Peter J. Hotez, M.D., Ph.D., is an internationally recognized physician-scientist in neglected tropical diseases and vaccine development as well as a major national thought leader on the Zika epidemic. As co-director of the Texas Children’s Hospital Center for Vaccine Development, he leads the only vaccine product development partnership for diseases affecting hundreds of millions of children and adults worldwide. In 2006 at the Clinton Global Initiative, he co-founded the Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases to increase access to essential medicines. From 2014 to 2016, Dr. Hotez served in the Obama administration as U.S. Envoy, focusing on vaccine diplomacy initiatives between the U.S. government and countries in the Middle East and North Africa. In 2018, he was appointed by the U.S. State Department to serve on the Board of Governors for the U.S. Israel Binational Science Foundation and received the Sackler Award in Sustained Leadership from ResearchAmerica! He also was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. As both a vaccine scientist and parent of a daughter with autism, he has led national efforts to defend vaccines and serves as an ardent champion of vaccines against a growing national “antivax” movement.

In addition to his key roles at Baylor College of Medicine, Dr. Hotez is a Professor at Baylor University and a Fellow in Disease and Poverty at the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University. He completed his undergraduate studies in Molecular Biophysics at Yale University, followed by a Doctor of Philosophy in Biochemistry from Rockefeller University and a medical degree from Weil Cornell Medical College.

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

There’s a question we’re often asked when we talk about Baylor College of Medicine’s global health focus: “Why go global, when the U.S. faces so many homegrown challenges in healthcare?” On the surface, the question seems to make sense. But if you dig deeper, you’ll find that the answer lies in our increasingly interconnected world — where an exotic infection can travel as fast as a Boeing 777 to countries whose ER doctors might not be aware of Third World maladies. And where what we learn in assisting remote communities in faraway regions can also be applicable to the most remote community of all: Mars. (In case you’re wondering, we’re working on that, too, with our partners at NASA).

We already have seen the ripple effects of innovations that occur in countries where resources are slim. What happens in the urgency of disasters, need and emergency treatment pushes everyone’s technologies forward. The economies of developing countries are tied inextricably to our own economy and they demand healthy, able citizens.

Most importantly, we believe in providing healthcare as a basic human right. In fact, it’s the most fundamental one of all. Health is, and always will be, global at Baylor College of Medicine.

PAUL KLOTMAN, M.D.
President and CEO
Executive Dean
Baylor College of Medicine
The rise of such emerging and neglected tropical diseases has also become increasingly reported. Transmission of neglected parasitic and bacterial diseases has not occurred by accident. Instead, it reflects rapidly evolving changes and shifts in a “new” Texas beset by modern and globalizing forces that include rapid expansions in population together with urbanization and human migrations, altered transportation patterns, climate change, steeply declining vaccination rates and a new paradigm of poverty known as “blue marble health.”

The vision of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine is to harness the scientific horsepower of the Texas Medical Center and apply it toward solving global health problems affecting the world’s poorest people.

The National School of Tropical Medicine creates opportunities for students and healthcare professionals to innovate fundamental, translational and clinical research in the field of tropical medicine through valuable hands-on and collaborative training.

MISSION

Train the next generation of global health scientists and global healthcare providers in the area of tropical medicine.

Discover, develop and deliver a new generation of appropriate global health technologies - vaccines, drugs and diagnostics - for the world’s major tropical diseases, neglected tropical diseases and other neglected infections of poverty.

Establish and enhance capabilities to treat and prevent neglected tropical diseases worldwide.

Provide training that will shape public policy around the delivery of new and appropriate technologies for tropical diseases, neglected tropical diseases and other neglected infections of poverty.

How can vaccines help the impoverished?

Antipoverty vaccines are vaccines that target a group of approximately 20 neglected tropical diseases, as currently defined by the World Health Organization. These vaccines are labeled “antipoverty” because they target neglected tropical diseases that trap populations in poverty due to their chronic and damaging effects on child intellect and worker productivity. Aside from improving individual quality of life, vaccines for these diseases can be expected to promote both global health and economic advancement.

EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

DIPLOMA IN TROPICAL MEDICINE (DTM)

Intensive 4-module course:

Since inception in 2012, the School has trained 241 learners including 108 completing the entire DTM.

TROPICAL MEDICINE SUMMER INSTITUTE

Intensive 2-week course:

To date, 123 undergraduate students participated in the institute.

... AND MORE!
For more information about The Partnership, please contact partnership@bcm.edu or 713.798.5460.

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