What President Obama Can Do to Open the Door to US-Cuba Cooperation in Health....and Why

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9 April, 2016
MISSING PERSONS:
MINORITIES IN THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS

A REPORT OF THE SULLIVAN COMMISSION ON
DIVERSITY IN THE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  EMBARGOED 9/20/2004
Why is this the opportunity that can’t be ignored?

- Americans’ health is at stake; global health and equity are at stake
- Globally, the time is now for commitment to universal health
- Cuba is an ideal partner, with expertise, results and experience
- President Obama can move without Congress to make change
Ebola Fighters declared TIME magazine’s “Person of the Year 2014”
US-Cuba Ebola cooperation was quiet and circumstantial...but a first

“I believe that we should continue that kind of cooperation in other countries.”

---President Barack Obama, Cuba, March 2016
Katrina and the Henry Reeve Contingent

- Katrina sparks Henry Reeve Contingent: 5,000 specially trained medical personnel, 1,586 ready to travel
- President Bush didn’t accept the offer, but 40 teams to 24 other countries
- UN declares Cuba Regional Disaster Preparedness Hub
## The Henry Reeve Contingent (2005-2006)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Medical Team Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 2005</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>Earthquake, 75,000 dead. 3.3 million homeless.</td>
<td>2.465 medical team 32 field hospitals (7 months)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2005</td>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>Hurricane Stan, 670 dead. 300,000 homeless.</td>
<td>600 medical team and medicines (3 months)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2006</td>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>Flooding</td>
<td>140 medical team 20 field hospitals and medicines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2006</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Earthquake, 6000 dead.</td>
<td>135 medical team 2 field hospitals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Henry Reeve Contingent in Pakistan
The Henry Reeve Contingent in Haiti

- Cuban disaster preparedness strategies proven effective
- Experience abroad in hurricanes earthquakes and epidemics
- Cuba already has professionals on the ground
What Cuba Has to Offer: Better Protection of People & Property:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hurricane</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>Persons protected</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MICHELLE</td>
<td>Nov. 2001</td>
<td>Cat. 4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>783 259</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHARLEY</td>
<td>August 2004</td>
<td>Cat. 3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>232 929</td>
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<tr>
<td>IVÁN</td>
<td>Sept. 2004</td>
<td>Cat. 5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2 266 066</td>
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<tr>
<td>DENNIS</td>
<td>Julio 2005</td>
<td>Cat. 4</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1 551 667</td>
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<tr>
<td>GUSTAV</td>
<td>August 2008</td>
<td>Cat. 4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>467 579</td>
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<tr>
<td>IKE</td>
<td>Sept. 2008</td>
<td>Cat. 3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2 615 794</td>
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<tr>
<td>PALOMA</td>
<td>Nov. 2008</td>
<td>Cat. 4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1 319 433</td>
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<tr>
<td>SANDY</td>
<td>Oct. 2012</td>
<td>Cat. 3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>343 230</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Longterm Global Health Cooperation: What Cuba Has to Offer

1963-2014:
325,710 health professionals in 158 countries
(includes those who have served more than once)
12 million women & children vaccinated; 2.3 million births assisted; 1.2 billion consultations

April 2015:
51,000 Cuban health professionals in 67 countries
Mainly in poor and remote regions, primary care
Goal to staff, build strong public health systems towards universal health
Half are physicians; two thirds are women

...no one should deny the service that thousands of Cuban doctors have delivered for the poor and suffering.”
—President Obama, March 2016
What Cuba Has to Offer: Successful Health Care Strategies & Outcomes

- Cuba does more with less
- Cuba’s health strategies (Bloomberg, The Lancet, Commonwealth Fund, Nat’l Research Council, IOM, Save the Children)
- Health indicators as good and better as US/fewer disparities
- Models spur innovation
- Strong universal health system
What Cuba Has to Offer: The Latin American Medical School

- Physicians for underserved populations
- 25,000 graduates since 2005
- Enrollment from 123 countries
- Over 100 ethnic groups
- Over half women
US-Cuba Cooperation: Vital vs. Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases

- Can protect US, Cuban and world’s vulnerable populations
- Doable between Havana’s Tropical Medicine Institute, CDC and NIH
What Cuba Has to Offer: Strategies vs. Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya

- Cuba knows more than any other country about dengue, related viruses and their common vectors:
  - WHO/PAHO Collaborating Center in Dengue
  - Dengue prevention strategies
  - Potential dengue vaccine

Dengue Vulnerability
- Number of suspected cases per state
- Counties reporting positive for one or both dengue mosquito vector species, as of 2005
- Areas vulnerable to dengue fever infection

*In Aug.-Nov. 2009, 22 confirmed cases of Dengue Fever acquired in Key West, FL were reported. These were the first locally-transmitted infections in Florida in more than 40 years, with more imported cases since then.
US-Cuba Cooperation: Vital to the Future of Global Health Innovation...Biotech R&D
What Cuba Has to Offer: Biotech to Address Diseases Affecting Vulnerable Populations
What Cuba Has to Offer: Biotech to Address Disease Affecting Livelihoods
What Cuba Has to Offer: Wave of the Future Therapies and Vaccines

…but barriers to cooperation remain
Bringing Down the Barriers: What the President Can & Should do...NOW

1. Eliminate extra hurdles for Cuban-developed biotech and other medical innovations, to introduce them sooner and more easily into the U.S. regulatory approval process.

2. Eliminate barriers faced by U.S. companies and academic institutions to carry out collaborative research and product development, and to invest in Cuba’s pharmaceutical and health sector, including formation of joint ventures.

3. Allow U.S. companies and institutions to carry out clinical trials in Cuba on medications and medical technologies they develop.

What the President Can & Should do...NOW

5. Enable more U.S. students in the health professions to study in Cuban academic institutions.

6. Enable health and medical-related assistance to be provided (including but not limited to teaching and other services) between the two countries and their governmental agencies, companies and personnel.

7. Enable greater bilateral cooperation to address health emergencies in the U.S., Cuba and globally.

A Safer, Healthier Future Through U.S.-Cuba Cooperation
MEDICC White Paper, February 18, 2016
Thank you