KNOWLEDGE **SHARED**

Accurate health information saves lives. From the data gathered on the ground to the results generated in the laboratory, researchers must be able to report their findings and study the work of others—the free flow of information is essential, whenever and wherever it is needed.

In this way, people can share resources as well as ideas, passing on training and skills to expand the network of experts at work on global health. Teams around the world are engaged in this exchange, working together to identify problems and test solutions.

Above: The Multilateral Initiative on Malaria (MIM) is an international alliance to support research by African scientists and to train young researchers, established in 1997. Since then, more than forty projects have been undertaken, including the installation of satellite dishes to provide fast and reliable Internet connectivity all across Africa giving access to current medical literature online. ***Photo: Amani, Tanzania, 2000, courtesy National Library of Medicine***

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

National Library of Medicine
National Institutes of Health
www.nlm.nih.gov/againsttheodds

AN END TO VIOLENCE

Wars strike civilian life with devastating results. Battles fought in communities damage health care services, injure bystanders, and interrupt the supply of food, water, and electricity. Even in peacetime, if countries spend most of their resources on military concerns, there is less to spend on health programs that could improve the quality of life and prevent illness.

Physicians and campaigners have used evidence gathered by medical personnel and the testimony of witnesses to highlight the terrible toll of warfare. This work has led to treaties banning the use of landmines and agreements against nuclear weapons testing.

Above: International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985 for their campaign against nuclear weapons. In 1990 they traveled to Kazakhstan with a group of Nevadans to discuss the impact on both communities of living near nuclear test sites. ***Photo: Kazakhstan, 1990, courtesy James Lerager***

YOUR GLOBAL HEALTH

You can get involved in global health at the National Library of Medicine and online, where people who have made an impact share their stories. Watch an interview with Melinda Moree talking about her work on a malaria vaccine. Discover the history of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, and meet young activists campaigning against gun violence. Look back at the history of the AIDS epidemic, and hear from students who advocate for people living with HIV today.

Then have your say in the exhibitions action zone. Debate the issues with other visitors, and talk about the challenges to health in your community. Which problems around the world concern you most? Do you have ideas for raising awareness, educating others, and making a difference?

If you are already an advocate for global health, tell us what you have been doing. If you want to learn more, have a look at our resources and find out what you can do. Join in at **www.nlm.nih.gov/againsttheodds**

Above Left: Dr. Paul Farmer, founding director of Partners in Health, an international aid organization, developed programs to provide treatment for tuberculosis and HIV patients in Haiti at a time when many argued that these diseases were too expensive to treat in impoverished communities. ***Courtesy Partners In Health, photograph by Gilless Peress***

Above Right: The chair of the American Medical Student Association Global Health group, Tanya Wansom (second from the left), has trained future physicians to educate students in their communities about HIV/AIDS. She explains, "it has always been important to figure out how I can use my experiences and strengths to find the best way I can contribute to the fight for global health justice." ***Courtesy Tanyaporn Wansom***

Against the Odds

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN GLOBAL HEALTH

A revolution in global health is taking place in towns and cities around the world. Communities, in collaboration with scientists, advocates, governments, and international organizations, are taking up the challenge to prevent disease and improve quality of life.

Recognizing the many factors that cause illness, they are working on a wide range of issues—from community health to conflict, disease to discrimination. This exhibition will introduce you to some of the people who have made a difference—working together, against the odds, *for the benefit of all.*

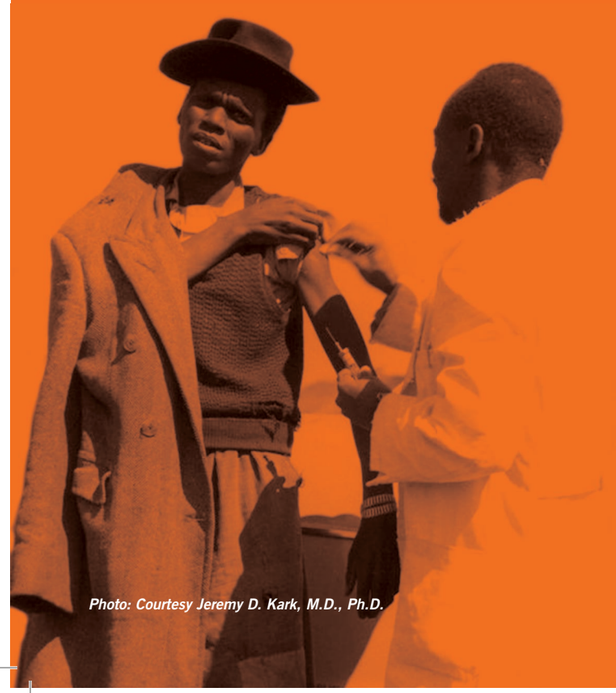

Photo: Courtesy Jeremy D. Kark, M.D., Ph.D.

BRINGING HEALTH HOME

Every community requires the basic necessities of daily life and affordable health care to ensure the people's well-being. These are rights shared by everyone. Yet clean water, nutritious food, medicines, and health information remain out of reach for many.

Those most affected by inequalities can participate in working to improve the situation. Some of the world's most successful initiatives began with this idea, that families and neighborhoods have a role in planning for a healthier future.

Below Left: The Delta Health Center was launched in Mound Bayou, Mississippi in 1967. As well as medical care, staff focused on the social problems that undermined health in the region, such as hunger and unemployment, and visited patients at home when they were too ill to travel to the clinic. ***Courtesy Daniel Bernstein, 1967***

FINDING SOLUTIONS

Scientists have discovered a great deal about the causes of illness and ways to prevent disease. Yet these achievements have also been accompanied by challenges. We do not know every answer, and expensive drugs and effective vaccines are not always available to the people who need them most.

Teams around the world are tackling every angle of the issues we face. By studying past successes, like the global campaign to eradicate smallpox, they are finding new ways for science to serve society.

Above Right: Dr. D. A. Henderson (second from left) led the World Health Organization's global campaign to eradicate smallpox. The disease was eliminated in 1977 thanks to an extensive vaccination program. ***Photo: Ethiopia, ca. 1972, courtesy WHO***

FOOD FOR LIFE

The world faces an epidemic of obesity as well as a lingering crisis of hunger and malnutrition. Many people live on a poor diet, either high in fats and sugars or without the vitamins and minerals essential for survival.

The lack of affordable, nutritious food fuels both problems. In Brazil, although there is enough food for a balanced diet, many people do not earn enough to buy it. Cheap, processed meals and a lack of exercise have led to unhealthy lifestyles. To tackle these issues, farmers are sharing resources and selling directly to customers at lower prices, and people of all ages are changing the way they eat and exercise.

Above: Fome Zero (Zero Hunger) is a Brazilian program designed to increase access to affordable, nutritious food. The program promotes collective corn grinding and storage to help farmers cut costs. ***Photo: Acauã, Brazil, 2004, courtesy Aaron Ansell***

ACTION ON AIDS

More than 30 million men, women, and children around the world are thought to be living with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. People carrying the virus can live without symptoms for years and unknowingly spread the disease. The global pandemic has been fueled by the slow response of policy makers, controversy over sex education, and lasting inequalities that put some people at increased risk.

Since the early years of the epidemic in the 1980s, advocates for health and human rights have fought against discrimination, negligence, stigma, and ignorance. Their efforts have led to lifesaving shifts in attitudes and policies, as well as increased support for research and treatment. The work continues today, guided by people living with HIV and their allies.

Above Left: After meeting with AIDS activists, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) established policies to include more women and people of color in clinical trials, to make experimental drugs more widely available, and to give people with HIV a role in planning research. ***Photo: Bethesda, MD, 1980s, courtesy Nathan Benn***

Above Right: Author and film critic Vito Russo was one of the founding members of the AIDS activist group ACT UP (the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power). ***Photo: Washington DC, 1988, courtesy Marc Geller Photography***

Below: In 1987 gay rights activist Cleve Jones made the first panel for The AIDS Memorial Quilt, in memory of his friend Marvin Feldman. By 2007, the Quilt included more than 46,000 panels representing over eighty thousand people and it continues to grow. ***Photo: Washington DC, 1992, courtesy the NAMES Foundation, photograph by Mark Theissen***