

# The Fogarty International Center

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The Fogarty International Center, founded in 1968 and part of the National Institutes of Health, connects American scientists and health-care professionals with their global health peers to support basic, clinical, and applied research along with training programs in low- and middle-income countries. A bipartisan initiative, the Center was created to promote international research and collaboration and has led to scientific advances contributing to improved health and longevity at home and globally.<sup>2</sup> Last year, \$69.1 million dollars out of the NIH's \$31.3 billion dollar budget was directed to the Fogarty International Center to advance knowledge, capacities and sustainability of domestic and international health responses, that improve disease prevention and treatment in the United States and abroad.

## EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE

Fogarty brings together scientists from around the world to take on critical global health research issues and initiatives including polio eradication and pandemic responses, with local knowledge and optimal technologies. The Center sponsors over 500 research and health grants, with more than 100 of those related to the prevention, treatment and care of infectious diseases in areas of the greatest and most immediate needs.<sup>1</sup> Fogarty develops scientific expertise in resource-limited countries to detect and address pandemics where they begin. At the same time, all Fogarty grants involve U.S. investigators, and 80 percent go to U.S. institutions, building domestic knowledge and skills as well.

Fogarty's Research and Policy for Infectious Disease Dynamics – RAPIDD – group, in partnership with the Department of Homeland Security coordinates the use of modeling to better predict and prevent the spread of infectious diseases in humans and animals. With that technology, Fogarty scientists have built maps to understand and forecast the spread of the Ebola and Zika virus, allowing policymakers to make informed decisions in response to potential future outbreaks.<sup>3</sup>

## BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF SCIENTISTS AT HOME AND ABROAD

Fogarty's Division of International Training and Research has pioneered research, training, and fellowship programs in more than 100 countries, and since its founding in 1968, Fogarty has provided training to more than 5,000 scientists worldwide.<sup>2,3</sup> Grants administered through the division aim to establish long-term, collaborative research in low-income countries and allow U.S. scientists and health professionals to attain global experience.<sup>3</sup> Grants awarded to four U.S. institutions will train West African scientists in Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia to conduct clinical trials effectively rapidly, averting the high costs of responses incurred in areas of fragile and limited health resources during the 2014 Ebola crisis in West Africa.<sup>3</sup>

The Global Health Program for Fellows and Scholars gives U.S. researchers opportunities to receive training and develop research skills in countries where disease burdens are high, and health services and technologies are limited. The Fogarty HIV Research Training Program, founded in 1998 to strengthen research capacities in low- and middle-income countries through collaboration with U.S. academic centers, has provided research training to more than 2,000 individuals from more than 100 countries.<sup>2</sup> Trainees, in turn, provided leadership in the groundbreaking study that found that early administration of antiretrovirals can prevent transmission to uninfected partners, findings that are the basis of HIV prevention and practice in the U.S.<sup>3</sup>

The capacities built through international collaborations continue to advance inquiry and expertise, most recently in Brazil, when Fogarty-trained scientists redirected research skills gained in an investigation of Chagas disease to examine Zika at the start of that outbreak.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fic.nih.gov/>

<sup>2</sup> The Lancet Research Focus Profile: Fogarty International Center