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**Statement from Professor Fred Binka on the World Health Organization (WHO)
Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) Decision to Approve Rotavirus Vaccines for
Global Use**

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“While most people may not be familiar with the term ‘rotavirus,’ whether they realize it or not, by age three, almost every person has had it. In the developing world, rotavirus is one of the leading causes of death in children under age five,” said Professor Fred Binka, project manager for the INDEPTH Malaria Clinical Trials Alliance, epidemiology professor and Dean of the University of Ghana School of Public Health. “Now, we can change this. The WHO’s recommendation on the global use of rotavirus vaccines allows developing nations in Africa and Asia, where the threat of rotavirus and diarrheal disease is significant, to apply for GAVI Alliance funding to incorporate the vaccines into their national immunization programs. The widespread introduction of safe and effective rotavirus vaccines can dramatically reduce the needless deaths associated with this lethal disease.”

For more information, please visit <http://www.path.org/news/pr090605-who-rotavirus.php>.

To schedule a phone interview with Professor Fred Binka, please contact:

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