

**Children's Vaccine Initiative**

RF 93059

**GUIDELINE:** Reallocation for Population-Based Health Care

**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 1994 HS budget) in addition to RF 92086

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

A major goal of the HS division is to facilitate developing countries' reallocation of national health expenditures from curative to preventive medicine. One strategy, therefore, is funding the development of new technologies, with vaccines heading the list as the most effective. Since 1985, the Foundation has supported research on vaccines against developing-country diseases through appropriations to the World Health Organization totaling \$7.4 million. The massive delivery system developed in more than 150 countries as a result of WHO's Expanded Programme on Immunization makes possible the vaccination of nearly every child, and has prompted the concept of a "Children's Vaccine" - a multi-component, heat-stable vaccine given in one or two doses shortly after birth. The four sponsors of the Children's Vaccine Initiative are WHO, the United Nations Development Programme, UNICEF, and the Foundation.

An important advance under the Initiative this year was the Polio Product Development Group's success in demonstrating stabilization of the current oral polio vaccine for one week at tropical room temperature (37°C). This new heat-stable formulation has been included in 1993-94 UNICEF polio vaccine tenders. Also significant is WHO's recent move in merging its Programme for Vaccine Development and its Expanded Programme on Immunization to form an extra-budgetary entity - the Special Programme on Vaccines (SPV) - which unifies technical and strategic oversight for basic and applied research with research on the delivery components of its global immunization effort. The four Initiative sponsors have agreed to help defray the costs of SPV's technical and administrative councils.

Of the proposed appropriation, \$850,000 will be allocated to SPV. Another \$225,000 will enable the Children's Vaccine Initiative Consultative Group to maintain oversight responsibility for (1) coordinating public- and private-sector vaccine research, (2) the moving of new vaccine candidates through the stages of development and testing into production, and (3) a plan aimed at assuring local manufacture in the 20 largest developing nations of adequate supplies of the quality-controlled vaccines already achieved. The remaining \$225,000 will be used for the Initiative's Special Advisor's Office which is currently located at Johns Hopkins University.

The officers intend to recommend further support.