

Investing in public health gives especially in low income countries extremely impressive returns

The implementation of the International Health Regulation (IHR) of WHO in 2005 for worldwide public health systems is already in its second extension phase. At the 2012 deadline, only 16% of the countries were fully prepared to detect and respond to pandemics. In 2014 the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in West Africa was another indicator that WHO's IHR has to be taken seriously. Especially the biosecurity part of IHR is not fully in place yet for most developing countries, which makes the world vulnerable for bioterrorism. According to the World Bank, the returns from investing in public health are not only the local economy but also the global economy. Investing in public health systems and giving local healthcare workers training in both disease outbreak mitigation and biosecurity. Zoonotic diseases are the most dangerous for outbreaks as the population does not have natural or artificial (from vaccination) immune response to new emerging diseases. Zoonotic diseases are often neglected in the first instance in developing countries. The recent Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in West Africa was such an example. Still, there is hope to find fast and supportive therapies with proper blood bank facilities in

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of Excellence in Vyskov in the Czech Republic. In his civilian position, he is at this moment developing with MT-Derm in Berlin (Germany) a novel intradermal vaccination technology as well as a new therapy for cutaneous leishmaniasis for which he has won a Canadian 'Grand Challenge' grant. With Hemanua in Dublin (Ireland) he has developed an innovative blood separation unit, which is also suitable to produce convalescent plasma for Ebola Virus Disease therapy. He has finished both his studies in Medicine and in Biochemistry in the Netherlands with a doctorate and has extensive practical experience in cell biology, immuno-hematology, infectious diseases, biodefense, and transfusion medicine. His natural business acumen and negotiating competence help to initiate new successful businesses, often generated by unexpected combinations of technologies.

Biography

Stef Stienstra is a Dutch physician and researcher. He completed his medical studies at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, followed by a postgraduate program in Infectious Diseases. He worked as a consultant in infectious diseases at the University Hospital Groningen and later at the University Hospital of Groningen. He is currently a senior advisor at the University of Groningen. He has published numerous scientific papers and is the author of several books. He is also a frequent speaker at international conferences. He is currently working on a novel intradermal vaccination technology and a new therapy for cutaneous leishmaniasis. He has also developed an innovative blood separation unit for Ebola Virus Disease therapy. He is a member of the Dutch Society of Tropical Medicine and the European Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. He is also a member of the Dutch Society of Infectious Diseases and the Dutch Society of Hematology. He is currently working on a novel intradermal vaccination technology and a new therapy for cutaneous leishmaniasis. He has also developed an innovative blood separation unit for Ebola Virus Disease therapy. He is a member of the Dutch Society of Tropical Medicine and the European Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. He is also a member of the Dutch Society of Infectious Diseases and the Dutch Society of Hematology.

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