

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Communicable Disease Center
Public Health Service
U. S. Department of Health,
Education and Welfare

PHYSICIANS

for

IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM - WEST AFRICA

On the 18th of May 1965 President Johnson on behalf of the U. S. Government gave the following pledge:

"This Government is ready to work with other interested countries to see to it that smallpox is a thing of the past by 1975."

This pledge was given at the time of the meeting of the 18th World Health Assembly when the 117 member countries of the World Health Organization had unanimously resolved to adopt a global smallpox eradication program. Since that time staff of the Agency for International Development (AID) and the Public Health Service (PHS) have been engaged in preliminary planning of the part that could be played by the United States in the eradication program.

Following the attached White House Press Release of November 23, 1965, the staff of AID and PHS are having consultations with representatives of West African governments and with WHO officials regarding plans for a smallpox immunization program in West Africa. The aim of this program will be to eradicate smallpox in West Africa by supporting immunization activities in 18 countries. This will be combined with the measles immunization programs already established in 11 West African countries. The whole operation will fit in with WHO plans for the eradication of smallpox in Africa as a part of the global eradication program.

With the concurrence of the respective West African countries, a physician and an "operations officer" (non-medical, college graduate) would be assigned to each of the principal countries to work with national personnel. In general, the major responsibilities would be to cooperate with counterpart physicians in:

1. The development and conduct of a systematic smallpox immunization program for persons of all ages. In some countries, measles vaccine would be given at the same time to children 6 months to 6 years of age.
2. The establishment of appropriate sample surveys for assessment of the campaign.
3. The strengthening, or institution where necessary, of surveillance programs for the detection and epidemiological investigation of any subsequent smallpox cases.

Physicians assigned to the countries listed below would be expected to give, as time permits, such assistance as may be requested with epidemiological studies of other diseases or with the teaching of medical or para-medical personnel. This will first entail the establishment of a close liaison with the medical community of the country concerned.

It is planned that a regional staff will be established, probably at Lagos, Nigeria, to provide consultative and technical support for the West African operation.

Special training in epidemiology, techniques and mass immunization and language instruction will be provided to all participants prior to departure on assignments.

Possible points of assignment to smallpox eradication and immunization programs in the 18 countries include:

Cameroon, Yaounde
Central African Republic, Bangui
Chad, Fort Lamy
Dahomey, Cotonou
Gabon, Libreville
Gambia, Bathurst
Ghana, Accra
Guinea, Conakry
Ivory Coast, Abidjan

Liberia, Monrovia
Mali, Bamako
Mauritania, Nouakchott
Niger, Niamey
Nigeria, Lagos
Senegal, Dakar
Sierra Leone, Freetown
Togo, Lome
Upper Volta, Ouagadougou.

Final selection of candidates will be made on or shortly after January 1, 1966 for duty commencing about July 1, 1966. Individuals entering the program may do so either as commissioned officers of the Public Health Service or as Civil Service employees.

For application and further details write:

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Smallpox Eradication Program
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Introduction by Dr. Curtis of AID -

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"—Dr. Henderson, highly qualified & experienced in communicable disease control activities, is a member of the WHO Expert Comm. on Virus Vaccines; a consultant to the WHO Expert Comm. on Measles Vaccine; and for the past six months has been serving as special advisor to the WHO in the development of a global smallpox eradication program. He has been delegated the responsibility by the Surgeon General of the U.S.P.H.S. for directing U.S. activities in global smallpox eradication. —"

Dr. Curtis & Dr. were considered the official delegates to the meetings & were provided with car & chauffeur everywhere they went.

^{NOTE:} in Upper Volta where a meeting of the French-speaking West African countries was taking place. The press release was coincident with the beginning of the meeting.