GHTC global health technologies coalition

advancing **innovation** to save lives

Fogarty International Center's investments abroad improve health in the United States

Global partnerships deliver local impact

What does FIC do?

Scientific advances made around the world have and will continue to transform the health of Americans. Our increasing global interconnectedness only heightens the need for new health technologies developed in and alongside other countries. Through mutually beneficial health research partnerships between scientific experts in the United States and abroad, the Fogarty International Center (FIC) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) pushes science forward, addressing health challenges that affect Americans and people around the world by:

Advancing our understanding of both communicable and noncommunicable health threats, such as Alzheimer's disease, infectious diseases, heart disease, and cancer.

Detecting, containing, and minimizing **outbreaks at their point of origin**.

Studying diseases in **populations where they are prevalent**.

Applying rigorous scientific methods to **learn from prevention strategies or treatments** used in other countries.

Minimal investment, massive scientific return

With *less than one-fifth of one percent of the total NIH budget*, the FIC delivers significant scientific returns for global and American health, forging international partnerships to facilitate truly global research with global impact. When FIC investments abroad lead to new tools or interventions designed for low-resource settings, these innovations can be deployed back in the United States, where they can drive down costs and improve access to health care in rural settings—an exchange known as reciprocal innovation. With modest funding, FIC improves our ability to quickly detect emerging and infectious diseases—wherever they arise—by training and capacitating local scientific experts. It also creates a platform for internationally trained American scientists to take on leadership positions during times of crisis and addresses all kinds of common health challenges we face every day. Additionally, FIC generates jobs and funds for American researchers—in fiscal year (FY) 2024, of the 488 grants awarded by FIC, almost **80 percent were awarded to US institutions or individuals, amounting to 440 US grantees from 122 US institutions in 39 states receiving funding**.

Central to FIC's mission is its focus on preparing the next generation of scientists to respond to emerging threats by providing them with opportunities to apply biomedical research in real-world settings. Conducting research in countries where certain diseases are endemic or outbreaks are more

common enables researchers to continue to advance scientific discoveries even when there are no US cases and ensures research is done in the largest possible population, ensuring accurate and broadly applicable results. For example, FIC-trained researchers used innovative technology and skills gained during their training to track the spread of Ebola virus, leading to an improved understanding of the variants of Ebola, helping enhance our ability to control outbreaks before they reach the United States.

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The FY 2026 President's Budget Request proposes the elimination of FIC, which would not only hinder progress on potentially lifesaving health interventions for Americans but also eliminate vital opportunities to train the next generation of scientific researchers, ultimately leaving Americans more vulnerable to future global health crises. **When FIC was faced with the same reality of possible elimination by the administration in FY 2018, Congress recognized the invaluable scientific return FIC had delivered and increased or maintained the program's funding each year until FY 2023 and maintained at FY 2023 levels ever since**. The United States is at a critical juncture, facing the risk of losing significant health gains and setting back progress toward lifesaving, groundbreaking discoveries. FIC's integral role in accelerating science, partnerships, and technical assistance to advance new technologies for some of the world's most pressing health challenges and sustain the United States' leadership in biomedical innovation has never been clearer.

FIC researchers achieving results

- FIC-trained researcher Dr. Christian Happi used genomics technology to aid early diagnosis and confirmation of Ebola virus disease in Nigeria, helping save millions of lives during the West African Ebola outbreak of 2013-2016 and preventing the disease from becoming a major public health threat in the United States.

- Dr. Young Kim and colleagues at a teaching hospital in Kenya used an FIC award for mobile health innovations to develop an app that can detect anemia and sickle cell disease from a photo of a patient's inner eyelid. That technology is now being adapted for use in the United States.

- The Mali-Guinea Emerging Infectious Disease Research Training Program supported by FIC offers high-level training in field and laboratory epidemiology, translational clinical research, public health emergency management, and surveillance of emerging infectious pathogens. After the recent Ebola and COVID-19 outbreaks highlighted the need for well-trained scientists and health research professionals, the two nations came together to create a more coordinated cross-border approach to public health preparedness and response that will help prevent the spread of emerging infections to the United States.

Photo credit: US National Institutes of Health/Fogarty International Center/Richard Lord