

Karen A. Goraleski, ASTMH executive director
Opening Remarks
Tuesday, February 28, 2012 - 12:00–1:30 p.m.
Kennedy Caucus Room (SR 325), Russell Senate Office Building

Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC) in cooperation with Senator John Boozman, Senator Patty Murray and Congresswoman Betty McCollum invite you to:

Sustaining Progress: Creating US Policies to Spur Global Health innovation

Good afternoon. My name is Karen Goraleski. I am the executive director of the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, the largest professional society of tropical medicine and global health researchers and program professionals working to improve global health through the prevention and control of infectious and other diseases that disproportionately afflict the global poor. I'm here today as a member of the Global Health Technologies Coalition. I'll use the abbreviation GHTC.

On behalf of the GHTC, I want to thank the dedicated staff in Senator Richard Durbin's office for helping us secure this beautiful and historic setting, the Kennedy Caucus Room. We also thank our Congressional co-sponsors: Senator John Boozman, Senator Patty Murray and Congresswoman Betty McCollom. Senators Durbin, Boozman, Murray and Congresswoman McCollom are all tireless champions of global health, and we deeply appreciate their support.

Members of the GHTC work closely with these offices and many others as well as with the many US agencies engaged in global health research. There is a long history of leadership and scientific dedication at CDC, DoD, FDA, NIH and at USAID. Several GHTC members and US agencies are here today representing a rich variety of new health products and innovations. If you didn't have a chance to browse the tables and talk with the folks, you'll have some time after the panel.

Let me tell you a bit about the GHTC. We are a group of about 40 non-profit organizations working together to advance research and development for global health tools such as vaccines, drugs, diagnostics and other products. This coalition is a unique voice in global health. We are a big tent that includes organizations implementing health programs in the field... public-private partnerships conducting research for new health tools, think tanks and advocacy groups. As a result this is a group that brings a very textured voice to the table calling for new and more effective -and necessary- global health tools.

The tools that we have now, the result of creativity, innovation and resources -both in dollars and in the committed individuals who have seen a world larger than themselves - have made tremendous progress against global diseases such as HIV/AIDS, neglected tropical diseases, malaria, diarrheal diseases, pneumonia, and tuberculosis. We have had success. Things have worked but *nothing* stays the same. Life-threatening diseases and conditions shift and change and adapt. New diseases emerge bringing global threats.

Where do we go from here? What is the way forward? The GHTC's 3rd annual report, available today, is that directional path. Written in a way that is easy to understand, it is a clear illustration of how US investments in global health research will produce results. It provides recommendations for how our policymakers can support the development of the next generation of lifesaving health products. It highlights the big progress the world has seen in global health research in recent years. A commitment to research by a range of stakeholders has led to the development of game-changing innovations that

are indeed transforming global health. Other groundbreaking health tools are closer than ever before, like the first-ever malaria vaccine and new HIV prevention options.

Our speakers today will share their perspective on some of the exciting research going on right now for these new global health tools and the impact on the ground in terms of lives saved. Through their stories we'll hear very clearly that no one agency or nonprofit group or pharmaceutical company can do it alone. We, all of the US, public and private are working to bring to life health innovations. The US support must continue in this partnership.

While the desire to save lives and to end pointless suffering and premature death is uppermost in our minds, this research also offers something that research has *always* done. It benefits us here at home, too. Health benefits abroad are health benefits here. Earlier this year we heard Secretary Sebelius say that "Global health is American's health." The US investment in global health research, for that matter, for research broadly, is also an economic driver. It creates jobs, good paying jobs. It fuels economic growth directly and indirectly in communities across the US. Science is also a diplomacy tool. It builds deep and lasting partnerships abroad that also help America abroad.

These humanitarian, public health, economic and diplomatic benefits offer a rich and compelling case for why a sustained US commitment to research and to a robust pipeline of new health products is the smart thing for the US to do and the right thing for the US to do. On that note, I'll turn to today's distinguished panel.