

RF Bd of Trustees 12/92 FRONT OF FILE RF 960191

**Children's Vaccine Initiative**

RF 92086

**GUIDELINE:** Preventing Developing-Country Diseases through Vaccinology and Pharmacology

**GRANTEE:** For allocation by the officers

**OBJECTIVE:** To support vaccine research programs and other activities related to the development and distribution of developing-country children's vaccines.

**AMOUNT:** \$1,300,000 (to be charged to the 1993 HS budget) in addition to RF 92035

**DURATION:** Period ending March 31, 1994

Since 1984 the universal child immunization program has increased its coverage from 25 to nearly 80 percent - in part due to the leadership and impetus of the Foundation-supported Task Force for Child Survival and Development. The massive delivery system developed by more than 150 countries makes it possible to bring other vaccines to the world's children. Rather than simply adding vaccines that might require complex logistics and more clinic visits, it has been proposed to develop a multi-component, heat-stable vaccine given shortly after birth in one or two doses - a concept named the "Children's Vaccine." Significant events this past year include development of a one-shot tetanus toxoid vaccine, the testing of a new class of heat-stabilizers for live polio vaccine, and fresh approaches to improving the existing measles vaccine.

Under the proposed appropriation, which continues support begun in 1985, the bulk of the funds will be allocated to the World Health Organization and used as follows. (1) The WHO Programme for Vaccine Development (\$600,000) will pursue its basic research on new vaccines, with a special focus on mechanisms that enhance immune responses. (2) The research arm of WHO's Expanded Programme on Immunization (\$250,000) will concentrate on ways to improve the immunogenicity and delivery of existing vaccines. (3) The Children's Vaccine Initiative Consultative Group (\$350,000) - founded by WHO, UNICEF, the UN Development Programme, and the Foundation - will maintain oversight responsibility for coordinating public- and private-sector vaccine research and moving new vaccine candidates through the stages of production, testing, and addition to the delivery pipeline. The Group is also working to improve the quality of vaccines now produced in developing countries and prepare national agencies for technology transfer enabling them to manufacture their own children's vaccines. The remaining \$100,000 will be used to support activities to enhance public understanding of the Children's Vaccine Initiative.

The officers expect to recommend further support.