



path TODAY

Program for Appropriate Technology in Health

Dr. Christopher J. Elias Named PATH President

New Leader Has Broad Experience In International Health

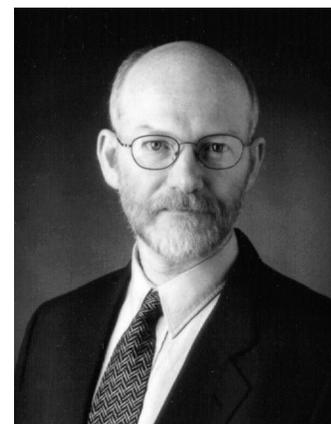
The PATH Board of Directors has announced the appointment of Christopher J. Elias, M.D., M.P.H., as PATH's new president. He will assume his duties on September 1, 2000.

"We are very pleased with Dr. Elias' enthusiastic acceptance to lead PATH at this critical juncture in its history," board members said in their announcement. "He is a proven leader with an international reputation in public health in developing countries."

Dr. Elias comes to PATH from his current position with the Population Council in Bangkok where he has coordinated a broad range of reproductive health activities in the Mekong region. These efforts include programs and research focused on the expansion of contraceptive choice and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Elias earned his undergraduate and medical degrees from Creighton University. After completing his residency and internship in internal medicine with the University of California, San Francisco, he spent two years in Thailand working with refugee assistance programs. After receiving his Master of Public Health

degree from the University of Washington, Dr. Elias joined the Population Council in New York managing research projects concerned with sexually transmitted diseases including AIDS, within a broad framework of reproductive health. His work involved projects in most regions of the developing world. For the past six years, he has been Director of the Population Council's Thailand office.



Dr. Christopher J. Elias

Dr. Elias succeeds Dr. Gordon Perkin, who was co-founder of PATH and served as president for 19 years. "I'm very pleased with Chris' appointment," Dr. Perkin stated. "He brings tremendous experience and credibility to the position, and PATH is poised for great accomplishments under his leadership."

"Managing Growth" Is Topic For PATH Meeting

Worldwide Staff Convene In Seattle

In March, managers and administrators from PATH offices around the world met in Seattle for several days of information-sharing and strategic planning. The topic on everyone's mind: how best to manage the expanding opportunities for PATH to address global health problems.

On the bright side, there are now more funds available. PATH's reputation for innovation, collaboration, and effectiveness is attracting both donor support and project opportunities. The sobering news is that global health needs—from slowing the spread

of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis to increasing access to family planning methods—are greater than ever.

Staff examined the current challenges facing PATH and identified areas for attention including human resources, infrastructure, and program planning and evaluation. Adding to the collective wisdom were staff from PATH offices in Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Philippines, Thailand, Ukraine, Vietnam, and Washington, D.C., as well as staff representing the Children's Vaccine Program, Malaria Vaccine Initiative, and Seattle site and headquarters.



Our Mission

PATH's mission is to improve health, especially the health of women and children.

PATH identifies, develops, and applies appropriate and innovative solutions to public health problems, particularly in low-resource settings. PATH shares knowledge, skills, and technologies with governmental and nongovernmental partners in developing countries and with groups in need.

To accomplish its mission, PATH:

- Assesses reproductive and primary health care needs.
- Identifies, designs, adapts, and develops technologies and other interventions that address these needs.
- Builds partnerships with public- and private-sector entities to test, produce, promote, and introduce health products.
- Improves the supply of health products through loan financing and procurement assistance.
- Strengthens local capacities to design, implement, and evaluate communication and education activities that support health programs.
- Designs culturally- and gender-appropriate training programs, educational materials, and media interventions.
- Develops and introduces innovative approaches for the delivery of health services.
- Influences health policy change and health product quality through research, advocacy, and information dissemination.

Founded in 1977, PATH has managed over 950 projects in 100 countries.

Newsbytes



Fighting AIDS on new fronts in Africa... PATH's role in the fight against AIDS in Africa will expand dramatically as the result of a major grant awarded to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The five-year, \$57 million African initiative led by UNFPA will mount campaigns in four countries—Botswana, Ghana, Uganda and Tanzania—to educate youth about HIV/AIDS and enable them to

protect themselves. Two agencies—PATH and Pathfinder International—will help UNFPA implement the project. UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Nafis Sadik welcomed PATH's partnership, noting, "PATH has pioneered adolescent health programs that emphasize behavior change communications and advocacy as well as the development of appropriate technologies." More than 23 million people in sub-Saharan are living with HIV/AIDS, and half of all new cases of HIV infection are among young people ages 15-24.



CARE/JF Housel

PATH will help implement a major initiative to protect African adolescents from AIDS.



Putting gender and human rights issues on the reproductive health agenda... PATH was the chief organizer of a conference aimed at encouraging the global health community to address gender and human rights issues more fully in their reproductive health programs. The conference, held at the World Bank on December 8, 1999, drew 160 decision makers from such key agencies as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), USAID cooperating agencies, U.S. State Department, World Bank, World Health Organization, foundations, and human rights and women's advocacy groups. Over a dozen speakers represented both the public health and human rights communities. Among them, Naisidet Mason, an HIV-positive woman from Kenya and activist with the Society of Women and AIDS in Africa, told her personal story which movingly brought home the message that gender inequity is a major public health risk factor. To build on the momentum of the conference, PATH began a series of informational meetings with key audiences. The first, on the topic of sexual trafficking, was held on Capitol Hill in March, co-sponsored by the Congressional Task Force on Human Rights.

Project Profile

Facing Breast Cancer Together

PATH Helps Launch Survivor Support Groups in Ukraine

Since 1997, PATH has managed a multifaceted project to strengthen breast cancer care in Ukraine. The \$3.8 million project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has made significant progress:

- Hundreds of Ukrainian health professionals have received training in clinical breast examination skills, mammography screening techniques, diagnosis, treatment, and psychosocial care of patients.



Members of a hospital-based breast cancer peer support program in Chernihiv.

- Thousands of women have benefited from earlier detection through clinical breast examination and mammography.
- Many thousands of women and their families know more about breast cancer as a result of educational and public awareness efforts.



Techniques such as role-play are used to train peer support volunteers.

One of the most heartening outcomes of the project is the formation of breast cancer survivor groups. Such groups did not exist in Ukraine, but now a handful of dedicated women—all breast cancer survivors—are forming groups in several cities for the purposes of mutual support and advocacy. In addition, several groups have launched Peer Support Volunteer Programs, through which survivors provide emotional support and information to newly-diagnosed, hospitalized breast cancer patients. PATH introduced the peer support model by organizing informational exchanges and visits between Ukrainian survivors and breast cancer support groups in Poland, Russia, the Czech Republic, and the United States.

Recently, PATH mounted a special fundraising effort to help cover start-up costs for the newly formed Ukrainian groups, since such expenses fall outside the

scope of USAID funding. Thanks to the generous response of several individual donors, close to \$15,000 was raised. This sum will go a long way in Ukraine's current economy and will enable the groups to print information materials, maintain a hotline, hold meetings with women's health advocacy groups in Ukraine and neighboring countries, rent meeting space, pay for telecommunications, and cover other start-up expenses. The funds will be presented at a PATH-sponsored symposium for support group leaders in Ukraine in late May.

With the Ukraine Breast Cancer Assistance Project drawing to a close, the activities initiated by the survivor groups, including the Peer Support Volunteer Programs, will be sustained by the Ukrainian women themselves. Together, they will make a positive difference in the lives of women experiencing breast cancer.



American survivors introduce the peer support model to survivors in Kyiv.

Special thanks to our donors to the Ukraine breast cancer survivor groups, whose names are included among the PATH donors listed on page 4.

Thanks To Our Donors

Contributions from individual donors are very important in giving PATH flexibility and a margin for excellence in fulfilling our mission. PATH deeply appreciates the generosity of these individuals who have supported our programs since January 1, 1999.

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In addition, 22 gifts were received in memory of PATH donors, Roy and Patricia Smith. PATH is honored to have been the recipient of these thoughtful memorial tributes.

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