UNC’s MEASURE Evaluation Project

Jim Thomas
Associate Professor of Epidemiology
Director, MEASURE Evaluation
UNC center wins $180M grant

2nd-largest award ever to continue efforts in developing countries

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CHAPEL HILL A consortium led by UNC-Chapel Hill has won a $180 million federal grant to continue its nearly two-decade effort to improve the collection and use of public health data in dozens of countries.

Chancellor Carol L. Folt announced the award Tuesday afternoon at a news conference. The five-year grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development is the second-largest in the university's history, topped only by the previous round of funding — just $1 million more — for the same project, which is called Monitoring and Evaluation to Assess and Use Results (MEASURE Evaluation).

The program helps developing countries better monitor epidemics and use data to make decisions about disease control. It has helped in the battles against a host of public health problems, including HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

Folt described it as USAID's flagship research project for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of government spending on global health, population and nutrition. It uses "Big Data," she said, to improve public health in 80 countries, repeating the number of countries.

"I emphasize that, because that's a very big bite at tackling what are some of the world's most important and pressing issues," she said.

The project has created 100 local jobs directly, Folt said, and spun off companies such as FHI 360, which

Inside
Coup for Duke: $7.2M grant aids work in Undiagnosed Diseases Network.

employs several hundred people in its Durham headquarters and thousands more around the world.

James C. Thomas, director of the project and an associate professor of epidemiology at UNC's Gillings School of Global Public Health, said USAID had shown vision in enacting MEASURE Evaluation so that countries could make vital decisions about where to spend public
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- What is it?
- How did we win it?
- Why does it matter?
What is it?

US response to global epidemics

Health ODA Disbursements by Major Sub-Sector, 2002-2010

- Management/Workforce
- Basic Health & Medical Care
- Nutrition
- FP/RH
- Other Infectious Diseases
- Malaria
- TB
- HIV/AIDS

NOTES: Amounts in gross US$ disbursements. Health ODA combines data from three OECD CRS sub-sectors: (1) Health; (2) Population Policies/Programs and Reproductive Health (includes HIV/AIDS & STDs); and (3) Other Social Infrastructure and Services - Social Mitigation of HIV/AIDS.

SOURCE: Analysis of data obtained via online query of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Database and Creditor Reporting System (CRS); November 7, 2012.
What is it?

Cooperative agreement with USAID

A partnership of organizations
What is it?

Global reach
How did we win it?

Funding history
How did we win it?

Our competition

- fhi360
  THE SCIENCE OF IMPROVING LIVES
- Abt Associates
- POPULATION COUNCIL
- Futures Group
- ICF International
- JSI
  John Snow, Inc.
- msh
  Management Sciences for Health
How did we win it?

Consistent excellence
How did we win it?

Consistent excellence

2010: PHFI attended a MEASURE Evaluation GIS workshop

2011: Training of trainers

2012: Co-training

2013: Independent training
How did we win it?

Consistent excellence
How did we win it?  Innovation
How did we win it?

Resilience and adaptability
How did we win it?

Planning
Why does it matter?

- Faculty appointments
- Research Assistants
- Fellowship
- Classroom teaching
Why does it matter?

State
Why does it matter?

World

CDC
WHO
UNICEF
UNAIDS
World Bank
Gates Foundation
DFID (UK)
MEASURE Evaluation
Why does it matter?

World

NUMBER OF PEOPLE NEWLY INFECTED WITH HIV, GLOBAL, 1990–2011

TB incidence

All TB cases

HIV-positive TB cases

Millions

2 000 000

1 800 000

1 600 000

1 400 000

Global (all ages)

Africa (<5 years)

Africa (≥5 years)

Other (<5 years)

Other (≥5 years)
“Yet again, one of North Carolina’s public research universities demonstrates that it is capable of returning to the people who have supported it, and to humanity, the dividends of over 200 years of progress. It is indeed a proud, and life-saving, day.”