GHANA HEALTH FOUNDATION

May 25th, 2000

Sandra Thurman
Director
White House Office of National AIDS Policy
736 Jackson Place, Suite 820
Washington, D.C. 20503
Tel: 202-456-2441; Fax: 202-456-2439

Dear Ms. Thurman:

We write to express our sincere appreciation and thanks for attending and sharing your experience at the inaugural landmark conference of the Ghana Health Foundation. Being the first conference of its kind organized by the Foundation we found your presentation and discussion of the United States government's involvement, contributions and support of health care initiatives in Africa very informative and significant. Your presence and presentation contributed to the conference's success.

As you eloquently articulated during your presentation, the HIV/AIDS pandemic has evolved to a stage where it threatens our security, and ability to continue the human, health, social and economic developments in Africa. The Ghana Health Foundation will therefore welcome and endorse regular consultation and collaboration with the White House Office of National AIDS Policy in our future activities so that we can achieve our mutual goals of arresting the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa.

We hope that the deliberations at this inaugural conference of the Ghana Health Foundation, and the vibrant discussions that took place on topics such as HIV/AIDS, maternal and infant morbidity and mortality, and health care resources will inspire us all to support the activities of the Foundation. We also hope that we can call upon our friends and supporters at the White House Office of National AIDS Policy again as we design and plan our mission-oriented health programs in Ghana.

Once again we thank you for your participation and continuing support of our efforts.

Sincerely,

Bertha Koomson, M.D.
President, Ghana Health Foundation
Chair, Board of Directors

Joseph Kurantsin-Mills, Ph.D.
Secretary, Ghana Health Foundation
Chair, Conference Committee

4200 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 106-173, Washington, DC 20016
Tel: 1-800-945-7330 Fax: 410-366-7122 Email: Ghhealth@aol.com

Sandra L. Thurman
Director
Office of National AIDS Policy

1st Annual Conference, Ghana Health Foundation
Healthcare Strategies: Positioning Ghana for the New Millennium
March 31st - Howard University Hospital

Purpose	A forum to discuss the state of the healthcare system in Ghana. Conference will highlight the current challenges faced by the healthcare system and to seek sustainable solutions. Through the Conference's presentations and discussions, a consensus statement will be developed and presented to policy makers who influence health care in Ghana.
Sponsored by	Ghana Health Foundation Howard University Hospital
In Cooperation with	Global Health Council Howard University Women's Health Institute Ghana International Health Foundation (Canada)
Location	**2041 Georgia** at the Howard University Hospital in **the Towers Auditorium**. Once inside the building there will be signs or ushers directing you to the auditorium.
Format	Auditorium setting, with the speakers on stage.
Press	Will be present, but not sure if audio or video, or both.
Audience	200-300 Physicians, healthcare professionals, biomedical scientists, corporate businesses, organizations and concerned individuals.
Program	(See attached agenda for entire conference)
7:30 AM	Car pick up: West Basement.
8 - 9:00 AM	Welcome and Introductions Floyd J. Malveaux, MD, PhD His Excellency Koby A. Koomson Nils Daulaire, MD, MPH Thomas E. Gaiter, MD, FACP

The Concept of a Health Foundation for Ghana
Bertha Koomson, MD, FRCP(C)

8:20 Future Prospects for U.S. Government for Health Programs in Africa
Sandra L. Thurman
You will be speaking after those listed above, who will each speak for about five to six minutes. You will not need to arrive prior to 8AM.

9:00 AM Car return to Pennsylvania Ave.

Contacts

Dr. Bertha Koomson	(202) 483-6013
Mr. Dei (Day)	(202) 686-4520
Dr. Aynsu	(703) 915-2294

Lunch You have been invited.

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larch 31, 2000

PROGRAM

7:00 – 8:00	Continental Breakfast and Registration
8:00 – 9:00	**Welcome and Introductions** Floyd J. Malveaux, MD, PhD His Excellency Koby A. Koomson Nils Daulaire, MD, MPH Thomas E. Gaiter, MD FACP
	The Concept of A Health Foundation for Ghana Bertha Koomson, MD, FRCP(C)
	Future Prospects for U.S. Government for Health Programs in Africa Sandra Thurman
SESSION I	**HEALTHCARE IN GHANA TODAY** **Moderator** Brian O. Williams, MD
9:00 – 9:30	**Health, Economics & Development in Ghana** Professor K. Danso-Boafo, Minister of Health
9:30 – 10:00	**Major Health Challenges in Ghana: Epidemiology and Statistics** Sam Ofosu-Amaah, MD, MPH
10:00 – 10:15	Coffee Break
10:15 – 11:00	**Mental Health Issues** Jemima Kankam, MD Thaddeus P.M. Ulzen, MD, FRCP(C) Sam Ohene, MD
11:00 – 11:30	**Newborn Screening for Sickle Cell Disease in Ghana: A Success Story** Kwaku Ohene-Frempong, MD, FACP
11:30 – 12:15	Panel Discussion and Q&A

Friday
March 31, 2000

PROGRAM

SESSION II	**Moderator** Bertha Koomson, MD
12:30 – 2:00	LUNCHEON Keynote Address: ***The Role of NGOs in Healthcare in Ghana*** Her Excellency The First Lady of Ghana, Dr. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings
SESSION III	**HEALTH MANPOWER AND RESOURCES IN GHANA** **Moderators** Nii T. Quao, MD, CM and John K. Allotey, MD, PhD
2:15 – 2:45	**Health Manpower and Resources in Ghana Today** Awudu Issaka-Tinorga, MB, ChB
2:45 – 3:15	**Medical Education in Ghana: Training and Retention of Health Personnel** David Nii-Amon-Kotei, MD, PhD
3:15 – 3:30	Coffee Break
3:30 – 4:05	**Barriers and Solutions to Returning Home:** **The dilemma of the foreign-trained Ghanaian Physician** Rita Wallace-Reed, MD, MPH Yaw Twum-Barima, MB, ChB, MSc, FRCP(C) Ken Aryeetey, MB, ChB, BSc
4:05 – 4:40	**The Physician Exchange Program:** **Building Links with Healthcare Professionals in Ghana** A.O. Mireku-Boateng, MD Edem Agamah, MD Kwasi A. Debra, MD, MBA
4:40 – 5:30	Panel Discussion and Q&A

Saturday
April 1, 2000

PROGRAM

7:00 – 8:00	Continental Breakfast and Registration
SESSION IV	**SPECIAL TOPICS** **Moderator** Fred A. Ofosu, PhD
8:00 – 8:30	**Women's Health Concerns: Challenges and Solutions** Celia J. Maxwell, MD, FACP Sam Ofosu-Amaah, MD
8:30 – 8:40	**Rehabilitation Medicine in Ghana** J. Kweku Laast, MD, MPH
8:40 – 9:00	**Cancer in Ghana** Vincent Anku, MD, FACP
9:00 – 9:30	**Cardiovascular Diseases: Comparison of Ghanaians and African-Americans** Janice G. Douglas, MD Awudu Issaka-Tinorga, MB, ChB
9:30 – 10:00	**Nutrition and Health** Victor Aguayo, PhD Joyce I. Boye, PhD
10:00 – 10:45	Panel Discussion and Q&A
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee Break
SESSION V	**HIV/AIDS IN GHANA** **Moderator** Francis Yemofio, MD
11:00 – 11:15	**Global Perspective on AIDS** Ron MacInnis
11:15 – 11:45	**The AIDS Epidemic: Challenges and Solutions in Ghana** Kweku Yeboah, MD Peter Lamptey, MD, MPH ~~Sandra Thurman~~, Wilbert Jordan M.D MPH
11:45 – 12:00	–

Saturday
April 1, 2000

PROGRAM

12:30 – 1:00	Lunch Break
SESSION VI	**HEALTHCARE FINANCING** **Moderator** J. Kweku Laast, MD, MPH
1:00 – 1:20	**Healthcare Financing Perspectives** Francois Decaillet
1:20 – 1:50	**Healthcare Insurance: Experimental Models in Developing Countries** Gilbert C. Kombe, MD, MPH Kwaku Ohene-Frempong, MD
1:50 – 2:20	**A Medical Care System for the Future: Improving Quality Care And Physician Compensation at a Price We Can Afford** Joseph Boateng, MD, MPH Manny Tuffour, MD
2:20 – 2:40	**Promoting African and African-American Health in Today's Healthcare Environment:** **A Panel Discussion by Experts from the Healthcare Industry** Vincent Anku, MD, FACP
2:40 – 3:15	Panel Discussion and Q&A
3:15	**Closing Remarks: Summary and Conclusions** Joyce I. Boye, PhD Bertha Koomson, MD

Fax Letter to
Mr. Fred Addow
301-565-3057
Dr Bertha @ 332-4646
Koomson or
483-6013
6864500
DC

1st Annual Conference

GHANA HEALTH FOUNDATION

HEALTHCARE STRATEGIES
POSITIONING GHANA FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

March 31 and April 1, 2000
Towers Auditorium, Howard University Hospital
Washington, D.C.

JOINTLY SPONSORED BY

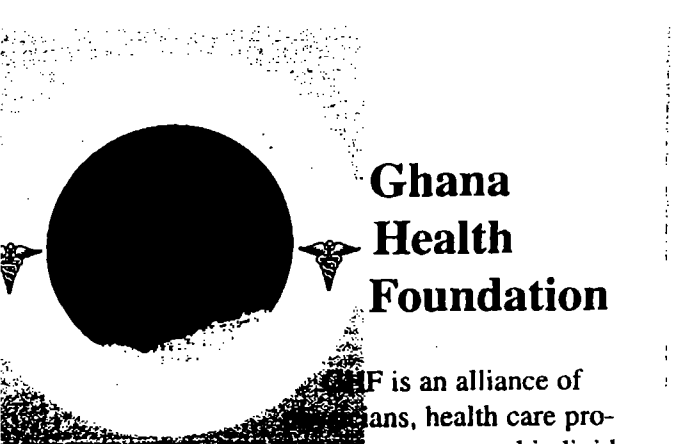
Ghana Health Foundation and Howard University Hospital

IN COOPERATION WITH

Global Health Council

Howard University Women's Health Institute

Ghana International Health Foundation (Canada)



Ghana Health Foundation

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Our Programs:

Funding Programs

Organize and solicit funding for cu
developing health programs in Gha

Health Delivery: Program Developn

Develop cost-effective programs an
partnership with existing organizati
resolve specific health issues. Appl
ical solutions that promote sustaina

Policy Analysis and Program Evalu

Conduct health care policy analysis
impact on public health. Provide co
sive data collection for evaluation
aspects of health services.

Health Delivery: Professional Supp

Seek health care professionals to co
expertise to specific funded health
Ghana.

Provide technical support, training
shops designed to meet mission-ori
programs in Ghana.

Medical and Allied Health Educatio

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HEALTHCARE S 'RA 'EGIES
POSITIONING GHANA FOR THE NEW MILLENN UM

PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE

This conference will provide a forum for physicians, healthcare professionals, biomedical scientists, corporate businesses, organizations and concerned individuals to discuss the state of the healthcare system in Ghana. The goal of the conference is to highlight the current challenges faced by the healthcare system and to seek sustainable solutions.

The conference will review the economic, scientific, and traditional problems that have plagued Ghana's healthcare system and the different approaches that have been tried in order to improve it in recent years. There will be critical analysis by professionals and other individuals experienced in Ghana's health affairs, as well as contributions from other international experts who will present relevant research and clinical findings. We will seek to develop sophisticated and effective prevention models that will be useful in addressing these health issues.

Participants will be exposed to a broad range of health issues presently affecting Ghana through presentations and interactive panel discussions. Participants will be invited to share their experiences in the exploration of sustainable solutions to present difficulties and challenges. Through the conference's presentations and discussions, a consensus statement will be developed and presented to policy makers who influence health care in Ghana.

OBJECTIVES

At the end of the conference, participants will be able to

- Discuss the human resources available to Ghana's health sector today
- Understand what public and private healthcare institutions are doing
- Identify Ghana's major health challenges, including their epidemiological and statistical components
- Describe current trends and issues in health care payment policy
- Summarize how governmental health policy issues impact healthcare services in various communities in Ghana
- Outline how various policies can potentially benefit the healthcare system and the wellness of Ghanaians in general

ACCREDITATION AND CREDITS

The Howard University College of Medicine, Center for Continuing Medical Education is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to sponsor continuing medical education for physicians.

The Center for Continuing Medical Education designates this educational activity for a maximum of thirteen (13) hours in category 1 credit towards the NMA Physician's Achievement Award and the AMA Physician's Recognition Award. Each physician should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the educational activity.

Sandra L. Thurman
Director
Office of National AIDS Policy
Ghana Health Foundation
March 31, 2000

Good Morning. I am delighted and honored to be with you today.

Nearly two years ago, President Clinton traveled to Africa to help Americans and Africans begin to see each other through new eyes. He went to reach out to our brothers and sisters in Africa, and to create together a bold new partnership for the new millennium.

Beyond the old stereotypes and policies of paternalism, our shared vision is one of hope and empowerment, of democracy and freedom. It is a vision born of more than just compassion. It is a vision born of the realization that we are a global community with a shared destiny. And in this global community, both crisis and opportunity have no borders.

As Africa stands on the brink of a new day, the threat of AIDS looms large.

If we are determined to hold fast to our new vision for the 21st century – we must commit today to join forces in an all-out war on a common enemy. That enemy is AIDS.

AIDS is a plague of biblical proportion – and it is killing more people than all of the armed conflict on the continent – combined.

AIDS is now the leading cause of death among all people of all ages in Africa. The progression of this pandemic has outpaced all of our projections. In 1991 the World Health Organization predicted that by 1999 there would be 9 million infected and nearly 5 million deaths in Africa due to AIDS. The resulting numbers are *two to three times* higher with nearly 24 million infected and 14 million deaths.

And yet the epidemic rages on. Each and every day Africa buries 5,500 men women and children as a result of AIDS – and by 2005, Africa will bury nearly 13,000 every day.

In a host of different ways and from a variety of different vantagepoints, it is the women and children who are caught in the crossfire of this relentless epidemic, and who are crying out for our help. The next generation is indeed in jeopardy.

In many communities throughout sub-Saharan Africa, AIDS has virtually wiped out parents and providers, leaving behind children and grandparents to care for each other.

In some countries, between one-fifth and one-third of all children have already been orphaned by AIDS. And the worst is yet come. Within the next decade more than 40 million children will be orphaned by AIDS -- 95% of whom will live in sub-Saharan Africa – and this tragedy will continue to grow for at least another 30 years.

We must remember that AIDS is not just a health issue – it is a fundamental development issue, an economic issue, a trade issue, and a key security and stability issue.

In just a few short years, AIDS has wiped out decades of hard work and steady progress in development – and will soon double infant mortality, triple child mortality, and slash life expectancy by 20 years or more. And AIDS has had a devastating impact on economic growth – striking down skilled workers in their prime and forcing many companies to hire two employees for every one job – assuming that one will die of AIDS.

Not since the bubonic plague of the Middle Ages has the world witnessed such devastation from a single disease, and the worst is yet to come. The sad truth is that we are at the beginning of an epidemic – what we see in Africa is just the tip of the iceberg. A report recently released by the National Intelligence Council indicates that in the next 15 years the epicenter of the epidemic will be in India, and the Newly Independent States of the Former Soviet Union are not far behind.

AIDS is not an African or an American issue – it is truly a global issue.

Yet my message to you today is not one of hopelessness and desolation. For amidst this tragedy is hope. Amidst this crisis is opportunity; the opportunity to empower women, to protect children, and to support families and communities in our battle against AIDS.

The good news is we know what works – with our partners in Africa, we have designed model programs and proven that they work. And today, we know how to stem the rising tide of new infections, how to provide basic care to those who are sick, and how to mobilize communities to support the growing number of children orphaned by AIDS. But there is more, much more that needs to be done if we are to bring these successes to scale.

The United States has been engaged in the fight against AIDS here at home since the early 1980s. But increasingly we have come to realize that when it comes to AIDS – both the crisis and the opportunity have no borders. We have much to learn from the experiences of other countries, and the suffering of citizens in our global village touches us all.

We have done much, but there remains much more that the United States and other developed nations can and must do.

During the past year and a half, I have made four trips to eight African countries including Ghana at the request of President Clinton. Together with leaders from Congress and the private sector, we went to bear witness to the AIDS emergency and to search for ways to enhance our understanding and support for sustainable solutions springing up across Africa. In response to the findings of these trips, the Administration has launched a broad new initiative, the centerpiece of which is a $100 million investment in the FY2000 budget.

This is the largest ever increase in US support for fighting the global battle against AIDS.

It will more than double our investment in HIV prevention and AIDS care in Africa – finally a budget that begins to reflect the magnitude of this rapidly escalating pandemic. While this is just a first step, it is an essential foundation for progress. UNAIDS estimates that we need at least one billion a year to adequately address HIV prevention in Africa, and another one billion to start to address the care and support needs of those already infected.

In January, Vice President Gore opened the first-ever United Nations Security Council session on a health issue by addressing the AIDS crisis in Africa. He announced the Administration's request to Congress for an additional $100 million to further enhance our efforts against AIDS in Africa and around the globe.

But bilateral donors cannot - and should not - do this alone. This crisis will require engagement and contributions from all sectors of all societies working together. Every bilateral donor, every international lending agency, every corporation, every foundation, and every African government must do its part to provide the leadership and resources necessary to turn this tide.

Together we can do just that.

As we struggle to move forward together – the futures of the children and families devastated by AIDS compel us all to find ways to do better, to be smarter, to move faster, and to develop whatever capacity we lack, so we can gear up for the long haul.

Luckily, painful experience here at home has taught us some valuable lessons, and we should take them to heart.

First, in reality, we are much more alike than we are different. And while we must celebrate our diversity – there is much we can learn from each other.

Second, leadership matters. Leadership from the very top – all the way to the community level. And Ghana is a great example of leadership from President and Mrs. Rawlings and early mobilization at the community level. Ghana has managed to keep AIDS prevalence low. In the final analysis – there is simply no substitute for real and committed leadership.

Third, this fight requires an investment – of time, energy and resources. Money, while desperately needed, is not enough.

Fourth, we pay a heavy price for the stigma that surrounds AIDS.
We must lift the shroud of secrecy that surrounds AIDS, so that individuals and families living with AIDS will no longer be forced to suffer in silence.

And finally, partnerships among all sectors are essential. As I said earlier, AIDS is not just a health problem – it is a development problem, a trade problem, and a security problem.
AIDS is everyone's problem – and everyone must be part of the solution.

Much has been said and written about each of these lessons. The fact is ***we know what works***.
It is now time for us to move from paper to practice – and from words to deeds.

Together, we must find ways to affirm that we are a global community and our battle against AIDS in America, in Africa, and around the world is a shared responsibility.

Together, we must join our voices and pool our skills and our resources to begin to keep pace with an epidemic that is out of control.

This is a time of great challenge. The destiny of millions of people hang in the balance. Your experience, perseverance and hard work on this issue are desperately needed. I pray that each of us can leave this Conference more confident in our commitment, more invigorated by an expanding partnership, and more energized by our determination to doing everything that we can do to win the battle against AIDS.

As we stand at the beginning of the new millennium, let us commit together not to squander the lives of the 14 million people who have been lost to AIDS but to build from this tragedy, a foundation for hope, a legacy of compassion, and a real partnership forged by real solidarity in this shared struggle.

In the words of Archbishop Desmond Tutu: "Let us wage this holy war together, and for the sake of our children, let us win."

Thank you.

Sandra L. Thurman
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March 31, 2000

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