



# UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

SPECIAL EDITION: GLOBAL DISEASE DETECTION

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## ADVANCING THE SCIENCE OF GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Dear Colleagues:

I was working in Thailand in 2003 when the SARS epidemic took the world by surprise. SARS showed us that we don't always know what's coming, or where and how it will spread. Without systems in place to detect diseases early and close to the source, outbreaks become epidemics, economies are shaken, and lives are lost.

We learned a lot in that outbreak. During that time, my colleague Dr. Scott Dowell joined me and the CDC Country Office in Thailand to incubate a new program focused on emerging infectious diseases. This was the genesis of the Global Disease Detection (GDD) program.

GDD was one of the first ways we systematically approached our commitment to global health security. Through the program, countries are building stronger systems to prevent, detect, and respond to health threats. In 2014, a growing partnership of nearly 50 nations agreed to the Global Health Security Agenda. With over a decade of experience between SARS and Ebola—and a total of over 1,700 outbreaks and public health emergencies responded to—GDD remains critical to this work. But there is more to do.

Under Dr. Joel Montgomery's leadership, GDD continues its front-line focus. As of today, GDD has supported over 50 countries through 10 Centers worldwide. Centers strengthen national and regional capacity through emerging infectious disease detection and response; workforce development; laboratory systems; preparedness and communication; addressing the animal and human interface responsible for zoonotic infections; and conducting public health research.

It is my privilege to share this *Updates from the Field* devoted to one of our most successful global health programs. These stories illustrate the innovation, determination, and resourcefulness it takes to protect people all over the world through advancing the science of global public health. Read on!

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### SEEKING SUBMISSIONS

Send story ideas to Dana Pitts:  
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### READ ONLINE

<http://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/healthprotection/fieldupdates/index.html>

