



PROFESSIONALS FOR HUMANITY (PROFOH)

Medical . Water . Education

NEWSLETTER
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Inc. / Germany, Ghana, Nepal, Nigeria, South Africa, USA
www.profohmed.org

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies with us." Ralph Waldo Emerson

About us Professionals for Humanity (PROFOH), is a global non-profit, medical and social humanitarian organization under the 501 status in the United States that is also incorporated in Germany, Ghana, Nepal, Nigeria and South Africa. It has presence in Egypt, Brazil, Italy, Czech Republic, Ivory Coast, Honduras, Jamaica, Ireland, Benin, Liberia, Cameroon and the United Kingdom.

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July: PROFOH WELCOMES AFRICAN SCHOLARSHIP AND INNOVATION FUND LAUNCH



Photo: Africa Presidents at AU Session

The launch event was led by the President of the Republic of Senegal HE Macky Sall, and representatives of the Heads of States of Ethiopia and Rwanda. The Fund will contribute to the 'Partnership for Skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology (PASET)' programme, which seeks to award 10,000 African PhD scholarships over ten years, to strengthen research and innovation in applied science, engineering and technology. The African Governments involved committed to the Fund alongside a new group of prominent business figures, the 'Africa Business Champions for Science', to raise a total of \$5million during the launch. The 'Africa Business Champions for Science' group is chaired by the Angolan businessman Dr Álvaro Sobrinho, also Chairman of the Planet Earth Institute NGO. Additional funds will now be mobilized from African Governments, business leaders and other developmental partners, to operationalize the Fund by June 2016. The World Bank reaffirmed its support to the PASET objectives and its readiness to continue to support the initiative. **According to the World Bank, after a decade of exceptional growth in Africa, averaging 4.5 percent a year across the continent,** it is necessary to build skills to sustain this growth and transform African economies towards higher levels of competitiveness. Currently the African workforce greatly suffers from a lack of scientific and technical capacity and an integrated approach that brings together all partners – public and private, traditional and emerging partners – is needed. The Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund adopt this approach, with African Governments committing hand in hand with the private sector and other partners.

July: PROFOH ENDORSES OSLO EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT



Photo: Mr. Ban Ki-Moon UN Secretary General

At the Oslo Summit on Education for Development Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Sohlberg urged the international education community to adopt new and smarter ways to reach the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Norway's support for global education has been expanding, including a new partnership with the World Bank Group on results-based financing. Speaking of a lack of political support to invest in quality education for all children, Sohlberg said, "For the first time in history, we are in the unique position to provide education opportunities for all, if only we pull together." Her main message at the Summit was simple: **No education, no development.** The World Bank Group, which is the largest development funding partner of education, has invested over \$ 4 billion in education this year alone, plus \$680 million in nutrition, Hansen said, pointing to the connection between the right nutrition in early childhood and a child's cognitive development.

July: PROFOH WELCOMES FIRST MALARIA VACCINE GIVEN GREEN LIGHT BY EUROPEAN REGULATORS



Photo: Anopheles mosquito that causes malaria

The European Medicines Agency recommended RTS,S, or Mosquirix, should be licensed for use in young children in Africa who are at risk of the mosquito-borne disease. The shot has been developed by UK drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline and partly funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. It has taken 30 years to develop it, at a cost of more than \$565m (£364m) to date. It will now be assessed by the World Health Organisation, which has promised to give its guidance on how and where it should be used before the end of the year. GSK will then apply to the WHO for a scientific review of the vaccine, which will be used by the UN and other agencies to help make purchasing decisions. The rollout of the vaccine, which also has to be approved by national health authorities in sub-Saharan Africa, is likely to be funded by Gavi, the vaccine alliance founded by the Gates Foundation. According to the WHO, 627,000 deaths from malaria were reported globally in 2013, of which the vast majority (562,000) occurred in Africa, mostly among children under the age of five years (82%). The EMA said its committee of experts “considered that the benefits of vaccination may be particularly important among children in high-transmission areas in which mortality is very high” “It is tremendous news that GSK’s long-awaited malaria vaccine has gained approval in Europe. **Despite huge progress in combating malaria, it remains one of the world’s deadliest diseases.**” The GSK’s vaccine is a “scientific breakthrough that others can build on”. Researchers at Brown University in the US, for example, are working on an experimental vaccine based on natural antibodies found in some children in Tanzania.

JULY: PROFOH FIRST MEDICAL MISSION TO CENTRAL AMERICA



Photo: The team of Conrado, Simmons, Church, etc, inside the operating room

Professionals For Humanity (PROFOH) is proud to have conducted a medical mission in Honduras in Central America and was even prouder that our very own Board member, Dr. Conrado Ordonez, led the team that included other supporters and friends of PROFOH such as Dr. John Simmons and Dr. Church Gils. Both are renowned family medicine physicians/surgeons, Simmons have served with PROFOH in Africa in the past. The mission covered a one-week period and took place at Hospital Bautista Guaimaca, Honduras. The medical mission involved surgeries and out-patient consultations including training of local health workers. Local experts also assisted the team. Over 300 patients benefited from surgical and clinical consultations and treatment. Plans are in advanced stage for the next medical mission in Honduras for later this year or early next year. The Chairman and the entire Board express their profound gratitude to Dr. Conrado for his leadership and passion for medical missions on behalf of our organization. Dr. Conrado has also represented PROFOH at the World Bank/IMF meetings in Washington, DC in addition to conducting several medical missions in Africa.

AUG- PROFOH PLAN TO PURCHASE DRINKABLE BOOK FOR DISTRIBUTION NEXT YEAR



Photo: Copies of the Drinkable Book

Our organization is a member of Water Mandate Group of the United Nations and has executed some safe drinking water in several communities in Africa. We have indicated interest to purchase drinkable book for distribution next year. The Drinkable Book is both a water filter and an instruction manual for how and why to clean drinking water. The patent of the technology is pending. It works to produce potable water. Dirty water is poured through a thick, sturdy sheet of paper embedded with silver nano particles (a.k.a. pAge drinking paper), which are lethal for microbes. This paper was created and shown to be highly antibacterial during Theresa's Ph.D. at McGill University. Additionally, these filters meet US EPA guidelines for bacteria removal to produce safe drinking water. The filters can last a couple of weeks, even up to a month, so the entire books could provide the tools to filter clean water for about a year. While at the University of Virginia for her post doctorate, Theresa and a team of students tested these filter papers with water sources in South Africa. The filter papers have been successfully used in field trials in Ghana, Haiti, and Kenya. Hopefully soon, pAge water filters will supply cheap clean drinking water for many people in the developing world. PROFOH has contacted WATER is Life on possible partnership in some countries. With your help, we can distribute the books as part of our organization's integrated water, sanitation and hygiene program to save lives and transform communities. The Drinkable Book The book can provide a user with clean water for up to four years.

.....SAFE DRINKING WATER: PROFOH COMMENDS MELINDA GATES EFFORTS



Photo: Melinda,20 litre Christy,40 litre and Malawian host,20 litre bucket of water

Melinda Gates, wife of billionaire Bill Gates, who described herself as “philanthropist, businesswoman, mother, passionate advocate for women and girls,” posted a photo of herself with a 20-litre bucket of water on her head alongside two other Malawian women, walking on a dirt road. Describing her experience, Gates said “During my stay in Malawi, I joined the women collecting drinking water. I carried 20 liters and it was tough. Meanwhile, Christy (middle) is carrying about 40 liters. Many women do this every day.” She has been described as one of the world’s famous social activist “who is trying to serve the people in ignorance.” In June, wife of the US billionaire met with Malawian President Peter Mutharika at Kamuzu Palace in Lilongwe. The discussion included the promotion of safe motherhood and maternal health in the country.

Aug: EBOLA VACCINE SUCCESS: RACE IS NOW TO PROTECT THOSE AT RISK

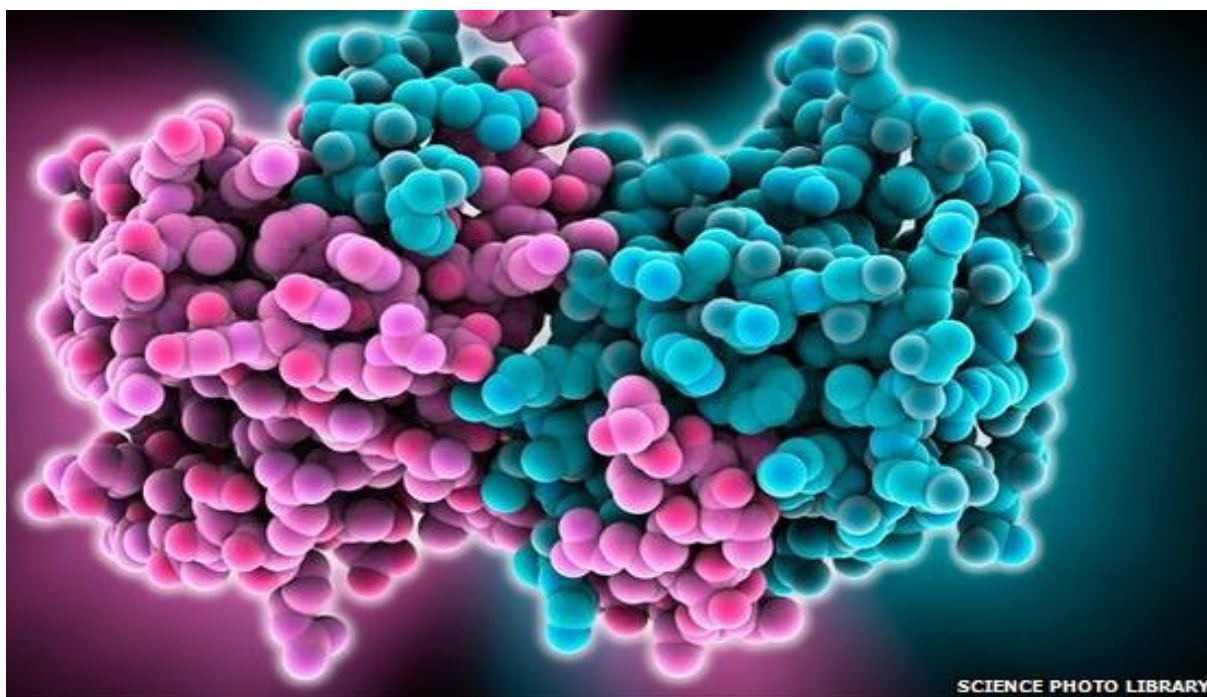


Photo: Ebola Virus Disease

A vaccine for Ebola produced in just one year instead of the usual decade provides 100-per-cent protection against the disease. Preparations are already under way to make it available to healthcare workers and families wherever the virus remains at large. This is a very good day,” says Seth Berkley, chief executive of the GAVI Alliance, the global organisation that has earmarked \$390 million to extend availability of the VSV-ZEBOV vaccine beyond Guinea, the country where it has been successfully tested on more than 7500 people. The epidemic is now largely under control, but there have been 28,000 cases leading to 11,000 deaths in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. But cases are still coming to light, and the virus is still at large, lurking in the body fluids of survivors for as long as 6 months. All affected countries should immediately start and multiply ring vaccinations to break chains of transmission and vaccinate all frontline workers to protect them. The rapid availability of a vaccine would be a huge boost for citizens of those three countries and for all the health workers still operating in them to deal with new cases. Although the trial isn’t yet over, the WHO could theoretically issue an Emergency Use Authorisation before it ends. This would enable the vaccine to be legally deployed where needed, the vaccine is not perfect. It must be stored at -80 °C, which is not easy to guarantee in tropical countries, Nor is it yet established how long immunity lasts.

AUG: PROFOH GHANA- MOBILE PHONE REVOLUTIONIZING HEALTH CARE IN AFRICA



Photo: PROFOH patients waiting during medical mission

PROFOH local doctors has over 15 years tele-consultaion experience in Ghana and Nigeria, this system of mobile technology is also revolutionizing the future of healthcare by improving access in the continent, which is the home to some of the worst healthcare systems in the world. Most deaths in Africa occur due to lack of accessible care. However, one thing a large percentage of Africans have access to is mobile network. This opens up a path to reaching Africa's underserved population. Mobile technologies hold the promise to change how care is given and received, as well as cut costs while improving accessibility. When a 27-year-old pregnant mother of three, Faith Kuwornu was infected with cholera in 2014, she consulted health officials in Ghana through her mobile phone. "When I first called the community health nurse at dawn, she offered first aid on the telephone before she arrived at my house with another nurse an hour later. I was treated with Oral Rehydration Salts and Zinc tablets and rushed to the hospital because of my pregnancy. They saved my life and the unborn baby," she says. All she did was call a nurse. Teleconsultation – an innovation to quicken surveillance response and provide prompt health care to people in remote areas and other places cut off by the effects of climate change such as extreme flooding.

AUG: PROFOH CELEBRATES WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY



Photo: A young girl; beneficiary of humanitarian intervention

As a leading organization in humanitarian intervention PROFOH join others and the UN family to celebrate this year World Humanitarian Day. All our field members work with passion and compassion in high risks communities, striving to bring the best in humanity. The Day falls on 19 August, the day in 2003 when 22 aid workers were killed in a

bombing at the UN Headquarters in Baghdad. It's a day to honor both those who have lost their lives in humanitarian service and those who continue to bring relief and assistance to populations affected by disaster. Young people often ask me what they can do to help and I believe we have a shared responsibility to raise awareness and help to inspire humanity on these global issues." We would like to take the opportunity of this memorial day to remember the many humanitarian workers who have lost their lives while promoting access to safe education in conflict and disaster situations. It was also a day of prayers for those who gave their lives while working for our common humanity for others to be better and for them to continue to be inspiration to us.

SEPT: HIV PREVENTION PILL RECORDS 100% SUCCESS RATE



Photo: The blue pill called Truvadaa ; pre -exposure Prophylaxis

A new study has found that 100 per cent of participants taking Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV)/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) prevention pill remained infection free. The study conducted at Kaiser Permanente in San Francisco, United States involved more than 600 high-risk individuals, most of whom were men who have sex with men. These individuals were healthy at the time of enrollment and were put on a daily regimen of a blue pill called Truvada as a pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Lead author Jonathan Volk, a physician and epidemiologist at Kaiser Permanente, San Francisco Medical Center, described the study as "the first to extend the understanding of the use of PrEP in a real-world setting and suggests that the treatment may prevent new HIV infections even in a high-risk setting." The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says that PrEP has been shown to reduce the risk of HIV infection by up to 92 percent when taken consistently, but is much less effective when taken inconsistently. In one key study, called PROUD that included men who have sex with men in Britain, the risk was reduced by 86 percent. In this study, 100 percent of the participants remained HIV-free. Not a single person in the study, published in *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, became infected while on the drug during the study period that included 2.5 years of observation. Pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, is a procedure for people who do not have HIV but who are at substantial risk of contracting the virus to prevent HIV infection by taking a pill every day. The pill (brand name Truvada), which contains two medicines (tenofovir and emtricitabine) were used in combination with other medicines to treat HIV. When someone is exposed to HIV through sex or injection drug use, these medicines can work to keep the virus from establishing a permanent infection.

SEPT-WHO DELIST NIGERIA FROM OF POLIO ENDEMIC COUNTRIES



Photo: Dr. Margaret Chan, Director General WHO

The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced that polio is no longer endemic in Nigeria. This is the first time that Nigeria has interrupted transmission of wild poliovirus, bringing the country and the African region closer than ever to being certified polio-free. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), the public-private partnership leading the effort to eradicate polio, called this a 'historic achievement' in global health. According to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) in New York, Nigeria has not reported a case of wild poliovirus since 24 July 2014, and all laboratory data have confirmed 12 months without any new cases despite the fact that in 2012, Nigeria accounted for more than half of all polio cases worldwide. This success has been attributed to a concerted effort by all levels of government, civil society, religious leaders and tens of thousands of dedicated health workers with more than 200,000 volunteers across the country repeatedly immunized more than 45 million children under the age of five years, to ensure that no child suffers from this paralysing disease. PROFOH is proud to be part of this efforts, as we have immunized over 10,000 children against polio in Port Harcourt, Rivers State alone. Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of WHO said the outstanding commitment and efforts that got Nigeria off the endemic list must continue, to keep Africa polio-free and asked that all must now support the efforts in Pakistan and Afghanistan so they soon join the polio-free world. Anthony Lake, Executive Director, UNICEF also said the removal of Nigeria from the list of polio-endemic countries is a major victory for Nigeria's children saying that it is a testament to the commitment and dedication of the Government of Nigeria, local leaders, and front line workers and it is proof positive that if we work together in partnership to reach every community and immunize every child, we can finish the job of eradicating this evil disease everywhere, once and for all.

SEPT: PROFOH FOURTH MEDICAL MISSION



Photo: PROFOH team in Nasarawa –Nigeria

PROFOH fourth medical mission is **on-going** at Lafia/Obi Federal Constituency in Nasarawa state Nigeria, a few kilometres from Abuja. It was a two-week affair. It has been extended to three –week to accommodate the 23 wards in the area. The reception has been excellent and the hospitality of the local people is remarkable. The team felt at home. Some three thousand patients has been seen and treated. Some routine surgical cases have been scheduled for next month. Besides screening for hypertension and diabetes, hundreds of clinical screening and tests were carried out including liver function test, Hepatitis B & C, TB, Malaria, BMI, etc.

The Primary Health Care centres across the 23 wards have been our locations. It is important to note that hypertension is endemic in this area, as many patients who are old or young, men and women, and even children, have been found to be severely hypertensive. The cause of the endemic hypertension in the area has been traced to the local seasoning called White Maggi. We advocated urgent need for massive Health Education to the State Government in these communities for this and teenage pregnancy which is rampant in Lafia /Obi area.

UPDATES & EVENTS

Invitation: PROFOH is a ranking member of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) since 2006 PROFOH will be Russia in November for COSP/6. The organization will be represented by two Board members. Edward Asu, our director of legal services will lead the delegations.

European Conference Us' and 'Them': Citizenship Education in an Interdependent World 22 - 24 October 2015
Thessaloniki (Greece)

Brian Camazine on going Medical Mission: Dr. Brian Camazine, is the President of Earthwide Surgical Foundation based in Texas and a Board Member of PROFOH. He performed hundreds of life-saving surgeries at NCH, our Mission Headquarters in South –East of Nigeria; Details will be available in our subsequent Newsletter

Next Medical Mission: Our next medical mission will be huge as we are expecting over 30 medical and non medical professionals across the globe, including all our country directors and senior members of our organization. The mission is scheduled for mid-November in Nigeria with huge possibility of extending it to St Moses Hospital, Accra Ghana.

Board Appointment: PROFOH is delighted to welcome four new board members, Ms. Melena Mesanovic from Serbia, Dr. Lorinda Liang from the United States, Ms. Jutta Wisura from Germany and Ms. Anita Singh from Nepal. "Their appointment comes at an exciting time for our organization as we have continued to expand our services to more communities in Africa and South East Asia. As specified in our constitution, Board members serve for a period of four years. This is however subject to renewal. We shall miss the services of several Board members whose tenure will expire next year.