



## GAVI and IFPW Foundation Participate in Transform Africa Summit

In early May, George Bray, VP Programs and Services for IFPW Foundation, traveled to Kigali, Rwanda to represent IFPW, IFPW Foundation, and the IFPW-GAVI partnership at the Transform Africa Summit. GAVI Deputy CEO, Anuradha Gupta, spoke at length on innovation ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5QQP\\_wS\\_pDY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5QQP_wS_pDY)) and among other things, the power of private sector partners, naming IFPW specifically during her speech at the Summit. The overall goal of the trip was to strengthen the relationship between IFPW and GAVI which was accomplished with great success. In addition, there were secondary goals reached and some significant unintended benefits derived from the trip.

On day one, George visited the Zipline Drone site for a demonstration. Zipline, a Silicon Valley startup founded by two Harvard grads in 2016 has recently introduced its new drone prototype, a larger aircraft that is part of a complete redesign of Zipline's logistics system. This new system has dramatically improved the system's capabilities in Rwanda.



Silicon startup, Zipline, demonstrates its cutting edge drone technology

The improvements have decreased the amount of time between Zipline's receipt of an order and launch of a fulfillment flight from 10 minutes to just one minute, increased the number of daily delivery flights that each Zipline distribution center can make from 50 to 500, and expanded the radius of each distribution center to serve larger populations. The new delivery vehicle is an autonomous fixed-wing style airplane. The plane can fly at a top speed of 128 km/h, and a cruising speed of 101 km/h—21 km/h faster than the previous generation of aircraft—with a round trip range of 160 kilometers carrying up to 1.75 kilos of cargo. George witnessed the maiden launch of the new drone where it transported blood products to a rural hospital and returned in just under 30 minutes. (Visit : [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnKnMgWy\\_tM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnKnMgWy_tM) to watch this drone technology in action.) Drone technology is advancing rapidly and will most certainly impact pharmaceutical distribution companies. *(To hear more about drones by industry disrupter, Zipline, be sure to register for the IFPW General Membership Meeting October 10th-12th where Will Hetzler, CEO of Zipline will be a featured speaker.)*

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## Around the Globe...

♦ The use of blockchain technology will assist in the elimination of fraud in the healthcare sector, as well as better manage quality in the manufacturing and distribution of pharmaceutical products, according to a report by data and analytics company **GlobalData**. The technology will also play a significant role in providing support to supply chain transformation in the healthcare sector, the firm said. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates the cost of counterfeit drugs to the healthcare industry at approximately US\$30 billion.

▪ **Walgreens** has announced that it has reached 1,000 safe medicine disposal kiosks are now available at drugstores across the United States. The program allows for the disposal of unsafe, unused, or expired medications by individuals in a safe location, ensuring they are not accidentally used, or misused intentionally by anyone. The safe disposal of these drugs also ensures that they do not taint the environment, including the water supply. Last fall the company announced its partnership with leading healthcare organizations **AmerisourceBergen, Pfizer and Prime Therapeutics** to expand the availability of disposal kiosks at approximately 1,500 Walgreens locations. Separately, Walgreens hosted its annual **Red Nose Day**, raising an estimated US\$42 million to fight childhood poverty.

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## IFPW Foundation Prepares STEP Expansion into Nigeria

IFPW Foundation continues to expand and make significant progress in its STEP Leadership training in priority countries with its partner GAVI, The Vaccine Alliance. Substantial investments have been made to scale up the ability to deliver STEP Leadership training in 2018 and 2019. Derek Short, secondee to GAVI through IFPW and Imperial Health Sciences, along with Magloire Achida, a GAVI supply chain expert from Benin, have been brought on as STEP Director, and STEP Field Manager, respectively. These two experienced supply chain executives will assist both in meeting the demand for training and in organizing the operational aspects of course implementations. The first such courses are now scheduled for September and October in Benin and Nigeria.

Key aspects of the training are the skillsets, experiences, and preparation of both the STEP Lead Facilitator and Co-Facilitators. In late June, George Bray of IFPW Foundation and Kevin Etter of UPS held a STEP train the trainer (ToT) session in Copenhagen, Denmark to prepare for the STEP Nigerian courses. UPS originally piloted the STEP Leadership course and developed its contents and, along with IFPW Foundation and GlaxoSmithKline, helped train the first few cohorts. In 2017 UPS handed the course over to GAVI and they in turn asked IFPW Foundation to serve as the primary drivers and overseers of the course in 2018 and beyond.

The Copenhagen ToT session was conducted over two days and in addition to George and Kevin, Jim Coughlan with UPS and Brian Thornley and Fred Brut from Merck attended the Train the Trainer session. Jim is associated with the UPS Foundation and Brian and

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## GAVI and IFPW Foundation (cont.)...

On day two, George met with IFPW Foundation scholarship recipients at the University of Rwanda who are currently working on their master's degree in health care supply chain logistics through the East African Center of Excellence for Vaccines and Health Supply Chain Management (RCE-VIHSCM). The GAVI Deputy CEO attended the session along with Philip Cotton, Chancellor of the University. Both Deputy CEO Gupta and Chancellor Cotton expressed their deep gratitude to IFPW for their support of the RCE-VIHSCM. George reinforced the importance of efficient supply chains in vaccines and other health care products along with his personal experiences as a supply chain professional. He encouraged the students to pursue their career aspirations and the importance of leadership to successfully implement needed changes in pharmaceutical and vaccine supply chains.



*One of Rwanda's tiniest patients prepares to receive vaccine*

On the final day of his visit to Rwanda George visited a vaccine clinic and witnessed first hand the vaccination of children and the logistics surrounding the distribution of these vaccines. Vaccines are critical to improving childhood life expectancies and overall health outcomes. The vaccination of these children is the goal of the IFPW Foundation and GAVI,



*IFPW's George Bray is welcomed at one of Rwanda's vaccination clinics.*

as well as other partners. By witnessing firsthand the challenges around having children vaccinated in the developing world, IFPW Foundation can share these experiences with its membership to ensure that there is a deeper understanding of the Foundation's focus.

While brief, the trip to Rwanda, proved to be successful in aligning IFPW Foundation's goals with that of its key partner GAVI, The Vaccine Alliance. It also gave the Foundation exposure to emerging delivery technologies that will most certainly impact the IFPW Foundation's work

servicing the world's neediest patients.

## WHO Holds 71st World Health Assembly

*(Source: WHO Press Release)*

The 71st World Health Assembly charted a new course for the Organization's members. WHO Director-General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said that everything the WHO did going forward would be evaluated in the light of the "triple bill" targets which were approved in WHO's new five-year strategic plan. By 2023, the targets aim to achieve one billion more people benefitting from universal health coverage, one billion more people better protected from health emergencies, and one billion more people enjoying better health and wellbeing. On the final day of the Assembly, delegates also came to agreements on maternal, infant and young children nutrition, as well as poliovirus containment.

In the focused target of nutrition, delegates unanimously renewed their commitment to invest and scale up nutrition policies and programs to improve infant and young child feeding and discussed efforts to achieve global nutrition targets. Up to the time of this Assembly, progress has proved to be slow but there was a small step forward in the reduction of stunting, with the number of stunted children under the age of 5 years falling from 169 million to 151 million in 2017. Also, a new report was launched on the implementation of the Code of Marketing Breastmilk Substitutes, highlighting that an additional six countries had adopted or strengthened legislation in 2017 aimed to regulate marketing of breastmilk substitutes.

Regarding containment of the poliovirus, wild poliovirus transmission levels are lower than ever before. Discussions focused on the goal of securing a lasting polio-free world were held and member states adopted a landmark resolution on poliovirus containment. In a limited number of facilities, poliovirus will continue to be retained, post-eradication, to serve critical national and international functions, including production of the polio vaccine or research. These stores of poliovirus materials will be held under strict biosafety and biosecurity handling and storage



*WHO Director-General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus*

conditions to ensure that the virus is not released into the environment, either accidentally or intentionally, to again cause outbreaks of the disease. Member States overwhelmingly committed to full implement and finance all strategies to secure a lasting polio-free world. Rotary International (on behalf of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative consisting of WHO, Rotary, CDC, UNICEF and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) offered an impassioned plea to the global community to eradicate a human disease for only the second time in history, thus ensuring that no child will ever again be paralyzed by any form of the poliovirus anywhere.

At the conclusion of the Assembly, Dr. Tedros emphasized that his message continued to be "health as a bridge to peace." In his closing remarks he said, "Health has the power to transform an individual's life, but it also has the power to transform families, communities and nations," and concluded "The commitment I have witnessed this week gives me great hope and confidence that together we can promote health, keep the world safe, and serve the vulnerable."

## STEP (cont)...

Fred represent Merck's supply chain business in Europe and Africa. All aspects of the course material were reviewed and discussed to prepare Jim, Brian, and Fred for their inaugural facilitation experiences, and George and Kevin shared their own individual experiences from having co-facilitated previous classes. Although the STEP Leadership course material is composed of many very basic leadership principles, the course participants' experiences are enriched significantly by the background and expertise of the Facilitators. As an added benefit, IFPW will train several Nigerian facilitators the week before the first STEP class to build capacity to deliver training in country in the future.

IFPW Foundation believes that change is driven by leadership and only through effective leadership will critical change take place in vaccine supply chains towards improving the health of children in developing countries. To this end, IFPW Foundation has committed to training over 300 vaccine managers in 2018 and 2019. The next classes scheduled in Lagos and Abuja Nigeria the weeks of August 13th and 20th are only the beginning of these endeavors. *If you would like further information on how to become involved with future STEP activities and would like more information, please email [george.bray@ifpwfoundation.org](mailto:george.bray@ifpwfoundation.org).*

## How Many People Die from Tuberculosis Every Year?

(Source: Barcelona Institute for Global Health)

So exactly how many individuals die every year from Tuberculosis? It is a question that is currently receiving much scrutiny from many. Due to different methodologies and data sources used by institutions such as the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) and the World Health Organization (WHO), the difference in numbers is considerable, and highlight the need for improved modeling approaches in more than a dozen different countries.

Throughout history, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* is one of the main causes of human deaths, and in 2016, it was the single infectious agent, resulting in the most deaths worldwide. However, many deaths that are actually attributable to tuberculosis have been misdiagnosed, while others are not properly assigned. This fact alone means that the global disease mortality must be estimated using statistical and mathematical models.

The WHO estimates the number of disease-related deaths at 1.8 million, while the IHME puts that number at an estimated 1.3 million. These half million deaths could have a significant impact on the design and evaluation of health interventions.

ISGlobal researchers, Alberto Garcia-Basteiro and Joe Brew, along with colleagues from other research centers conducted a study to better understand the underlying reasons for these differences in estimates and found that estimates for a majority of countries was similar. However, there was a considerable difference in the absolute number of deaths for a dozen countries, with Nigeria, Bangladesh, and Tanzania being of particular interest. Other countries were identified as having a lower disease rate of incidence where the difference was considerable relative to their burden of disease. The approach to calculate case detection rate, as well as the use of TB prevalence surveys, may be key factors in the underlying observed differences. The researchers emphasized that in order to improve estimates related to the disease, the international community must prioritize the development of improved death registries and surveillance systems around the globe.

## Around the Globe (cont.)...

Organizations, individuals and celebrities all joined the campaign which culminated in three hours of special primetime programming on NBC, including the fourth annual live "The Red Nose Day Special," which united some of Hollywood's biggest names to raise money for children in need in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and some of the poorest communities internationally.

- ◆ A health emergency has been declared in Brazil after a measles outbreak in which a 7-month-old boy died from complications. A vaccination program was launched but residents were not participating in the numbers that officials had expected since the launch, and the government has only reached 85% of its goal in the number of inoculations. There are currently 317 confirmed cases and another 2,225 cases awaiting confirmation. Health officials have been going door to door and immunization centers have been set up in public spaces, including day care facilities, schools, and shopping malls.

- ◆ The **Kenya Pharmaceutical Distribution Association** (KPDA) has accused its business rival, the **Kenya Association of Pharmaceutical Industry** (KAPI) of disseminating misinformation regarding the war on counterfeit medicines. "KAPI which is largely constituted by multinational drug companies is telling Kenyans that KPDA is selling counterfeit drugs.," stated KPDA chairman Dr. Kamamia Murichu. In a statement seen as targeting KPDA, KAPI also condemned all drugs who packaging has neither English nor Kiswahili inscriptions.

- ◆ The **Sudan Ministry of Health** has launched a polio vaccination campaign targeting approximately 3 million children across the country. The campaign, which is supported by the **World Health Organization** (WHO) and **UNICEF**, commenced on July 16th, will cover ten Sudanese states, including Khartoum, Northern Sudan, Hagra-Neel, Red Sea, North Kordofan, West Darfur, South Darfur, North Darfur, East Darfur and Central Darfur.

- ◆ **Canada Drugs**, a popular online pharmacy, has been shut down by the **U.S. Department of Justice** over concerns regarding the sale of counterfeit medicines. Canada Drugs and companies controlled by the online pharmacy have plead guilty in the case, which began with the drug *Avastin*. An investigation for the **U.S. FDA** revealed that some patients were getting the drug with no active ingredient. *Avastin* is used in the treatment of certain late-stage cancers.

(Sources: Company Press Releases, Economic Express, LA Times, ReliefWeb, The Standard and Xianhua News)



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