Global Health Service Corps and the Peace Corps Open Applications for Medical and Nursing Educators

Global Health Service Partnership will address the critical lack of health care educators in sub-Saharan Africa helping to build a pipeline of providers to support health care systems

Washington, D.C., July 21, 2012 Global Health Service Corps (GHSC) today announces the inaugural season for applications from qualified doctors and nurses for the Global Health Service Partnership (GHSP), a new program in partnership with the Peace Corps. The new GHSP Volunteers will serve one year assignments as faculty members of medical and nursing schools. The program will launch in Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda in 2013. Global Health Service Corps and Peace Corps made this announcement on the eve of the International AIDS Conference in Washington, D.C.

Vanessa Kerry, M.D., MSc. Chief Executive Officer of the Global Health Service Corps said, “this public-private partnership will work with our partner countries to identify the country needs, then help augment the teaching and training opportunities in each country. The dual impact of this program will be to meet immediate teaching needs and to build a pipeline of future medical and nursing educators. While this idea has been discussed in recent years, we will finally have a solution that puts volunteers on the ground. GHSC will provide loan repayments to help encourage service and reduce the significant barrier of debt for many potential volunteers.”

“We are enormously excited about the partnership with the Peace Corps,” said Fitzhugh Mullan, MD, Chair of the Global Health Service Corps Board. “Education and training are the key to stronger health systems world-wide. The faculty who work abroad in the GHSP will be putting their shoulders to the task of graduating more doctors and nurses to build those systems and expand treatment and care.” “We are pleased to accept applications from medical and nursing professionals who will be able to immediately impact public health systems in sub-Saharan Africa,” said Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Willliams. “Through this program these medically trained volunteers will address the shortage of health professionals and train others to be better prepared for the future.”

GHSC will work with the Peace Corps, Ministries of Health and in-country institutional partners. GHSC will begin with nurse and physician volunteers but plans to expand it to other medical professionals. Pat Daoust, MSN, RN, GHSC’s Chief Nursing Officer, said “GHSP provides a unique opportunity for U.S. nurse educators to work collaboratively with their overseas colleagues in addressing a long recognized barrier to building strong and sustainable health care systems. As faculty and clinical mentors, our volunteers will live, learn and work together with the nursing community. I believe we are helping to fulfill one of the original goals of the Peace Corps.”
In March, the Peace Corps, the U.S. Presidents' Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Global Health Service Corps announced the launch of this innovative public-private partnership to address health professional shortages by investing in capacity building for medical and nursing education programs in less developed countries.

Volunteers serving through the program will be Peace Corps Response volunteers receiving monthly living stipends, transportation to and from their country of service, comprehensive medical care, vacation days, and readjustment allowance. The Global Health Service Corps will raise funds from the private sector to finance loan repayment stipends for eligible volunteers. Applications will be open through October 2012. The first cohort will be named in February 2013 for a July 2013 deployment.

About the Global Health Service Corps (GHSC): The GHSC is a national non-profit whose mission is to support health professionals to serve as medical, nursing and health educators in resource constrained settings. The greater goal, in collaboration with partners, is to create sustainable solutions to strengthen health systems and address vast shortages of health professionals in many parts of the world. GHSC believes educators provide a force multiplier effect. GHSC is committed to helping recruit the best-qualified candidates, including those who may have financial constraints to service, by raising and disbursing loan repayment and other appropriate stipends of support to individuals chosen for assignments abroad. Visit www.globalhealthservicecorps.org for more information.

About the Peace Corps: Since President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps by executive order on March 1, 1961, more than 200,000 Americans have served in 139 host countries. Today, 9,095 volunteers are working with local communities in 75 host countries. Peace Corps volunteers must be U.S. citizens and at least 18 years of age. Peace Corps service is a 27-month commitment and the agency’s mission is to promote world peace and friendship and a better understanding between Americans and people of other countries. Visit www.peacecorps.gov for more information.

About PEPFAR: The U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) is the U.S. Government initiative to help save the lives of people affected by HIV/AIDS around the world. PEPFAR is the largest commitment by any nation to combat a single disease internationally and PEPFAR investments also provide a platform for efforts to address other public health needs. PEPFAR is driven by a shared responsibility among donor and partner nations and others to make smart investments to save lives. For more information, visit www.pepfar.gov.