

April 2018 Dispatches From The Field (External)

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Antibiotic for Trachoma Can Potentially Save Children's Lives

New research supported by The Task Force's International Trachoma Initiative (ITI) has found that mass administration of a low-cost antibiotic can dramatically reduce deaths in children under five years of age in developing countries. [More](#)





SOIL TRANSMITTED HELMINTHS New Drug Resistance Test Could Strengthen Deworming Programs

A groundbreaking new test to detect drug resistance in intestinal worms is expected to be ready for proof of concept testing early next year.

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NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES African Grants Program Builds Local Capacity

Africa accounts for 40 percent of the global burden of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). Last year, The Task Force and its partners launched a grants program to support African scientists in conducting operational research studies on the control and elimination of these diseases. [More](#)



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LEPROSY Why a Global Partnership for Leprosy is Critical

Novartis Foundation head Ann Aerts, MD, talks about the important agenda items before the newly forged leprosy alliance. The foundation is supporting the alliance which is hosted at The Task Force. [Watch](#)





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..... **JOURNAL NOTES**



AWARDS: Task Force CEO David A. Ross, ScD, was honored with the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust 2018 Humanitarian Award, which he accepted on behalf of his colleagues. The award is presented to individuals or groups that have demonstrated the spirit of humanity through their work with communities. [More](#)



IN THE NEWS: The International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP) recently profiled Task Force leprosy program director Courtenay Dusenbury, MPH. Dusenbury heads the Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy, which serves as the hub for a coalition of organizations working on the disease. [More](#)



PUBLISHED: The Task Force's John Ward, MD, co-authored an article in the *New England Journal of Medicine* about the hidden danger of the opioid epidemic, Hepatitis C. Ward is seconded by CDC to guide development of the viral hepatitis elimination program at the Center for Vaccine Equity at The Task Force.



MEETING NOTES: The Task Force’s Partnership for Influenza Vaccine Introduction (PIVI) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention convened their second annual meeting in Bangkok, Thailand. More than 70 attendees from 22 countries reviewed the effectiveness of seasonal flu vaccination programs, discussed steps for long-term sustainability, and worked on strengthening pandemic response plans. [More](#)



COMING UP: The National Immunization Conference will be held May 15-17 in Atlanta. The event, co-hosted by The Task Force, brings together more than 1500 immunization stakeholders in the private and public sectors to explore issues about immunization and vaccine-preventable diseases. [More](#)

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