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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Dr. Santiago Ferro Named Director of Clinical Development at PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative**

**BETHESDA, Maryland (18 August 2008)** – PATH today announced the appointment of Santiago Ferro, MD, as Director of Clinical Development at the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative (MVI), where he will oversee the development of malaria vaccine candidates in MVI’s portfolio as they move into human trials. MVI is a global program of PATH dedicated to accelerating the development of malaria vaccines and assuring their accessibility and availability in the developing world. Malaria is a disease that kills close to a million children in sub-Saharan Africa alone every year and sickens multitudes more around the world.

“By bringing Dr. Ferro onto the leadership team at the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative, we are setting the stage to further accelerate vaccine development,” said Christian Loucq, MD, Director of MVI. “Dr. Ferro brings invaluable expertise in managing pharmaceutical clinical development to the complex task of safely and successfully guiding vaccine trials at MVI. At stake are the countless lives that could be saved by a safe and effective malaria vaccine.”

As Director of Clinical Development, Dr. Ferro will oversee all clinical aspects of MVI’s malaria vaccine projects, ranging from small first-in-human studies to large, late-stage efficacy trials. He will also be responsible for leading the interpretation of clinical trial results and advising on the incorporation of the findings into the clinical development plans of candidate vaccines.

“In my native Colombia, where I first practiced infectious disease medicine, I saw the toll malaria can take on people,” said Ferro. “The world urgently needs a safe and effective vaccine to reduce the suffering from malaria, and I’m proud to have the opportunity to join the fight against one of the most pernicious diseases facing mankind.”

Dr. Ferro comes to MVI after serving for two years as a Scientific Officer of Methodology & Innovation in the Clinical Development & Medical Affairs Department at Novartis Pharmaceuticals. Before that, he was a Clinical Team Leader for Clinical Development in the Clinical Department at Sanofi Pasteur Limited. Dr. Ferro has experience in clinical development of both drugs and vaccines.

Dr. Ferro spent close to two decades working in infectious diseases at several teaching hospitals in Colombia, including the Central Military Hospital and San Ignacio University Hospital, both in Bogotá. He also spent three years as a Clinical Associate in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Toronto General Hospital's HIV Clinic. He received his medical degree at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá.

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**The PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative (MVI)** is a global program established at PATH through an initial grant of \$50 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. MVI's mission is to accelerate the development of malaria vaccines and ensure their availability and accessibility in the developing world. MVI's vision is a world free from malaria. For more information, please visit [www.malariavaccine.org](http://www.malariavaccine.org).

Founded in 1977, **PATH** is an international, nonprofit organization that creates sustainable, culturally relevant solutions, enabling communities worldwide to break longstanding cycles of poor health. By collaborating with diverse public- and private-sector partners, PATH helps provide appropriate health technologies and vital strategies that change the way people think and act. PATH's work improves global health and well-being. For more information, please visit [www.path.org](http://www.path.org).