

Statement of the Director

Department of Health and Human Services

**Statement by
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Sciences**

On Fiscal Year 2006 President's Budget Request for the National Institutes of Health

April 6, 2005

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I am pleased to present the Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 President's Budget for the Fogarty International Center (FIC). The FY 2006 budget includes \$67,048,000, which reflects an increase of \$416,000 over the FY 2005 enacted level of \$66,632,000 comparable for transfers proposed in the President's request.

Many years ago, President John F. Kennedy noted, "A rising tide lifts all the boats. And a partnership, by definition, serves both partners, without domination or unfair advantage." These words remind us of the importance of working in partnership with those around the world, on equal footing, and for the common good. Congressman John E. Fogarty, for whom our Center is named, shared this belief and worked tirelessly to champion improved health of Americans in a healthier world—through international health research and training programs.

Today, the vision of Congressman Fogarty continues to inspire the Center in building international partnerships on behalf of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and in supporting research and training programs to advance the objectives of global health. FIC's unique mission and initiatives add value, complement NIH international programs and build scientific capacity around the world for the benefit of Americans and the global community.

I welcome this opportunity to discuss FIC's progress over the past year as well as our proposed plans for FY 2006. Developed with the support and guidance of the Administration and this Committee, the Fogarty programs reflect our nation's enduring commitment to global health as well as vibrant, and equal, international collaborations.

GLOBAL BURDENS OF ILL HEALTH

The health challenges we face as Americans and as members of the global community are many. HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis continue to grow at alarming rates. SARS, West Nile Virus, and avian flu are constant threats to global health and economies. At the same time, as chronic conditions such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, and mental health disorders increase year after year, taking enormous tolls in human suffering and economic costs, the development and deployment of more effective preventive and treatment measures are urgent.

The Fogarty response to these challenges is to support a range of critical research and training programs, each designed to tackle specific health problems shared by U.S. and foreign populations. We partner with universities in the United States, low- and middle-income nations, and our fellow Institutes at the NIH, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, and others to effect change. Fogarty supports more than 20 research and training programs in more than 100 countries, involving more than 5,000 scientists in the United States and abroad. HIV/AIDS, TB, maternal and child health, environmental health and bioethics are just a few of the priority program areas in which Fogarty and its partners are making a positive impact.

IMPACT OF FOGARTY PROGRAMS

I want to share with you two examples to highlight the importance of Fogarty programs worldwide. The first is a genealogy of sorts of one scientist's career path and support by Fogarty. Dr. Lee Riley of the University of California at Berkeley traces his professional roots to Dr. Warren D. Johnson, Jr. of the Weill Medical College of Cornell University. Both have dedicated decades of their professional careers to understanding, preventing, and treating infectious diseases in the slums of Brazil. It began in 1988 when Dr. Johnson received support from FIC to train AIDS scientists in Brazil. When Dr. Riley joined the Cornell faculty in 1990, Dr. Johnson brought him into the AIDS training effort and encouraged Dr. Riley to initiate additional training activities on tuberculosis diagnostics and pathogenesis. When Dr. Riley moved to the University of California at Berkeley in 1996, he competed successfully for his own

training program in Brazil through Fogarty's International Training and Research in Emerging Infectious Diseases Program (ITREID). Dr. Johnson received a similar ITREID program grant at Cornell, enabling the two to coordinate and synergize their training activities. Dr. Riley's group ultimately expanded the ITREID program to other countries in Latin America as well as to Eastern Europe, and Dr. Riley competed successfully for a new FIC-supported grant on Global Infectious Disease Training and Research in Brazil.

The results and impact of this 17-year-long partnership have been enormous. Viewed in terms of people and publications, 30 Brazilian investigators have been trained in the United States, 29 of whom are still active researchers in Brazil; 28 articles have been published in respected scientific journals; 12 Ph.D. and 3 Master's degrees in public health have been conferred; and a large number of allied health professionals—many of whom are or were residents of slums—have received project-related training. Just one of the trainees who returned to Brazil, Dr. Albert Ko, has trained more than 50 local staff—both laboratory and field—during the last eight years. He now received his own FIC training award. Other trainees are applying for and receiving funds from NIH and other research agencies.

The wealth of knowledge generated has been enormous. New understandings have emerged of the causes and treatments of leptospirosis, a disease that primarily affects young people. Patterns of the spread of tuberculosis in crowded situations have been uncovered, and prevention strategies deployed. Training of health scientists from Brazil

through the FIC AIDS training programs led to a major research grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for the study of the pathogenesis of leishmaniasis in Brazil and for a subsequent Fogarty award in infectious disease training. Training through the FIC AIDS training programs helped Brazil evaluate the effectiveness of antiretroviral therapy programs that served as a model and inspiration to other developing countries. The partnerships generated millions of dollars of additional support from Brazil, Spain, Mexico, and other nations to sustain the research and training activities. And, the relationships and partnerships that were built are ones that will allow future studies to move ahead expeditiously.

The second example is a research project involving a 1996 pilot program in Orizaba, Mexico, working to evaluate the impact of Directly Observed Therapy (Short-Course) (DOTS) in populations with drug-resistant tuberculosis. DOTS is the WHO-recommended TB treatment regimen whereby TB patients are monitored daily to ensure that medications are taken properly. In this region, 21 percent of the new cases were resistant to at least one anti-tuberculosis drug and three percent were multi-drug resistant (MDR) over a five-year period. The data collected demonstrated that DOTS could rapidly reduce transmission and the incidence of both drug-susceptible and drug-resistant tuberculosis. The case rates of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis were also reduced; however, the fatality rate was highest (12 percent) for patients infected with resistant strains. In a developing country with a moderate rate of drug-resistant tuberculosis, DOTS can rapidly reduce the transmission of both susceptible and

resistant organisms. Additional studies are now underway to expand on these initial findings.

FY 2006 INITIATIVES

FIC will continue to support the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research in the 21st Century. Working with partners across NIH and universities around the world, FIC will foster interdisciplinary programs in clinical research training, identify novel technologies to combat global health threats, and expand efforts to bring experts from multiple disciplines together to advance NIH Roadmap goals. In keeping with the Roadmap, FIC will work in FY 2006 to bring new partners into the global health enterprise. FIC will support the Framework Programs for Global Health to link multiple schools within the same university (or coupled universities) around the topic of global health, bringing business, journalism, social science, engineering, medicine, dental, law, public health and other disciplines into the global health arena in the university setting. A second goal will be to energize the next generation of global health leaders through development of undergraduate and graduate curricula on global health. This effort will propel global health efforts forward in new ways in the United States and abroad.

FIC will enhance its two main programs to address HIV/AIDS and related TB challenges. Fogarty's AIDS International Research and Training Program builds capacity in resource poor nations to tackle the AIDS problem through science and

evidence-based policies. Working through 25 U.S. universities, educational programs support post-doctoral, doctoral, Master's level work, and training for allied health professionals, including nurses, to advance research on vaccine development and microbicide development, to identify groups at high-risk for exposure and to help support the development of interventions that make sense at the local and community levels. Nearly 2,000 researchers from more than 100 low- and middle-income countries have been trained in the United States, many at senior levels, and more than 50,000 through in-country workshops and courses. More than 80 percent of those trained in the United States through this program returned home to pursue research and health efforts locally. And, recognizing the need for clinical and health systems researchers for AIDS and TB, FIC launched a unique International Clinical, Operational and Health Services Research Training Award program to meet these needs. Today, under this program, experts in Uganda, Haiti, Russia, and China are working with U.S. partners to advance AIDS prevention and treatment strategies through targeted training efforts and to monitor the effectiveness of AIDS drug delivery paradigms. These programs support the goals of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and the Global Fund and will lead to useful insights about effective drug delivery approaches in resource poor nations.

As a third emphasis area, FIC will expand in FY 2006 its pilot program to support NIH Alumni Associations abroad. These Associations will serve an important role to junior scientists as they return home through support of networking activities in which to share information and expertise, and other activities. At the same time, they will allow

U.S. scientists to maintain collaborative ties. Building on efforts in Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, India and China, FIC will expand this effort to include Central and Eastern Europe, Russia and Thailand.

As a fourth emphasis area in 2006, FIC will expand efforts in the neurosciences. With the exception of sub-Saharan Africa, brain disorders are the leading contributor to the years lived with disability in all regions of the world. More than 150 million people suffer from occasional depression at any point in time and nearly one million of them commit suicide each year. Worldwide, about 25 million people suffer from schizophrenia and 38 million from epilepsy. FIC, in partnership with the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke and other NIH Institutes, will continue its efforts to develop new knowledge and technologies to enhance the understanding of brain disorders in resource-poor settings around the world. Much of the research funded by this program could have implications for how certain brain disorders are studied, diagnosed, and treated in the United States.

CONCLUSION

The global health challenges we face are many, but the international partnerships supported by Fogarty and its collaborators are a bedrock upon which scientific progress will be built for the benefit of the American people and the global community.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to answer any questions that the Committee has.

Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health, Fogarty International Center

Sharon Hemond Hrynkow, Ph.D.

Sharon Hrynkow is the Acting Director of the Fogarty International Center (FIC) at NIH. FIC, the international component of the NIH, addresses global health challenges through innovative and collaborative research and training programs, and supports and advances the NIH mission through international partnerships. FIC tackles infectious disease threats, including HIV/AIDS; adverse health impacts of environmental pollution; maternal and child health concerns; and the growing burden of brain disorders and mental illness among other global health challenges. In addition to providing leadership for all of the Center's activities, during her tenure as Acting Director Dr. Hrynkow has focused on combating "brain drain" through innovative approaches, on bringing new partners into the global health arena, including schools of business, law, journalism and communications; and on energizing the next generation of global health professionals in the U.S. and developing countries through curriculum development programs.

Dr. Hrynkow, a native of Rhode Island, received her Bachelor's degree from Rhode Island College. She earned a Ph.D. in Neuroscience at the University of Connecticut Health Center where her studies focused on factors involved in the development of neuronal connectivity in the developing inner ear. Her post-doctoral work, conducted at the University of Oslo, examined patterns of neuronal migration and differentiation of brain regions involved in hearing and balance. Dr. Hrynkow was selected for an AAAS Science, Engineering and Diplomacy Fellowship at the U.S. Department of State, and then for a position as the first civil service Health/Science Officer within the State Department's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. She worked with State Department leadership, interagency partners, NGOs, and business leaders to produce the first "U.S. International Strategy on HIV/AIDS."

Dr. Hrynkow joined Fogarty in 1995. She has held a range of positions including Assistant Director for International Relations, Director of the Division of International Relations, and Special Assistant to the Deputy Director. She was appointed as Deputy Director of the Center in 2000 and has served as Acting Director of the Center since January 2004.

Dr. Hrynkow represents NIH on the Advisory Committee for Health Research to the Director General of the World Health Organization, and serves on the Committee on Science, Engineering and Public Policy of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, among other responsibilities. She is a member of numerous professional organizations and has published in *Neuroscience*, *Brain Research*, and other journals in her field as well as publications on scientific capacity building in poor countries. She is a regular speaker on career path issues to groups of young scientists and on health issues as related to foreign policy concerns. She was elected to the Council of Foreign Relations in 1996.

Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Budget

William R. Beldon

Mr. Beldon is currently serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary, Budget in the Department of Health and Human Services. He has been a Division Director in the Budget Office for sixteen years, most recently as Director of the Division of Discretionary Programs. Mr. Beldon started in federal service as an auditor in the Health, Education and Welfare Financial Management Intern program. Over the course of more than 30 years in the Budget Office, Mr. Beldon has held Program Analyst, Branch Chief and Division Director positions. Mr. Beldon received a Bachelor's Degree in History and Political Science from Marshall University and attended the University of Pittsburgh where he studied Public Administration. He resides in Fort Washington, Maryland.