



Grantee Backgrounder

Indiana University School of Medicine

The Indiana University School of Medicine, located in Indianapolis, was established in 1903 with the mission of advancing health in the state of Indiana and beyond by promoting innovation and excellence in education, research and patient care.

In 1990, the Indiana University School of Medicine faculty forged a partnership with Moi University Faculty of Health Sciences in Eldorat, Kenya. This collaboration allows Indiana University medical school residents or faculty members to work with their Kenyan counterparts in the Eldorat Referral Hospital and urban and rural health centers.

Since the program began thirteen years ago, more than 80 residents have chosen elective rotations in Kenya and several internists from throughout the United States have also traveled to Eldorat to participate in service and teaching activities. The IU and MU partnership also provides the opportunity to work toward the enhancement of clinical services for patients at the Moi University Faculty Health Sciences institution.

Moi University

The Moi University was established in 1984 in Eldoret, Kenya following recommendations by the McCKay Commission. The Faculty of Health Sciences was established in 1989 and enrolled its first students in 1990. The mission of the Faculty of Health Sciences is to contribute to knowledge and produce graduates with practical and intellectual skill capable of functioning efficiently in the changing environment and to equip students with skills necessary to fulfill the mission.

In 1990, the Moi University – Indiana University collaboration was established to link the two medical schools. Through this partnership, members of staff from various departments at the Moi University Faculty of Health Sciences have been trained at the Indiana University School of Medicine. Indiana University faculty, residents and medical students have also benefited from exposure to teaching and practice of medicine in a resource challenged developing country.

Staff members at both institutions have also collaborated in research, including joint programs for the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT), and grants for training faculty in Indiana.

University of Maryland

The University of Maryland School of Medicine was established in 1807, and is the fifth oldest, and first public medical college in the United States. Located in Baltimore, the School of Medicine was the founding school of the University of Maryland, and today it is an integral part of the 11-campus University of Maryland System. On the University of Maryland, Baltimore campus, the School of Medicine serves as the foundation for a large academic health center that combines medical education, biomedical research, patient care and community service.

The Center for Vaccine Development (CVD) at the University of Maryland School of Medicine was established in the 1970's as one of the first facilities to evaluate vaccines in community volunteers. It is also the only university vaccine center in the world engaged in the full range of vaccinology, from basic science through vaccine development, clinical evaluation and field studies. The Center's comprehensive mission involves scientists and physicians in all phases of vaccine development and testing and it has earned an international reputation for genetically engineering and testing vaccines against cholera, typhoid and malaria.

The CVD has established a strong collaborative relationship with public health authorities in the African nation of Mali. The CVD has a number of collaborations currently in process, including partnerships with the Malaria Research and Training Center at the University of Mali, as well as the Mali Ministry of Health.

The Centre pour les Vaccins en Developpement at the Centre National d' Appui a la Lutte contre la Maladie

In 2000, the Center pour les Vaccins en Developpement, Mali (CVD-Mali), headquartered at the Centre National d' Appui a la Lutte contre la Maladie (formerly Institut Marchoux) in Bamako, was created under a cooperative agreement with the Minister of Health and the University of Maryland Center for Vaccine Development. The focus of CVD-Mali is to conduct research and provide training in vaccinology and tropical diseases in the country. CVD-Mali is run under the direction of the Ministry of Health of Mali.

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Merck & Co. Inc. is launching the Merck Vaccine Network - Africa (MVN-A) to help improve immunization programs and access to vaccines for children in Africa. MVN-A will support the development of new vaccination services training programs at academic institutions, beginning in Kenya and Mali. This photo of a mother and child in Siaya District, Nyanza Province, Kenya is approved for unrestricted use by news media covering the launch of MVN-A. For more information, please contact Joyce Buford at 215/652/4984.

A .jpg image of the photo is available upon request.