

**Press Release
For Immediate Release**

Media Contact

Cynthia Sadler

Phone: (202) 534-1200

E-mail: csadler@accordiafoundation.org

**Accordia Global Health Foundation Urges Improved Impact Evaluation of
Capacity-Building Programs in Africa**

July 22, 2010, Washington, D.C. – At the International AIDS Conference in Vienna, Austria, this week, Microsoft founder Bill Gates and former President Bill Clinton both stressed the need to better measure the effectiveness and efficiency of programs designed to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS. Gates noted, "We can't keep spending AIDS resources in exactly the same way we do today... As we continue to advocate for more funding, we also need to make sure we're getting the most benefit from each dollar of AIDS funding and every ounce of effort."

Accordia Global Health Foundation's new report, *Return on Investment: The Long-Term Impact of Building Healthcare Capacity in Africa*, presents some of the opportunities and the early work being done to measure key areas of long-term capacity-building initiatives in African health systems that are designed to fight infectious diseases like HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. The report concludes that:

“There is a clear call to action for better measurement of the return on investment in health and for a deeper understanding not only of what works but also why it works. The entire global health community is being challenged to ask new questions and seek new answers. Are we leveraging our combined investments to achieve the greatest long-term health impact? Are we oriented towards meeting the greatest needs of society? Who is leading local efforts? Are we measuring what counts?”

“This call to action presents a strategic opportunity to test and refine new approaches, produce relevant and timely information, and contribute to the overall field of capacity building in ways that can provide lasting benefits.”

Contributing authors to the report include **Niles Friedman**, director of global programs for BroadReach Healthcare; **Dr. Michael Johnson**, deputy director of the Fogarty International Center; **Maarten Kok**, professor of health policy and diplomacy at the Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development; **Dr. Linda Kupfer**, acting director of Fogarty International Center's Division of International Science Policy, Planning, and Evaluation; **Bjorg Palsdottir**, cofounder and director for program development at the Training for Health Equity Network: THEnet; **Theresa M. Riddle**, managing director and founder of the Crossland Group; **Dr. Rachel Sturke**, evaluation officer for the Fogarty International Center; and **Kelly S. Willis**, senior vice president for global health programs at Accordia Global Health Foundation. **Dr. Jeff Sturchio**, CEO of the Global Health Council, authored the report's foreword.

Return on Investment: The Long-Term Impact of Building Healthcare Capacity in Africa will be released on July 27, 2010 in Washington, DC. Electronic copies of the report will be available that afternoon on Accordia's website: www.accordiafoundation.org.

###

Accordia Global Health Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) global health organization building Africa's capacity to fight infectious disease through training, research, care and prevention. Accordia works in partnership with individuals, corporations, foundations, NGOs, and governments from Africa, Europe, and North America to achieve its vision of a healthier Africa. For more information please visit www.accordiafoundation.org.