

## **University of Washington Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation**

### **Mission:**

The mission of the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) is to monitor global health conditions and health systems, and to evaluate interventions, initiatives, and reforms. The Institute provides high quality and timely information on health so that policymakers, researchers, donors, practitioners, local decision-makers, and others can better allocate limited resources to achieve optimal results.

The Institute was funded with a \$6.3 million appropriation in the 2007-09 biennial operating budget. These funds were subsequently supplemented with a 10 year grant of \$105 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

### **What IHME has accomplished:**

- Began operations in Seattle and building the team of researchers, faculty and staff that will reach 40 people by February 2008, and 120 people within the next three years.
- Launched two large, international, and high profile technical meetings in Seattle.
- Brought on new, accomplished researchers and staff to maintain ongoing projects and build new areas of research.
- Fostered relationships with local neighbors in global health.
- Solidified the Board of nine influential global actors.

### **In the future IHME will:**

- Host a public launch in April 2008 that will include the first board meeting, a research conference which will showcase IHME's scope of research and analysis, and an open house at the new IHME office.
- Recruit, train and sustain a diverse group of junior analysts and researchers using a strategy that is cost-effective and fosters the creation of new intellectual capacity.
- Develop a community of collaborating centers around the world, which will enhance both the work and the impact of the Institute and strengthen national institutions.
- Foster the development of innovative analytical frameworks, methods, and instruments to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of generating health information.
- Catalyze the collection of new data to fill critical gaps.
- Increase the availability of key health information in the public domain. This will be accomplished through the implementation of a global data bank that will disseminate IHME's data and analysis for use by policy-makers, researchers and other interested entities.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of health interventions, global strategies and initiatives, and national health systems through the analysis of available datasets.

### **IHME and the State of Washington:**

In addition to IHME's mission of monitoring and evaluating global health, the Institute recognizes that there is a strong need to better understand how to spend money most effectively on priority healthcare interventions in the United States. Health needs vary between states, and even between counties. By expanding its research agenda to include domestic issues, IHME will have an impact on the health of Washingtonians.

A 2008 supplemental budget proposal to the State of Washington asks for \$1.9 million a year to support a domestic project focused on cost-effective healthcare interventions in Washington State.

### **2008 Domestic Health Proposal:**

- Identification of the 20-30 most important interventions that would have the greatest impact on the health of communities within the United States.
- Development of methods to measure the delivery of these interventions
- Development of cost-effective mechanisms to collect data at the local level where critical information is currently not available.
- Implementation of a pilot program in Washington State to benchmark performance on a county by county basis. This would allow IHME to chart trends across counties and assess improvements over time as more information becomes known about effective healthcare interventions and delivery mechanisms.
- Recruiting two new high profile faculty members specializing in the area of domestic health.

### **Benefits to the State:**

- Data collected by IHME will support the state by providing valid, reliable, and comparable measurements on the performance of healthcare systems at the county level to provide incentives for improved performance.
- Washington state will be a model for other states by demonstrating that performance benchmarking is possible and testing whether various incentives to improve performance work.
- IHME can help make Washington a hub of healthcare policy innovation in the public and private sector by building up the portfolio of monitoring and evaluation work conducted on healthcare delivery in the United States.
- Attraction of IHME to the outside researcher community will give IHME an advantage in recruiting two faculty members to the University of Washington who specialize in domestic health. One specializing in health determinates and one in the available base of data in the US in order to help assess performance. This will contribute to improving the value of higher education in Washington.
- All of these benefits contribute to improving the health of Washingtonians.