

April 24, 2020

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

During this unprecedented global crisis, it is imperative for the U.S. to demonstrate leadership by working with the global community not only to stop the spread of COVID-19, but also to help strengthen the global public health architecture to mitigate a crisis of this magnitude from happening again. Therefore, we, the undersigned organizations, urge the U.S. Administration to continue to fund the World Health Organization (WHO) to end this pandemic.

The United States cannot rid this insidious virus from the country, nor around the world, without WHO.

WHO is the only organization with the technical capacity and global mandate to support the public health response of all countries during this critical time. China first alerted WHO to the possibility of a novel type of coronavirus on December 31, 2019. WHO worked closely with U.S. public health institutions like the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), as well as the global community, to collect, analyze, and disseminate public health information about COVID-19.

These actions equipped countries with advance warning and guided states' efforts to prepare for the spread of the virus. Just one day after receiving the alert from China, WHO alerted the CDC and by January 10, WHO issued guidance to countries on how to detect, test, and manage potential cases of the novel virus, and best practices to protect health workers delivering care on the frontlines of the response.

As the threat became more understood, WHO continued to engage with the Chinese government to ensure vital public health data from the Wuhan epicenter was conveyed to the global community at rapid pace – unlike during the 2002-2004 SARS epidemic. Through this engagement, China shared genetic sequencing of the novel virus, accelerating the development of vaccine candidates and therapeutics. While their transparency in many areas was still lacking, this paved the way for a WHO technical team to visit Wuhan in late January and again in February to study the disease, gaining knowledge that informed containment and response measures now being implemented by member states globally. The February visit also included scientists from NIH and CDC.

Led by WHO, work began immediately to design a global Research & Development Blueprint. Hundreds of researchers from dozens of countries participated; paving the way for more than 78 vaccine candidates being worked on in dozens of countries, with five in clinical trials. This pace is both essential and unprecedented and would not have been possible without rapid WHO engagement.

At the same time, WHO began essential, rapid work – often done collaboratively with CDC technical experts – to design more than 50 pieces of technical guidance to help countries and communities prepare. These resources have been used by hospitals and frontline staff throughout various cities and states in the United States, as well as all over the world.

Given the lack of scientifically proven and effective treatments, by March 18, WHO launched a study called the “Solidarity Trial” to compare the effectiveness of four potential treatments for COVID-19 against one another. Over 90 countries are now participating in this trial.

During an unprecedented and hugely complex public health crisis like this, there are bound to be challenges. After WHO and the global community turn the tide against COVID-19, WHO has signaled an eagerness to assess where mistakes occurred and how best to strengthen the institution and global public health response capacities of all countries in the future.

It is without question, however, that WHO efforts have been vital to flattening the curve, slowing the virus’ spread, and ultimately saving lives in the U.S. and around the world.

As the virus continues to spread into poorer countries ill equipped to combat the disease, WHO’s role will become even more vital as it supports fragile health systems already struggling to provide basic health interventions to vulnerable populations. In this capacity, WHO’s interventions will not only save lives but also ensure economic stability as the world recovers from this devastating disease.

With a COVID-19 vaccine still at least 12-18 months away, all countries must strengthen efforts to stop the spread of the virus, save lives, and restart the global economy. At a time of the worst public health disaster in the last 100 years, suspending funding to WHO would be like cutting the water supply to a firefighter in the middle of a fire. More than 1,000 organizations and individuals are joining to express their support. We believe it is critical to continue to support WHO’s work, especially as they partner closely with leading U.S. agencies like CDC, NIH, USAID and the Department of State, to keep people safe around the world and here at home.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days
Access Challenge
Action Against Hunger
Action on Smoking and Health
Advancing Synergy
Advocates for Youth
Alliance for Surgery and Anesthesia Presence
(ASAP)
America’s Voice
American Academy of Pediatrics

American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Obstetricians and
Gynecologists
American Jewish World Service
AMERICAN LEPROSY MISSIONS
American Public Health Association
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society of Tropical Medicine and
Hygiene
Amref Health Africa

Association for Professionals in Infection
Control and Epidemiology
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Schools and Programs of Public
Health
AVAC
Better World Campaign
Big Cities Health Coalition
Bread for the World
Breast Health Global Initiative
Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
CARE USA
Catholics for Choice
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for International Policy
CEO/Disabled Children's Fund
CHANGE (Center for Health and Gender
Equity)
Child Family Health International
ChildFund International
Children's HeartLink
Children's Institute
Christian Connections for International Health
Church World Service
Coalition for Adolescent Girls
Coalition of communities of color (CCC)
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the
Good Shepherd
Consortium of Universities for Global Health
CORE Group
Dining for Women
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
Endocrine Society
Engineering Ministries International
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Faiths for Safe Water
Food for the Hungry
Francois- Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health
and Human Rights
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Friends of Angola
Friends of the Global Fight for AIDS,
Tuberculosis and Malaria
Friends of UNFPA
GBCHealth
General Federation of Women's Clubs
Georgia Global Health Alliance
Global Citizen

Global Health Council
Global Health Technologies Coalition
Global Health Visions
Global Ministries of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of
Christ
Global Network of Black People working in
HIV
Global Water 2020
GlobalPartnersUnited LLC
Good Shepherd Services
GreeneWorks
Guttmacher Institute
Haiti Cholera Research Funding Foundation,
Inc.
Health Alliance International
Heartland Alliance International
Helen Keller International
Hesperian Health Guides
HIAS
HIV Medicine Association
House of Blahnik, Inc.
Housing Works, Inc.
Humanity & Inclusion
IMANI HOUSE, INC.
Infectious Diseases Society of America
InterAction
International Alliance for Pediatric Stroke
International Cancer Expert Corps
International Health Section, American Public
Health Association (APHA)
International Women's Health Coalition
International Youth Alliance for Family
Planning
IntraHealth International
John Snow, Inc. (JSI)
Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security
Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local
Communities
Kaiser Permanente
Last Mile Health
Lillian Carter Center for Global Health and
Social Responsibility, Emory University
Living Goods
Management Sciences for Health
Medical Teams International
Medicines for Humanity
Mercy Corps
Mercy-USA for Aid and Development

Milwaukee Global Health Consortium
MPact Global Action for Gay Men's Health
and and Rights
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the
Good Shepherd
National Association of Pediatric Nurse
Practitioners
National Birth Equity Collaborative
National League for Nursing
National Partnership for Women & Families
NC Relief Collective
Newborn Foundation
Nothing But Nets
NTI | bio
Nurses Who Vaccinate
Oxfam America
PAI
PAI Life Sciences, Inc.
Partners in Health
Partners Worldwide
PATH
Pathfinder International
Physicians for Human Rights
Physicians for Peace
Plan International USA
Planet Aid, Inc.
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Population Connection Action Fund
Population Council
Population Institute
Population Services International (PSI)
Presbyterian Church USA
Project HOPE
Refugees International
RESULTS
RESULTS Oak Ridge
RESULTS-Asheville, NC
ReSurge International
SANIPLAN
Seed Global Health
SHARE Foundation
Shot@Life
Sister of the Good Shepherd
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur USA

International Organizations:

Arbutus Medical, Canada
AIHMS-Global, India

SNPhA – Student National Pharmaceutical
Association
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of
America
Sojourners
Student National Pharmaceutical Association
Sustainable Sciences Institute
Sustainable Sciences Institute
Tacoma RESULTS
TB Alliance
The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
The Episcopal Church
The G4 Alliance
The Gerontological Society of America
The Grandmother Project
The Hunger Project
The Mauricio Aquino Foundation Corporation
The United Methodist Church - General Board
of Church and Society
TogetHER for Health
Triangle Global Health Consortium
Trust for America's Health
U.S. People Living With HIV Caucus
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Association
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness
Ministries
United Nations Association of the USA
EngenderHealth
United Nations Foundation
United States People living with HIV Caucus
University of Washington Department of
Global Health
Washington Global Health Alliance
Weaving Earth
West Central Initiative
What to Expect Project
White Ribbon Alliance
Women Deliver
Women in Global Health
WomenStrong International
World Education, Inc.
World Medical Healthcare Project
World Vision US

Karika Ageing and HIV/AIDS Programme,
Kenya
Israeli Association of Public Health, Israel

Ageing Nepal, Nepal
The Coalition for Children Affected by
AIDS, Canada
International Pediatric Association,
Switzerland
Medical IMPACT, Mexico
London School of Hygiene and Tropical
Medicine, United Kingdom
Oxford University Clinical Research Unit-
Nepal, Nepal
Institute of Research and Actions in Africa,
Cote d'Ivoire
Grandmother Project - Change through
Culture, Senegal
Action for Global Health Network, United
Kingdom,
Policy Cures Research, Australia,
International Society for Infectious Diseases,
South Africa
Health Poverty Action, United Kingdom
International Union of Basic and Clinical
Pharmacology (IUPHAR), Switzerland
Primary Trauma Care Foundation, United
Kingdom
TINADA YOUTH ORGANIZATION
(TiYO), Kenya
Centre for Human Rights & Governance,
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Local Initiatives Development Agency
(LIDA), Kenya
Rural Infrastructure and Human Resource
Development Organization (RIHRDO),
Pakistan
Carbone Guinee, Guinea
Women Volunteers for Peace, Kenya
Zero Poor Africa (ZPA), Guinea
Centre for Family Health Initiative (CFHI),
Nigeria
Lake Region Public Benefit Organizations
Network (LPN), Kenya
YOUTH INITIATIVE FOR THE
PROMOTION OF GOOD LEADERSHIP IN
NIGERIA, Nigeria
Youth and Environment Vision, Tanzania
Emony Yefwe International, Kenya

MeTA Kenya CSOs Alliance for SRHR,
Kenya
Public Health International Consulting
Center (PHICC), Cameroon
Nigeria Universal Health Coverage Actions
Network (NUHCAN), Nigeria
Association for Promotion Sustainable
Development, India
ASSOCIATION D'ASSISTANCE AU
DÉVELOPPEMENT (ASAD), Cameroon
Rwenzori Center for Research and
Advocacy, Uganda
International Planned Parenthood Federation,
United Kingdom
ENHANCE CHILDREN AND WOMEN OF
TANZANIA, Tanzania
Advocacy Network Africa (AdNetA), Kenya
Meera Foundation, India
Community Initiative Action Group Kenya
(CIAG-K), Kenya
Golden change for concerned youth forum,
Nigeria
ASPAT PERU, Peru
Civil Society Support and Support Network
for Vaccination and strengthening of the
health system in Mauritania "Vacnet-
Mauritanie", Mauritania
MUMBO INTERNATIONAL, Kenya
The LAC Key Correspondent Team,
Argentina
The Hospital for Sick Children, Canada
World Merit Burundi, Burundi
Aidsfonds, Netherlands
Imani House, Inc., Liberia
Nigerian Women Agro Allied Farmers
Association, Nigeria
Fundacion Octaedro, Ecuador
Albino Trust of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe
Fundacion Huesped, Argentina
Human rights n Health Institute, Peru
People's Health Movement Tanzania,
Tanzania
Strategic Poverty Alleviation Systems—
SPAS, Kenya
ASPAT International, Peru

The George Institute for Global Health,
United Kingdom,
The Fred Hollows Foundation, Australia
Asia Pacific Network of People Living with
HIV (APN+), Thailand
MEDIBETH GLOBAL HEALTH CENTRE,
OSOGBO, Nigeria
Sukaar Welfare Organization-Pakistan,
Pakistan
EANNASO, Tanzania
Connected Advocacy for Empowerment and
Youth Development Initiative, Nigeria
IMRO, Rwanda
Youth Nexus, Bangladesh, USA
Uhuru Community Development Project
(UCDP), Kenya
Uganda NCD Alliance, Uganda
Shanduko Yeupenyu Child Care, Zimbabwe
Blood Patients protection Council, India
World Action Fund, Uganda
SCI Foundation, United Kingdom,
Organisation pour Développement Inclusif au
Niger (ODI NIGER), Niger
Institute for Tropical Medicine, Belgium
VIKASH-SAMUKHYA, India
Interagency Coalition on AIDS and
Development (ICAD), Canada
Integrated Management for Health services,
Rwanda
NGO- Ayandeh Sazan Fardaaye javanaan,
Iran

African Centre for Global Health & Social
Transformation (ACHEST), Uganda
Bimmed Medical Foundation Inc., Nigeria
Friends of the Global Fund Europe, France
Medical IMPACT, Mexico
Nigerian Women Agro Allied Farmers
Association, Nigeria
Bestway Initiative for Health, Education and
Self-sufficiency, Nigeria
Foundation for African Research and
Development (FARD), Ghana
Bezev, Germany
NCD Child, Canada
RESULTS UK, United Kingdom
World Vision India
Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
Sisters, Canada
Union des Amis Socio Culturels d'Action en
Development (UNASCAD), Haiti
TB Europe Coalition, Netherlands
SAVATHA FOUNDATION GOOD NEWS
CHARITABLE TRUSTS, India
Newlands west Baptist Church, South Africa
CHEN - patient fertility association, Israel
NGO Republic Information Education Center
"INTILISH", Uzbekistan
Family Planning Association of India, India
Center for Health Studies, Albania
Global Health Alliance Australia, Australia

Individuals:

Mary Nagel, Angola
Dr. Brian J. Williams, FSAdata, Australia
Alyson Wright, Australian National
University, Australia
Amy Seath, Australian National University,
Australia
Ashley Thompson, Australian National
University, Australia
Brendan McMorran, Australian National
University, Australia

Brett Scholz, Australian National University,
Australia
Carmen Au, Australia
Carolyn Hawkins, Australian National
University, Australia
Cathy Banwell, Australian National
University, Australia
Christopher Nolan, Australian National
University, Australia
Danielle Somers, University of Sydney,
Australia

Deb Mills, Medical Practitioner, Australia
Deb Wong, Australian National University,
Australia
Delhis Reynolds, Australia
Diana Cardenas, Australia
Dr. Jodi Matic, Australia
Elizabeth E. Gardiner, Australian National
University, Australia
Emily McEwan, Australia
Guthrie Dyce, John Curtin School of Medical
Research, Australia
Hardip Patel, Australian National University,
Australia
Ian A. Cockburn, Australian National
University, Australia
Jerry Li, Australian National University,
Australia
Jill Guthrie, Australian National University,
Australia
Joanne Rathbone, University of Queensland,
Australia
Karen Brennan, Australian National
University, Australia
Ke-Jun Wei, Australian National University,
Australia
Ky Ruprecht, Australia
Lola Radnoti, Australian National University,
Australia
Lora Starrs, Australian National University,
Australia
Lucy Campbell, Australian National
University, Australia
Makayla-May Brinckley, Australian National
University, Australia
Marie Parmenter, Australia
Marita Linkson, Australia
Meru Sheel, Australian National University,
Australia
Michael Tran, Australia
Michael Webeck, Australian National
University, Australia
Mila Knezovic, Australian National
University, Australia
Naomi Clarke, Australian National
University, Australia

Narci Teoh, Australian National University,
Australia
Nicolas Cherbuin, Australian National
University, Australia
Nicole Gorddard, Australia
Olga Zaytseva, Australia
Professor David Tschärke, Australian
National University, Australia
Professor Karin Leder, Australia
Professor Dr. Frank van Haren, Intensive
Care Unit, Canberra Hospital, Australian
National University Medical School,
Australia
Professor Graham J. Reynolds, Australian
National University, Australia
Rafat Hussain, Australian National
University, Australia
Rebecca Matthews, Australia
Sally Somi, Australia
Samantha Colquhoun, Australian National
University, Australia
Simon Easteal, Australian National
University, Australia
Soraya Zwahlen, Australian National
University, Australia
Suji O'Connor, Australia
Tatum Street, Australia
Taylor Singh, John Curtin School of Medical
Research, Australia
Teresa Neeman, Australian National
University, Australia
Thomas Preiss, Australian National
University, Australia
Tornike Janjgava, Australia
Trevor Parmenter, University of Sydney,
Australia
Vicki Kilby, Australia
Victoria Thomas, Australian National
University, Australia
Xylia Ingham, Australia
Martin Haditsch, TravelMed Center
Leonding, Austria
Dewan Tanvir Ahmed, FPA Bangladesh,
Bangladesh
Kirsten Accoe, Institute of Tropical Medicine,
Belgium

Ann Peters, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium
Anne Marie Trooskens, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium
Barbara Barbe, Belgium
Britta Campe, Belgium
Christophe Van Dijck, Belgium
Ciska Maeckelbergh, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium
Claudia Nieto-Sanchez, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium
Ella Van Landeghem, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium
Ellen Mitchell, Prins Leopold Instituut voor Tropische Geneeskunde (ITM), Belgium
Florence Eric, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium
Geert De Greef, Belgium
Heleen Annemans, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium
Idzi Potters, Belgium
Inge Dierynck, Belgium
Irith De Baetselier, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium
Isra Deblauwe, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium
Jan Coenen, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium
Jen Engelen, Belgium
Joke Vervliet, Belgium
Jose Penalvo, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium
Kristien Cloots, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium
Kristien Wouters, ITG, Belgium
Kristof Decoster, Instituut voor Tropische Geneeskunde (ITM), Belgium
Leen Rigouts, Belgium
Lenka Benova, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium
Leo Heyndrickx, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium
Linda Paredis, Belgium
Liselotte Hardy, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium

Ludwig Apers, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium
Marc-Alain Widdowson, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium
Marjan Peeters, Belgium
Maya Ronse, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium
Nancy Janssens, Belgium
Peter Bruynseels, Belgium
Professor Dr. Marianne A.B. van der Sande, MD, MPH, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium
Sabien Salomez, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium
Sytse Kuijk, Belgium
Tinne Gils, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium
Valerie Bastiaensen, Instituut voor Tropische Geneeskunde (ITM), Belgium
Gert Van der Auwera, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium
Werner Soors, MD, MPH, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium
Wim Adriaensen, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium
Wim Aernouts, Belgium
Wim Van Damme, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium
Wouter Arrazola de Onate, Belgium
Yves Van Laere, ITG, Belgium
Charles Saidu Bangura, Botswana
Thomas Welty, MD, Cameroon
Anne Gatignol, Professor and Researcher in Virology, McGill University, Canada
Ashley Wazana, McGill University, Canada
Barbara Marcus, Canada
Brent Richards, McGill University, Canada
Carolyn Ells, McGill University, Canada
Cecile Rousseau, Canada
Celia Greenwood, Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research, Canada
Christina Greenaway, McGill University, Canada
Claudia Kleinman, McGill University, Canada
David Thomas, McGill University, Canada

David Dunkley, Lady Davis Institute – Jewish General Hospital and McGill University
David Eidelman, McGill University, Canada
Dr. Lorraine Chalifour, Canada
Elizabeth MacNamara, McGill University and the Jewish General Hospital, Canada
Ernesto Schiffrin, MD, PhD, McGill University and the Jewish General Hospital, Canada
Ian Shrier, McGill University, Canada
Ivan Topisirovic, Canada
Jennifer Thompson, Canada
John Bergeron, McGill University, Canada
John Legere, Canada
Jose A. Morais, Canada
Kathleen Dickson, Canada
Kostas Pantopoulos, McGill University, Canada
Leah Moss, Canada
Lindsay Belvedere, Canada
Lysanne Campeau, Canada
Michael Libman, McGill University, Canada
Michel Y. Pelletier, Canada
Nancy Feeley, McGill University, Canada
Nicoletta Eliopoulos, Canada
Norah Neylon, Canada
R. Thomas Jagoe, McGill University, Canada
Rachel Cardon Kronick, Canada
Soham Rej, McGill University, Canada
Susan R. Kahn, McGill University, Canada
Vahab Soleimani, Canada
William Foulkes, Canada
Wyeth W. Wasserman, University of British Columbia, Canada
Yves Langlois, MD, Canada
Zeeve Rosberger, Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research, Canada
Matthew Brown, China
Dieudonne Bidashimwa, Democratic Republic of the Congo
Professor Lars Hviid, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
David Imbago, Ecuador
Fethia Keder, PSI, Ethiopia
Wubshet Mamo, UW-DGH, Ethiopia
Annett Korner, Germany

Evan Williams, Germany
Peter Wiessner, Germany
Professor Dr. Till Barnighausen, Germany
Professor Dr. Olaf Muller, Germany
Simiao Chen, Germany
Tilman Ruppel, Medical Mission Institute, Germany
Blessina Kumar, Global Coalition of TB Activists, India
Prateek Ghatage, India
Sonal Mehta, South Asia Regional Office of IPPF, India
Abed Nasereddin, Israel
Alina German, Bnei Zion Medical Center, Israel
Daniel Gold, Israel
Gail Stolovitsky, Israel
Joel Bigman, Israel
Michael L. Alkan, Israel
Oxana Ibragimova, The Kazakhstan Union of People, Living with HIV, Kazakhstan
Alfred Osoti, Kenya
Beatrice Wamuti, Kenya
Evans Naibei Rotich, Kenya
George Gitau, American Leprosy Missions, Kenya
Kerusha Nyabiage, University of Washington, Kenya
Kenneth Ngure, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya
Nelly Mugo, Kenya Medical Research Institute, Kenya
Nicholas Kipkurui, KEMRI, Kenya
Christine Kamamia, University of Washington, Malawi
Tilinde Chokocho, Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital, College of Medicine, University of Malawi
Gareth White, Mauritius
Allert Brown-Gort, Casa de la Universidad de California en Mexico, Mexico
Veronica Barroso, La Casa de la Universidad de California en Mexico, Mexico
Svetlana Doltu, Moldova
Vitali Rabinciuc, PULS, Moldova
Abhilasha Karkey, Nepal

Badri Raj Pande, Nepal Public Health Foundation
Sagun Paudel, Public Health Update, Nepal
JW Brandsma, Netherlands
Kerstin Klipstein-Grobusch, University Medical Center Utrecht, Netherlands
Lisette van Lieshout, Leiden University Medical Center, Netherlands
Wim van Brakel, NLR, Netherlands
Erica D'Souza, New Zealand
Danjuma Daniel, Nigeria
Ogbemudia Uwoghiren, Nigeria
Ogbonna Collins Nwabuko, Nigeria
Oladapo Walker, Babcock University, Nigeria
Laura Altobelli, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Peru
B.J. Eco, Philippines
Mwananawe Aimable, IMRO, Rwanda
Esabelle Yam Lo Yan, Singapore
Lucille Hellen Blumberg, National Institute for Communicable Diseases, South Africa
Marc Mendelson, South Africa
Dr. Hasitha Tissera, Sri Lanka
Sumithra Tissera, Sri Lanka
Andrew Strong, Sweden
Anna Sondell, Sweden
Anna-Karin Hurtig, Sweden
Anne Hogberg, Sweden
Anneli Ivarsson, Umea University, Sweden
Barbara Schumann, Sweden
Bjoem Pehrson, Sweden
Bjorn Hogberg, Sweden
Borje Rehn, Sweden
Chatarina Carlen, Umea University, Sweden
Claudia Hanson, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden
Elin Larsson, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden
Frida Saide, Sweden
Gunilla Stenberg, Umea University, Sweden
Hakan Jonsson, Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, Sweden
Jaran Eriksen, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden
Jennifer Stewart Williams, Sweden
Jing Helmersson, Umea University, Sweden
Joacim Rocklov, Umea University, Sweden
Karin Wadell, Umea University, Sweden

Kaspar Meili, Umea University, Sweden
Kerstin Edin, Sweden
Khalif Bile Mohamud, Somali Swedish Researchers Association, Sweden
Klas Goran Sahlen, Sweden
Lars L. Gustafsson, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden
Lars Weinehall, Umea University, Sweden
Margareta Norberg, Umea University, Sweden
Maria Nilsson, Umea University, Sweden
Marian warsame Yusuf, Sweden
Marie Lindkvist, Umea University, Sweden
Mikael Emsing, Sweden
Monica Burman, Sweden
Osvaldo Fonseca Rodriguez, Umea University, Sweden
Professor Peter Byass, Umea University, Sweden
Sarah Marklund, Umea University, Sweden
Stefan Hanson, Sweden
Stig Wall, Umea University, Sweden
Ulf Hogberg, Epidemiology and Public Health, Umea University, Sweden
Urban Janlert, Umea University, Sweden
Emma Hodcroft, Switzerland
Marcel Tanner, Swiss Academy of Arts and Sciences, Switzerland
Marilyn Blaeser, Switzerland
Matthias Egger, Switzerland
Robert Steffen, MD, Chairman, Ebola Emergency Committee IHR and University of Zurich, Switzerland
Roman Stocker, ETH Zurich, Switzerland
Valerie D'Acremont, Centre for Primary Care and Public Health, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
Daines Nyigu, Tanzania
Innocent Grant, Young and Alive Initiative Tanzania, Tanzania
Simon Ernest Nakitundu, Tanzania
Anne Merriman, Hospice Africa, Uganda
Ssekitoleko Richard, World Health Organization, Uganda
Evgenia Heliukh, ICF "Alliance for Public Health", Ukraine

Abdelaziz Mohamed, United Kingdom
Professor James Logan, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom
Ronald Behrens, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom
Stefan Flasche, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom
Aaron Katz, University of Washington, USA
Abbey Ogunwale, USA
Adam Eads, Fair Trade USA
Adrienne Shapiro, MD, PhD, Departments of Global Health and Medicine (Infectious Diseases), University of Washington, USA
Agape Skinner, USA
Ahoua Kone, USA
Aimee McHale, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA
Albertha Nyaku, USA
Aleksandra Shineleva, USA
Aleta Elliott, University of Washington, USA
Alex Ezeh, Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health, USA
Alex Johnson, USA
Alex McGee, University of Washington, USA
Alexa Juarez, University of Washington, USA
Alexa Swingle, USA
Alexander Hirata, USA
Alexis Kaushansky, University of Washington, USA
Alfonso Rosales, USA
Ali Groves, USA
Ali Macstudy, USA
Alison C. Roxby, University of Washington, USA
Alison Drake, University of Washington, USA
Alison Park, USA
Alison Schroth Hayward, USA
Aliyah Cruz, Student National Pharmaceutical Association, USA
Allison Dinh, USA
Allison Williams, USA
Alvaro Garza, USA
Alyson Klausing, USA

Amanda Hosch, USA
Amber Hathcock, USA
Amy Carroll-Scott, Drexel University School of Public Health, USA
Amy Dempsey, Panorama Global, USA
Amy Frith, USA
Amy Wintermeyer, USA
Ana B. Amaya, Pace University, USA
Ana Ortiz, USA
Andrea Lara, USA
Andrew Chiao, Boston University School of Public Health, USA
Andrew Franco, MD, USA
Andrew Hale, USA
Andrew Rosenblatt, Cornell University, USA
Anjuli Wagner, University of Washington, USA
Anlan Cheney, USA
Ann DeHart, USA
Ann Downer, University of Washington, USA
Ann Van Haney, University of Washington, USA
Anna P. Durbin, USA
Anne Phillips, USA
Annette Ghee, University of Washington, USA
Anthony D. So, USA
Ardis Ann Moe, UCLA, USA
Arianna Means, USA
Arti Varanasi, USA
Ashima Khanna, USA
Ashley Lieser, USA
Ashrit Multani, UCLA Health, David Geffen School of Medicine, USA
Barbara Crane, USA
Barbara J. Klas, USA
Barbara Turner, USA
Barbra Richardson, USA
Benjamin Chan, USA
Benjamin Mason Meier, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA
Benjamin O. Anderson, MD, University of Washington, USA
Benjamin Spencer, University of Washington, USA

Beth Kirkpatrick, MD, USA
Bethesda O'Connell, USA
Betsy Ingalls, USA
Betty Dennius, APHA, USA
Bilen Fraye, USA
Bill Lober, University of Washington, USA
Bobby Green, USA
Bonnie Porter, USA
Brad Wagenaar, Assistant Professor,
Department of Global Health, University of
Washington, USA
Brent McKinney, USA
Brian Granger, USA
Britt Yamamoto, University of Washington,
USA
Bryan Berube, Seattle Children's Research
Institute, USA
Bryan Verity, USA
Catilin Scoville, USA
Camerin Rencken, USA
Camille Sheppard, USA
Carey Farquhar, University of Washington,
USA
Carleen Confer, USA
Carmen W. Weder, USA
Carol J. Dabbs, USA
Carol Larivee, USA
Carol Levin, University of Washington
Department of Global Health, USA
Caroline Liou, USA
Carolyn Reynolds, USA
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of Public Health, The George Washington
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