

Updates from the Field...

Strengthening Public Health Systems and Workforce Capacity Globally

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Director's Message

Dear Colleagues:

At the beginning of the year, after careful deliberation and inputs from many sources within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and outside the agency, CDC



— Nancy Messonnier, MD, MPH

leadership made the decision to create a new division to integrate programs within its Center for Global Health (CGH) that promote strong global health systems, train and build capacity in the global health workforce, and enhance health security around the world.

Work is now well underway to create a new division that merges work previously conducted within the Division of Public Health Systems and Workforce Development (DPHSWD) and the Division of Global Disease Detection and Emergency Response (DGDDR). The new division will also provide a home for CDC's growing global work in noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). By combining these forces within a single division, we will be able to leverage resources to create opportunities for better prioritization and strategic planning and create a unified CDC voice. By doing so, we will be better positioned to help countries strengthen and or reconstruct their public health systems, build workforce capacity, and reinforce global health security efforts. I want to thank Dr. Peter Bloland and Dr. Scott Dowell for their assistance as decisions about the direction of the reorganization were being made. During the planning and transition period they are both pursuing important CDC priorities related to their areas of expertise.

This issue of the newsletter illustrates the impact of CDC's work with ministries of health and other public health partners. It also highlights long-standing programs which have strengthened public health systems, built workforce capacity, and played a pivotal role in developing future public health leaders to serve in their national public health systems. An example of this is the Philippines Field Epidemiology and Training Program (P-FETP) which commemorated 25 years of successful training in January. This program has graduated 98 highly qualified field epidemiologists, the majority of whom now work in government service.

"As we move forward with the reorganization, we are committed to working closely with our partners and helping them build strong public health systems and institutions that improve health outcomes globally."

Similarly, residents in newly-established FETPs are already gaining important epidemiological skills and using them to detect and respond to public health threats. For example, Iraq FETP residents participated in the most successful cholera response in more than a decade. Due, in part, to their efforts, a potentially devastating epidemic was contained with minimal loss of life.

As we move forward with the reorganization, we are committed to working closely with our partners and helping them build strong public health systems and institutions that improve health outcomes globally.

— Nancy Messonnier, MD, MPH.
Acting Director, Division of Public Health Systems and Workforce Development, and Division of Global Disease Detection and Emergency Response, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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Seeking Submissions...

If you would like your program to be featured in an upcoming issue of Updates from the Field, please send a 300-500 word summary of your program's activities and photos to Ruth Cooke Gibbs at icn6@cdc.gov.

Center for Global Health
Division of Public Health Systems and Workforce Development

