Dear friends,

By any measure, this was an extraordinary year for The Task Force for Global Health. We continued to make progress in reducing the burden of debilitating infectious diseases. We helped more countries improve their abilities to respond to disease outbreaks. And we explored how to bring home our global health expertise to improve health in our backyard.

In short, the world is healthier today because of our work.

Some highlights:

- We joined the fight to eliminate leprosy and viral hepatitis – two diseases that remain significant public health problems around the world.
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awarded nearly $30 million in new funding to sustain vital operational research to eliminate neglected tropical diseases.
- We helped develop a new Global Field Epidemiology Roadmap that will ensure every country can respond effectively to disease outbreaks.
- With our partners, we implemented a path-breaking new treatment that promises to accelerate the elimination of lymphatic filariasis, a disfiguring disease.

This was also a year marked by the tragic loss of one our program directors, Dr. Dionisio Herrera, who passed away after a long illness. Dio, as we fondly called him, was an extraordinary humanitarian who touched the lives of countless public health professionals around the world.

As we look ahead to 2019, we take inspiration from Dio’s consummate optimism that health will continue to improve for hundreds of millions of people around the world.
But don't just take my word. Hear from some of my colleagues below why they too are optimistic in 2019.

I'm grateful for your continued support, and wish you a healthy and joyous new year.

What Makes Our Staff Optimistic for 2019?

Tony Edwards
Senior Operations Manager. Watch

Girija Sankar
Associate Director of Partnerships and Communications, Children Without Worms. Watch

Natalie Viator
Informatics Analyst, Public Health Informatics Institute. Watch

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Creating a world free of debilitating diseases.

THE TASK FORCE FOR
GLOBAL HEALTH

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