



Smallpox Eradication Commemoration 2010 (SEC2010)

Thank you note delivered by Jean Roy at the WHO smallpox eradication commemoration unveiling of bronze grouping in Geneva on 17 May 2010.

Dear Drs. Chan, Mahler, Henderson and Colleagues,

On behalf of the Smallpox Eradication Commemoration 2010 Secretariat and its Board members, I would like to express our gratitude for the generous support we have received from corporations, foundations, public health groups, and individuals, many of whom are with us today.

It is the strong determination of former smallpox workers from around the world that has given us this monument to commemorate this 30th year anniversary. It was this same determination they displayed in the field to eradicate a disease that as recently as 1967 – in the lifetime of many of us – was responsible for an estimated 3 million deaths and social stigma from the scarring it left behind.

This support from donors enabled us to underwrite three commemoration projects during this celebratory year.

Today, you are participating in the culmination of the first of the three projects - the commissioning of this bronze grouping. The donor plaque behind the statue lists those who made this possible:

The Marguerite Casey Foundation
The China National Pharmaceutical Group Corporation (SINOPHARM),
The Google.org Fund of the Tides Foundation,
GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals,
The M & H Greenberg Foundation,
The Rockefeller Foundation,
Serum Institute of India Ltd.,
Wyeth/Lederle Vaccines, now Pfizer, whose bifurcated needle for vaccination is profiled in the monument,
The Tianyuan Bio-pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.,

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and many smallpox eradication workers worldwide.

We also wish to acknowledge Mr. Martin Williams, the Welsh sculptor who designed and produced this bronze grouping after winning the commission in an international art competition.

Our second project, the production of “Smallpox Zero”, an illustrated history of smallpox and its eradication, is being distributed for the first time today. This was made possible with the generous support of sanofi pasteur, Vestergaard Frandsen, the people who make insecticidal mosquito nets, the Google.org Fund, and individual contributors. The illustrator and author, Jonathan Roy, is also here to celebrate with us today.

Our third project, an International Symposium – Smallpox Eradication after 30 Years: Lessons, Legacies, and Innovations, is scheduled for 24 -27 August in Rio de Janeiro. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions and the organizational planning of those who are making this possible:

The Albert B. Sabin Vaccine Institute,
The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation,
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),
The Fogarty International Center at the National Institutes of Health, NIAD
Fundacao Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz),
The Wellcome Trust Center for the History of Medicine,
The U.N. Foundation, and many individual donors.

And finally, we would like to thank all the staff and leaders at the World Health Organization who worked continuously with our Board Members, Drs. Heymann, Ciro de Quadros, Stephen Jones, Joel Breman, Sergei Shchelkunov and Peter Carrasco. Not least and most important has been the administrative support of Emory University’s Global Health Institute in Atlanta led by Dr. Jeffrey Koplan who is represented today by his assistant Ms. Roseanne Waters. All of you can be very proud of your efforts to recognize an unprecedented achievement. As Thomas Jefferson so eloquently said to Dr. Edward Jenner in the year 1806, “You have erased from the calendar of human afflictions one of its greatest... Future nations will know by history only that the loathsome smallpox has existed and by you has been extirpated”.

On behalf of all future generations who no longer need suffer this scourge, we should profoundly thank all of you today.

Thank you.

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