

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **University of Colorado, Children's Hospital Colorado and Agroamerica's partnership fostering NIH research on Zika in children in Guatemala**

Since 2011, when Agroamerica, the University of Colorado and Children's Hospital Colorado signed a partnership to improve the human development of communities in the southwest Trifinio in Guatemala, a clinic, laboratories and research facilities along with community programs have been established serving around 15,000 people in this impoverished area of Guatemala. Now, the National Institutes of Health has funded through Baylor College of Medicine Vaccine Testing and Evaluation Unit a large natural history study examining the neurologic, neurodevelopmental and other clinical outcomes of Zika virus infection in infants and young children to be conducted in this area of the country. (<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/study-examine-effects-zika-infection-guatemalan-infants-children>). The study is being conducted by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, in partnership with FUNSALUD (Fundacion para la Salud Integral de los Guatemaltecos) Center for Human Development in Coatepeque, Guatemala a non-profit Guatemalan foundation. NIAID Director Anthony S. Fauci, M.D stressed the importance of this study in the NIH press release: "This natural history study of Zika among Guatemalan children promises to yield valuable insights into acute and longer-term outcomes of infection. It is imperative that we understand the potential neurologic and neurodevelopmental outcomes of Zika virus infection in children infected during infancy and early childhood."

Both AgroAmerica and the University of Colorado have made important investments in this infrastructure including a family medical clinic, clinical and research laboratories, a birth center and

## Center for Global Health

colorado school of public health

capacity for data entry and processing. A community nursing program to improve maternal, neonatal and child outcomes was also established and has become an essential component of the study. Free care days have been offered for surrounding village community members. The participation of FunSalud and the Center for Human Development is a testament of the great benefits of collaborations between a private local agribusiness with a strong social responsibility commitment and an American public university with extensive expertise in global health. Working together, they can greatly increase their impact on improving the health of rural communities in Guatemala.

### **About AgroAmerica:**

AgroAmerica has led the field of socially responsible agriculture. The agro-industrial company grows and ships organic and conventional bananas and sustainable vegetable oils. It promotes development-oriented policies to address poverty, and carries out social programs for the well-being of its workers, families and nearby communities. The family business has operations in Guatemala, the United States, Ecuador, Peru, Panama and Europe. For more information, visit <https://agroamerica.com/en>.

### **About Center for Global Health, Colorado School of Public Health:**

The Center for Global Health is an interdisciplinary collaboration between [the Colorado School of Public Health](#), the University of Colorado School of Medicine/Department of Pediatrics and Children's Hospital Colorado, which enables the partners to leverage innovative and creative advances in the global standard of health through teaching, research, practice and service. Learn more by visiting <http://globalhealth.ucdenver.edu> and follow the Center's updates on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).