

Fight against communicable diseases is not yet over —

At the 9th Nikkei FT Communicable Diseases Conference, which will be held live online on November 15th and 16th, we are planning to invite the recipients of the 4th Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize to give a keynote speech.

This award is given by the Japanese government to individuals and organizations that have made remarkable achievements in medical research and medical activities for disease control and prevention in Africa.

The award ceremony was held at the 8th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD8) in Tunisia in August and this time, two people and one project were awarded.

Here are the messages received from the winners prior to the conference.

Medical Research Category

Medical Services Category



Doctor
Salim S.
Abdool Karim



Professor
Quarraisha
Abdool Karim



Guinea Worm
Eradication
Program

Adam Joseph
WEISS, M.P.H.

Pandemic preparedness requires proactive PPPs

Just as the world has experienced epidemics of Zika virus, Ebola, and Monkeypox, and pandemics like Covid-19, we should expect more pandemics in the future, as humans encroach on animal habitats and climate change takes its toll. The best opportunity to prevent a pandemic is when it is still a localised initial outbreak. Early detection and response are therefore critical. In Covid-19, the role of government public health agencies, academic research laboratories, and private biotechnology diagnostic and vaccine companies were essential in the early response. An effective early response requires established research, surveillance and epidemic intelligence infrastructure, which often requires public private partnerships. For example, the partnership between the company, Moderna, and the US government's National Institutes of Health led to the Moderna vaccine becoming available within a year of the first reported case of Covid-19. It is imperative that governments, academia and private companies initiate and establish these partnerships now in anticipation of the next pandemic.

Covid-19 and HIV: Mapping a path forward

In 2021, there were 38.4 million people living with HIV, 650,000 HIV deaths and 1.5 million new infections worldwide. Much progress has been made globally towards the 2020 target of 90-90-90 and the development of simplified treatment regimens; but treatment as prevention is not having the population impact needed for epidemic control, underscoring the need to enhance primary prevention efforts. Reaching key and vulnerable populations is key to reaching the UN 2030 goal. Programmatic scale-up of pre-exposure prophylaxis/PrEP has increased but adherence remains a challenge. Several new provider-initiated technologies are in development. Covid-19 has negatively impacted HIV testing and treatment services and we have seen persistent infection in immune-compromised individuals including emergence of SARS-CoV-2 variants. Staying focused on the SDG of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 remains an important pathway to endemic HIV infection but we need to have flexibility to take into account new challenges and opportunities. This will need more than the 2025 target of 95-95-95, provide initiated PrEP and customised combination prevention that addresses stigma and inequality; targeted prioritisation and evidence-based approaches. This is possible with global solidarity and shared responsibility.

Support us in this historic eradication campaign

The Carter Center leads the international campaign to eradicate Guinea worm disease and works closely with ministries of health and local communities, the U.S. CDC, the WHO, UNICEF, and many others. Guinea worm disease could become the second human disease in history, after smallpox, to be eradicated. It would be the first parasitic disease to be eradicated and the first disease to be eradicated without the use of a vaccine or medicine. In 1986, the disease afflicted an estimated 3.5 million people a year in 21 countries in Africa and Asia. Today, thanks to the work of The Carter Center and its partners, cases have been reduced by more than 99.99% to 15 human cases in 2021.

The Carter Center looks forward to sharing our work with the FT Communicable Diseases Conference and hopes that readers in Japan will support us in this historic eradication campaign.

Follow the campaign to Zero!
Twitter: @CarterCenter | Facebook: @CarterCenter | Instagram: @TheCarterCenter | YouTube: @CarterCenter

NIKKEI FT
**Communicable
Diseases
Conference**

The 9th NIKKEI FT Communicable Diseases Conference

November 15, 2022 ; 8:00-18:30(JST)
November 16, 2022 ; 7:45-19:00(JST)

The 8th NIKKEI FT Communicable Diseases Conference Statement 2021

https://cdc.nikkei.com/pdf/archive/statement/en/8thnfc_statement2021_en.pdf



Conference Official Sight
Pre-registration is now open.

<https://cdc.nikkei.com/en/>



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