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DR. GUBLER AND UH IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DUKE UNIVERSITY

Date: October 30, 2007

Duane J. Gubler, Sc.D, director of the University of Hawai`i at Mānoa John A. Burns School of Medicine's (JABSOM) Asia-Pacific Institute for Tropical Medicine and Infectious Diseases (APTIMID) is joining the faculty of the Duke-National University of Singapore Graduate Medical School Singapore (Duke-NUS GMS). Dr. Gubler will lead a collaborative effort between Duke-NUS GMS and JABSOM as director of the Signature Research Program in Emerging Infectious Diseases. Dr. Gubler's appointment is effective November 1. He will also maintain a faculty position with JABSOM.



Dr. Duane Gubler is a highly sought-after scientist

"At the heart of this new partnership is creation of a world-class infectious disease program that will be the regional center for reference and research in the Asia-Pacific area," says Dr. Gubler. "The vision is that this center will serve as the Asia Pacific region's Centers Disease Control. My intention is to develop laboratory and epidemiologic capacity in selected countries for pathogen discovery, disease detection, research and training, similar to the program we have established in Vietnam through the Asia-Pacific Institute of Tropical Medicine & Infectious Diseases," Dr. Gubler adds.

"We are excited about both the opportunity to retain Dr. Gubler at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, and to partner with the prestigious Duke University in research so important to all of us," says Gary Ostrander, JABSOM interim dean.

The Singapore-based infectious diseases research program will encompass basic, clinical, field epidemiologic and translational research. Those activities, in turn, will drive a training program to attract outstanding students and post-doctoral trainees from around the world.

Duke-NUS GMS' Senior Vice Dean for Research, Professor Patrick Casey adds, "The early identification of new pathogens associated with disease with epidemic potential will be a key outcome of this research program. The hope is to use this information to rapidly identify and prevent the spread of future SARS-like epidemics that may impact the global economy, and to develop new diagnostic tests, treatment and control strategies by harnessing our own talents and those of our partners."

Dr. Gubler has headed the University of Hawai`i at Mānoa's Asia-Pacific Institute of Tropical Medicine and Infectious Diseases since 2004. Prior to that, he was Director of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Vector-Borne Infectious Diseases. He serves on advisory boards around the world, including the Environmental Health Institute and the Novartis Institute of Tropical Diseases in Singapore.

During his time at APTIMID, Dr. Gubler was instrumental in securing funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to develop a biosafety level 3 (BSL) laboratory as part of the NIH regional network of research laboratories devoted to research and detection of emerging infectious diseases. Dr. Gubler and APTIMID colleagues also initiated development of laboratory and epidemiological capacity for pathogen discovery and disease detection in Vietnam, an effort that will be expanded through the new partnership.

A nationwide search will be conducted for Dr. Gubler's successor as Chair, Department of Tropical Medicine, Medical Microbiology and Pharmacology, and as Director of the Pacific Regional Biosafety Laboratory at JABSOM. Dr. Gubler will stay on as the Director of APTIMID for an indefinite period. The institute is also in the process of filling 4 new faculty/research positions.