

August 1, 2017

The Honorable Brenda Fitzgerald
Director
United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Rd
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Dr. Fitzgerald:

As members of the Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC)—a group of more than 25 nonprofit organizations working to increase awareness of the vital role health technologies play in saving lives in the developing world—we celebrate your appointment as director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As we face new and changing health challenges domestically and overseas, your leadership will be key in upholding US excellence in preventing, detecting, and responding to diseases that threaten American and global health.

Global health research and development (R&D) is critical to our success in disease detection, surveillance, and response. As demonstrated by recent outbreaks of Ebola and Zika, without approved diagnostics, prevention technologies, and treatments, curbing a disease epidemic becomes immensely challenging. Strong international lab and disease detection capacity, along with trained technicians and researchers, is also vital to effective prevention and response. To ensure we are equipped to address whatever diseases may threaten health at home and abroad, it is important that we continue to prioritize R&D for new technologies for neglected and emerging global health challenges, and bolster the domestic and global systems needed to translate scientific and epidemiologic knowledge to the field.

CDC plays a vital role in both the development of new technologies to advance disease detection, prevention, and response, and in building the technical capacity for these activities around the world. CDC's Center for Global Health is a global leader in immunization, disease detection and eradication, and public health capacity building, all of which help curb disease outbreaks overseas before they can threaten American health. Its Field Epidemiology Training Program has trained more than 31,000 epidemiologists in 72 countries on how to detect and rapidly respond to infectious disease outbreaks, which greatly contributed to Nigeria's ability to contain the 2014 Ebola outbreak. The National Center for Emerging Zoonotic and Infectious Diseases also plays an important role globally, developing new diagnostic tools for threats like plague, rabies, and antimicrobial resistance, and serves as an international reference hub for vector-borne viral and bacterial diseases. Importantly, CDC also plays a leadership role in the Global Health Security Agenda and other global health security efforts, sharing expertise, and working to improve the global capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to diseases around the world, including through R&D for new technologies.

Congratulations on your appointment, and we look forward to working with you and your staff over the coming year. We value CDC's important contributions to global health R&D and look forward to sustaining and building on this legacy. We hope that you will use our coalition as a resource in your work, and please do not hesitate to contact GHTC Director Jamie Bay Nishi at jnishi@ghtcoalition.org or (202) 540-4379 with any questions.

Sincerely,



American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene



ELIZABETH GLASER
PEDIATRIC AIDS
FOUNDATION

Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation



FHI 360



FIND



Global Health Council



PATH



Population Council



Sabin Vaccine Institute



TB Alliance

