

## **Dr. Briggs Talks about International Agencies for Global Public Health (9:47 minutes)**

**Time Stamp 00:00:00:** International agencies for public health are wide-ranging, as I mentioned. They include international health organizations, and they also include pharmaceutical companies because we can't produce vaccines without pharmaceutical companies. So we need to create partnerships. Pharmaceutical companies also produce the drugs that are necessary to treat people infected with HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) or tuberculosis or malaria or whatever. So we have to work closely with them. And our NGO [non-governmental organization], which is a 501(c)(3)-registered organization in the United States as well as in the UK works with pharmaceutical companies. We work with the World Health Organization and with animal welfare organizations to really collaborate to see how we can get things done. And so I think it's really important in this day and time to create public-private partnerships including pharmaceutical companies in order to move the agenda of public health forward.

**Time Stamp 00:01:07:** I am actually the director of the Global Alliance for Rabies Control, which is the number-one not-for-profit organization in the world actually working on rabies prevention in both humans and animals. And we have really changed the world of rabies in the last five years. Our first program was the World Rabies Day, and the World Rabies Day is now on the calendar of the UN list of health days. Through World Rabies Day, we have educated over 150 million people across the world. We recently did a survey, and 96 percent of the people who responded said that World Rabies Day was saving lives. And I believe we can save lives through education. The other things that the Global Alliance has done is to create an informal group of stakeholders, which is called the Partners for Rabies Prevention. This group includes not only the World Health Organization and the World Animal Health Organization and CDC and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, but also it includes the pharma companies. And through this organization, last year we launched the first-ever "Blueprint for Canine Rabies Prevention and Human Rabies Prevention," and it has been very well accepted. The EU [European Union] Commission is now translating it into five new languages. It's freely accessible on the Web. And it gives all of the information that is necessary to prevent rabies. So I would say that the Global Alliance is really helping to lead the way to further encourage countries, encourage people, to get involved with rabies prevention. Even if it's just educating your neighbor about what you can do to prevent rabies, we really believe that we're saving lives.

**Time Stamp 00:03:02:** The Global Alliance for Rabies Control is funded through various entities. That includes funding from international foundations, and it includes private donations, and it also includes some donations from industry, so we accept donations from a wide variety of individuals and institutions to really move together for preventing rabies.

**Time Stamp 00:03:31:** In order to determine what kind of impact you're having, it's sometimes a bit difficult when you're such a widespread organization. But what we can look at is a survey that we just conducted on how education is changing rabies prevention and saving lives across the world, and what we've found is that more than 95 percent of people who responded believe that our programs and World Rabies Day and other world educational programs are saving lives. What we have seen, also, is re-institution of programs across the world. We see, for example, just one country — in Mozambique — we've seen that the government now is involved with our organization and what we're doing, and they support it, and they have changed from not doing anything in Mozambique to actually conducting rabies programs. And we look at Iraq, which is of course a problem. We have seen educational programs done in Iraq, particularly on World Rabies Day. And in India, we can see innumerable programs that are going on through all the colleges of veterinary medicine, where they are getting involved with rabies protection, etc. We see heroes that are just incredible. I can tell you about a physician in India, and he decided to educate 200,000 children in India, and he did it. He absolutely did it. And we have a person in Puerto Rico who decided that she would follow the same suit, and she went out, and she educated 200,000 children across the Puerto Rico. And we just see individuals' stories like this that are just fantastic.

**Time Stamp 00:05:26:** What the Global Alliance has done, actually, is create the first-ever network for rabies stakeholders and rabies professionals working across the world, so we have e-communications in more than a 150 countries. And we have contacts that we can actually contact to find out what's going on, and they translate what's going on back to us. We have a free educational database, and we invite people from around the world to take their information, put it on our website, and then it's freely downloadable to other people so that they can actually get the information. And if somebody is interested in contacting somebody, say, in Iran or Iraq, or Saudi, or wherever, they contact us and say, Do you have information about somebody working in rabies in that particular country, and we can give them that information.

**Time Stamp 00:06:20:** Looking at the politics surrounding global public health is kind of tricky sometimes. And maneuvering through the waters is a little bit precarious. But what we have seen, and what we have come to understand, is that there are different agendas out there, and we try to match our agenda with various organizations and what their agenda is, and when we can come to a common understanding with common goals, then we can move forward. And that is sort of how we deal with the politics.

**Time Stamp 00:06:55:** One of the most important points, I think, today with limited funding is looking at how you can actually build a sustainable program. Because you can take millions of dollars and dump it into a country, and things might get better for a while, and then when the money is gone, the program is gone, and perhaps they're even worse off than before you started. So what we try to look at is individual projects and to look at sustainability. One of the things we have done with the Bohol Project is to look at sustainability in a different way. We've looked at instituting a very small fee for registering dogs in the Philippines where rabies is endemic in the dog population, and by charging a small fee for the registration of dogs, we have taken that money and put it back into the program. And then it starts to pay for itself. This worked extremely well in Bohol because we were actually able to eliminate rabies in the dog population. To engage volunteers is another way to create sustainability. We went from 140 people involved in rabies control to 15,000 involved with rabies control across the province. And the other point that we looked at and included in our program for sustainability was educating the children in their curriculum. We worked with the Ministry of Health to do that. And so not only do we have a one-time chance to educate one group of children, but by actually putting it into the program, each group of children that comes through is educated about rabies prevention. So that's how we managed to create a sustainable program in the Philippines, and I think that some of these lessons can be taken for other neglected diseases and other programs as well.

**Time Stamp 00:06:53:** We at the Global Alliance don't have a great deal of money, so we have to look at how we're going to get the best for the amount of money that we have, which is usually a shoestring budget. So we work with governments. We work with individual donors. We work to see how we can provide what we can provide, and then try to get matching funds from the organization that we're working with, or with the country that we're working with, but to make sure that in the long term, these programs are going to be sustainable. So whatever we build, we want to make sure that it's going to be sustainable, and there are places out there to get funding for education. For perhaps some animal welfare training, etc. So there are ways to bring together different funding agencies to try to get a program under way.