

# IANPHI WORLD

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**IANPHI member institutes represent more than 60% of the world's population.**

## A message from IANPHI President Jeffrey Koplan: **On Growth, Giving Back, and IANPHI World**



*Annual Meeting participants*

linked by information sharing, benchmarking, and regional and annual meetings.

We have made tremendous progress in just a few short years. Yet we cannot be complacent. IANPHI's work has benefited from the Gates Foundation's generosity as well as the pro bono work of groups such as CUH2A's Design for Others and our own institutes, including **Fiocruz**, **RIVM** of the Netherlands, and **THL** of Finland. The strength of our projects and our organization stems from our ability to attract donor funds and to expand NPHI-to-NPHI partnerships. Please consider how you and your institute can contribute meaningfully during the next year and how we as a group can continue to work as partners to strengthen NPHIs around the world.

One way IANPHI is working to strengthen our association is through our new online newsletter, *IANPHI World*, which seeks to provide our members, friends, partners, donors, students, and other colleagues a window into what we do and why it's important. We have combined our former print newsletter and monthly Secretariat Update email into this monthly electronic newsletter designed to provide timely news and links to resources such as IANPHI's website. Together they will offer information about our members, analysis of our current projects and new opportunities, and updates about leadership resources and training. We hope that both *IANPHI World* and [www.ianphi.org](http://www.ianphi.org) are useful to you and welcome your **comments**.

I look forward to working with each of you next year as we continue our valuable work.

## **IANPHI Grant Program Open for Proposals**

IANPHI is calling for proposals for seed grants for research and short-term program grants for assistance, training, or expert consultations. Priority for the two-year seed grants, funded up to \$30,000 per year, will be given to proposals from low-resource countries and collaborative proposals, in which at least 50% of the project is performed by researchers who are from and located in a low-resource country. Research topics include, but are not limited to: infectious diseases, maternal and child health, nutrition-related health problems, noncommunicable diseases, disaster preparedness, environmental health, injury control and prevention, and public health system and policy research. Short-term program grants for two months or less aim to help countries quickly resolve priority gaps in NPHI capability and capacity. Funded at a maximum of \$25,000, examples of short-term projects include consultations or assessment visits from a small IANPHI team of experts from member NPHIs, training,

It was a pleasure seeing so many of you at IANPHI's Fourth Annual Meeting in Johannesburg, where we also welcomed **four new institutes** as members. We are proud of how we have grown in just a few years. In fact, since our founding in 2006, IANPHI's membership has almost doubled, with more than 35 projects in 20 countries around the world (including transformative projects in Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Ethiopia, and Tanzania) and a thriving and robust community

staff exchange, and leadership development. Grants are for IANPHI members only. For more information about the grants and how to apply, see [IANPHI Grant Program 2009–2010](#). The deadline for proposals is January 10, 2010.



*Answering H1N1 questions at the Annual Meeting press conference were (from left) Amha Kebede, Ethiopia; Patricia Allen Flores, Costa Rica; Barry Schoub, South Africa; Jeffrey Koplan, U.S.; and Wang Yu, China.*

## H1N1 Outbreak Demonstrates Need for Strong NPHIs

H1N1 influenza is still perceived as a major health threat, said 88% of the institute directors polled at IANPHI's 2009 Annual Meeting in November, but they split evenly as to whether H1N1 will become a more serious problem with higher death and complication rates over the next 12–18 months. A majority said that their institutes are involved in the response to the pandemic, including surveillance, epidemiologic studies, diagnostic testing for suspected cases of H1N1, and laboratory research. More than 90% were involved in communicating about H1N1.

The poll set the stage for the plenary session at the annual meeting where more than 60 public health leaders from around the world heard how five countries are responding to the pandemic:

- Barry Schoub, executive director of the **South Africa National Institute for Communicable Diseases**, said that the strain of H1N1 in South Africa was very similar to the strains in other countries. “At this moment the situation in South Africa is the calm before the storm for the expected second wave,” said Schoub. The NICD plans to import substantial supplies of the vaccine in anticipation of a second wave next winter.
- China's Wang Yu, director of the **China CDC**, reported that it has taken aggressive measures to slow the spread of H1N1, including border entry screening and quarantines, expanded laboratory capacity (training) and surveillance, and vaccine development. The China CDC has distributed 20 million doses of vaccine with another 100 million doses in production.
- Costa Rica expects the second wave to start in April and peak next August, said Patricia Allen Flores, director of the **National Institute for Research on Nutrition and Health**. “While we can't avoid the wave, we can change it,” she said. Costa Rica has mounted an extensive communications campaign and plans to vaccinate 40% of the population.
- In Ethiopia, most suspect cases have been self-reported from recent travelers, noted Amha Kebede, deputy director-general of the **Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Institute**, which plans to expand its influenza surveillance from sentinel sites to regions next year and to upgrade the capacity of its National Influenza Lab to start virus culture work. Challenges include competing health priorities and logistical constraints including supplies of reagents.
- Peter Nsubuga, chief of the **U.S. CDC's** Capacity Development Branch, chronicled the CDC's ongoing efforts to combat the disease, including the dispatch of more than 60 health officials to Argentina, Chile, Mexico, South Africa, Australia, and Kenya; assessment of the vaccine's effectiveness and safety; and distribution through WHO of 10% of US vaccines to other countries.

See these and other presentations from the 2009 Annual Meeting at [www.ianphi.org](http://www.ianphi.org).

**“It is tremendously satisfying to see IANPHI's progress in moving this program forward to link such accomplished public health professionals and promising leaders. Their work together—IANPHI, mentors, and mentees—will affect the health of thousands.”**

**DR. DAVID HEYMANN**

## Mentors and Mentees Wanted

If you're interested in mentoring a future leader, fostering your own professional growth and career development, or nominating someone in your institute for the IANPHI Mentorship Program, contact [Allison Greenspan](#) by January 31, 2010. IANPHI will create three new mentor-mentee pairs in 2010 as part of its Mentorship Program, which strengthens public health leadership by targeting future leaders of the world's national public health institutes. The program facilitates active partnerships between experienced public health leaders and less experienced current or potential NPHI leaders. It is funded by a generous gift from Dr. David Heymann, derived from a Heinz Family Foundation award and through the Better World Fund.). For more information, visit [www.ianphi.org](http://www.ianphi.org).

## IANPHI Continues Strategy to Identify New Members

Four more countries have joined IANPHI, bringing the organization's total to 67 member institutes. New members, approved at IANPHI's Fourth Annual Meeting in South Africa, are:

- **Albania's Institute of Public Health**
- **Angola's National Institute of Public Health**
- **Jordan's Ministry of Health** (associate member)
- **Myanmar's National Health Laboratory**

## Board Members Named

IANPHI members re-elected Jeffrey Koplan, director of the Emory University Global Health Institute and former director of the U.S. CDC, to a second term as president of IANPHI at the Fourth Annual Meeting. Barry Schoub, director of South Africa's National Institute for Communicable Diseases, was elected as a new member of the Executive Board. Named to second terms on the board were Mohammed Hassar, director of Morocco's Institute Pasteur, and Marc Sprenger, director general of the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment in the Netherlands.



*Mohammed Hassar*



*Barry Schoub*



*Marc Sprenger*

## IANPHI and WHO Sign Agreement



IANPHI and the World Health Organization (WHO) have formalized their partnership in a Letter of Exchange signed by IANPHI President Jeff Koplan and Tim Evans, WHO assistant director general for Information, Evidence and Research. "WHO and IANPHI have worked closely together since 2006 and have a mutual goal of strengthening public health capacity at both the national and global levels," said Koplan. "This agreement formalizes our ongoing work and adds a new project: the development of a framework for core competencies for and delivery of public health in national health settings. As part of this, we will jointly analyze and present recommendations on core competencies for national public health institutes." See a copy of the [letter](#).



*Oni Idigbe receives first service award from IANPHI President Jeffrey Koplan*

## Oni Idigbe Honored for Service to IANPHI

Congratulations to long-time IANPHI supporter Oni Idigbe, who received IANPHI's first Exceptional Service Award in November in appreciation of his efforts on behalf of IANPHI. The former director and now research director of the **Nigerian Institute of Medical Research** was a founding member of IANPHI and a past Executive Board member. He has provided expertise on site visits to Uganda and Ghana and represented IANPHI at the WHO regional meeting and other events. Dr. Idigbe was the first mentor in IANPHI's Mentorship Program inaugurated this past year and was a key presenter in the mentorship training session during the Annual Meeting.