be addressed in this book. The aim is to provide health practitioners and policy-makers with a broad overview of how to improve health and reduce health inequities, as well as the tools to make more evidence-informed decisions that will have a positive influence on health

“..... it provides health practitioners and policy-makers with a broad overview of how to improve health and reduce health inequities, as well as the tools needed to make informed decisions that will have a positive influence on health.

The book provides an algorithm for arriving at evidence-informed decisions that take into consideration the multiple contextual factors and value judgements involved. Written by a specialist in public health with a wealth of

international experience, this user-friendly guide demystifies the decision-making process, from personal decisions made by individual patients to global policy decisions.....”

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