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 Association of America/Association of

**Population Centers** 

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

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

## **International Organizations:**

Arbutus Medical, Canada

AIHMS-Global, India

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

Emonyo 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 Tscharke, 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 Janigava, 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 Chokotho, 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

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 Farguhar, 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 Catherine Aragon, USA

Chantley Thomas, Student National Pharmaceutical Association, USA Charles De. Ericsson, MD, International

Society of Travel Medicine, USA Charlotte M. Brantley, USA

Chau D. Ngo, USA

Chelsie Kolberg, MPH, RD, USA

Chinyere Onyirimba, USA

Chloe Morozoff, University of Washingotn,

**USA** 

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