

# **NIAID Engagement with Cuba**

Joyelle Kalei Dominique, MS, MBA  
Director, Office of Global Research



National Institute of  
Allergy and  
Infectious Diseases

**National Institutes of Health**

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# Strategic Priorities in the Region

- **Arbovirus research**
  - Dengue virus
  - Zika virus
  - More!
- **Emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases with pandemic potential**
- **Priority and prototype pathogen basic research**
- **Productive scientific collaboration**



# NIAID-Supported Activities with Cuba

- **Diplomatic Engagement**
- **Exploring Opportunities for Arbovirus Research Collaboration Meeting**
  - November 2016
- **U.S.-Cuba Collaborative Arbovirus Research Initiative**
- **COVID-19 Virtual Technical Exchanges**
  - May 2021
  - June 2021
  - October and November 2021

# Diplomatic Engagement Visits in 2015 and 2016

- **October 2015:** Cuba's Vice Minister of Public Health and a delegation of scientists, doctors, and public health officials visited NIH
- **March 2016:** Cuban delegation visited the NIAID Vaccine Research Center to discuss Zika virus
- **June 2016:** Cuba's Minister of Health, Dr. Roberto Tomas Morales Ojeda, visited NIH to discuss research cooperation focused on arboviruses
- **October 2016:** NIAID and CDC officials visited officials in Havana to discuss collaborative research objectives



# Diplomatic Engagement

## Memorandums of Understanding

- In June 2016, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Ministry of Public Health (MINSAP) of Cuba signed an MOU to **expand scientific cooperation** between the United States and Cuba.
  - There is **no set expiration** date for the MOU.
- In October 2016, HHS and MINSAP signed an MOU to establish the general framework of collaboration in the area of **cancer control**, including research, surveillance, monitoring and evaluation.

# Exploring Opportunities for Arbovirus Research Collaboration Meeting

- **First U.S.- Cuba meeting in over 50 years**
- **Share information** about arbovirus research and recent findings and to explore future joint research opportunities
- **Topics highlighted** at the meeting included:
  - Surveillance research and epidemiology
  - Pathogenesis, immunology, and virology
  - Treatment and diagnosis
  - Vector biology and control
  - Vaccine development
  - Clinical trials
  - Regulatory matters

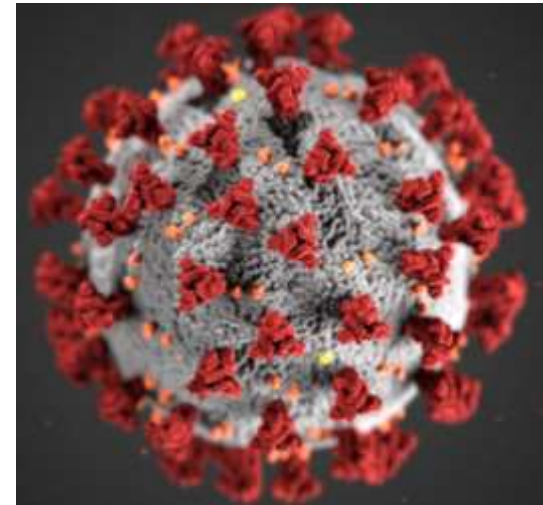


# U.S.-Cuba Collaborative Arbovirus Research Initiative

- Small, one-year **collaborative U.S.-Cuba research projects** focused on arbovirus and vector research
- CRDF Global issued a call for applications in January 2017
- **Four proposals were selected** for funding out of the seven proposals submitted
- Due to policy changes, the projects are on hold

# COVID-19 Virtual Technical Exchanges

- NIAID and IPK organized three **scientific information exchange sessions on COVID-19** in 2021
- Cuba participants included investigators from Instituto de Medicina Tropical “Pedro Kouri”, Boubacar, Centro de Inmunología Molecular, and Centro de Ingeniería Genética y Biotecnología
- NIAID participants included DAIDS, DAIT, DCR, DMID, and VRC
- Topics included:
  - Cuba- and U.S.-developed COVID-19 vaccines and adjuvants
  - Host response to natural infection, the pandemic and variants in Cuba and the U.S., and therapeutic studies
  - Results from Phase 3 Studies of Cuba-developed vaccines (Soberana 02 and Abdala), results from Phase 3 studies of USG-developed vaccine, and NIAID study on mixed dose vaccine schedules





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# Questions?

The screenshot shows the NIAID website with a navigation bar at the top containing links for Research, Diseases & Conditions, Grants & Contracts, Clinical Trials, News & Events, and About NIAID. The main content area features a large banner for 'Volunteer for COVID-19 Clinical Studies' with a sub-header and a 'Volunteer Now' button. Below the banner are three featured articles: 'Influenza Research at NIAID', 'New Data Sets on Access to Clinical Data', and 'Antiviral Program for Pandemics'. At the bottom, there is a 'Newsroom' section with links to the NIAID Newsroom, latest news releases, media team contact, social media, and YouTube. A large blue box highlights the 'Director Anthony S. Fauci, MD' with a photo and links to 'About the Director' and two recent publications.