



Why Does Global Health Matter to Colorado?

Probably for more reasons than you think. Even though the term “global health” refers to diseases and health issues that disproportionately affect developing countries, global health matters to Colorado. It matters to Colorado’s economy and to Coloradans’ health.

Colorado has global ties . . .

- . . . through trade and commerce.

In 2007, Colorado exported \$7.4 billion worth of goods to 197 foreign destinations, with computers and electronic products accounting for 42 percent of these exports. Some of Colorado’s trade partners are developing countries in Asia, Africa, and South America.

- . . . through foreign investment.

Colorado benefits from foreign investment and the creation of “in-sourced jobs” – employment by companies that are based outside the United States. About 72,200 Coloradans work for foreign-owned companies, which invest in Colorado’s economy as they expand their operations in the Centennial State.

- . . . through travel and tourism.

Every day, some 2,700 passengers depart from cities all over the world destined for Denver International Airport. Among the arrivals are tourists and business people from around the world who spend millions of dollars a year in Colorado, generating wages and jobs that contribute significantly to the state’s economy.

- . . . through its colleges and universities.

In the 2006-2007 academic year, 5,300 foreign students studied at Colorado universities. International students and their families contributed \$130 million to the state’s economy.



Global Ties Benefit Colorado

Colorado's global ties benefit the state's economy, providing billions of dollars in revenue and thousands of jobs. For example, nearly one in six manufacturing workers in Colorado depends on international exports for his or her job.

These Ties Can Be Jeopardized by Global Health Crises

Colorado's global ties link the state's economic health to the health and economic growth of other countries and regions. When health care crises in other countries threaten economic and political stability, they can end up affecting Colorado as well.

What's the Link between Health and Wealth?

Epidemics and other health crises affect the ability of entire communities to work and limit the potential for economies to develop. The following examples illustrate the link between global health and economic development:

- Malaria costs Africa \$12 billion in lost economic output every year. It is estimated that without malaria, the economic output of many African countries, some of which are important trade partners for Colorado businesses, would be 30 percent greater than it is today. Colorado exports \$49 million worth of goods to Africa every year.
- UNAIDS estimates that the HIV rate in China is rising by 20-30 percent every year. China is a valuable trading partner for Colorado, purchasing \$488 million worth of Colorado exports in 2007 alone.

Research to Improve Global Health Benefits Colorado

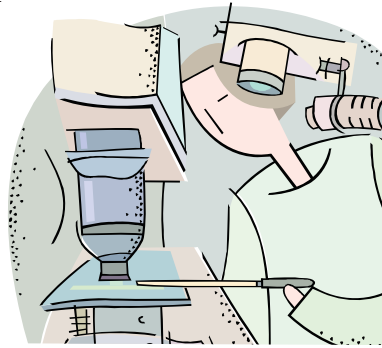
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is a world leader in biomedical research that improves health in the United States and around the world. Most of the research that is funded by NIH is conducted on university campuses across the country. NIH awards many grants to Colorado universities, which in turn bring money and jobs to the state. In 2006, Colorado received \$302 million in research grants from NIH. Some of these grants are for research that will improve global health. For example, Colorado State University received a four-year, \$40 million grant from NIH to establish a Regional Center of Excellence (RCE) for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases research and training. The Rocky Mountain RCE will address the need to develop new vaccines, diagnostics, and medicines for emerging infectious diseases. Grants from NIH bring jobs and higher wages to Colorado at the same time that they help the world to make progress in global health.

Practical Translations: Global Health, CSU, and MicroRx

“Colorado State is committed to the fight to eradicate infectious disease through researching ways to treat, prevent and cure diseases such as tuberculosis that directly impact the health, well-being and safety of people in Fort Collins, the United States and abroad.”

– Hank Gardner, Interim Vice President of Research, Colorado State University

Many universities across the nation receive NIH funding to research and develop ways to fight global infectious diseases. Colorado State University (CSU) has a history of performing significant infectious disease research through two of its initiatives: the NIH-funded Rocky Mountain Regional Center of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research, and the Rocky Mountain Regional Biocontainment Laboratory. These two centers focus on research that is designed to protect the public from bioterrorism and emerging infectious diseases. Tony Frank, provost and senior vice president of CSU, said, *“The university’s role in attacking great global challenges such as infectious diseases continues to expand, and funding from the National Institutes of Health is a critical component in allowing us to form the international partnerships needed to move our research from the bench into medical applications that make a difference to millions of people around our planet.”*



In addition to the university’s renowned infectious disease research capabilities, CSU has taken an innovative lead in rapidly translating research discoveries into products for the global marketplace through the development of MicroRx, a business arm of CSU Ventures. MicroRx is the first-ever business arm of the Infectious Disease Supercluster, an alliance of academic researchers, economists, and business experts that bridges the gap between the worlds of academia and business. Launched in early 2007, MicroRx employs 150 faculty and staff and receives \$40 million in funding. Research areas include infectious diseases that range from tuberculosis to dengue, malaria, and lyme disease. CSU is at the forefront of translating infectious disease research into drugs and vaccines that alleviate the human and economic costs of these diseases worldwide, while also helping Colorado’s businesses grow.

Conclusion

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are taking the lead in the research and development of drugs and vaccines aimed at improving global health and lessening the impact of deadly diseases such as HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria.

To find out how we can accelerate the search for better medical technologies, please visit www.familiesusa.org/issues/global-health.

Sources available upon request from Families USA.



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