



1 million+ vaccines distributed to underserved communities

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Tens of thousands of people in the Dominican Republic, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan received crucial vaccines in February, thanks to a donation by MassBiologics of UMass Medical School to Project HOPE, a global nongovernmental organization dedicated to making health care available for people around the globe.

More than one million doses of the tetanus and diphtheria (Td) vaccine were distributed to underserved communities that were in need of the medicines. The Dominican Republic held a nationwide vaccination campaign in April and the donated vaccine supported the Ministry of Health’s commitment to address public health needs. The medicines destined for Central Asia were delivered in a humanitarian airlift operation by the U.S. Department of State.

The Td vaccine was manufactured by MassBiologics, the only non-profit, FDA-licensed manufacturer of vaccines and biologic products in the United States.

“Tetanus and diphtheria continue to be serious threats to public health in many parts of our global community,” said Mark S. Klempler, MD, executive vice chancellor for MassBiologics and professor of medicine, pictured at left. “Tetanus is a particular risk to newborns in many developing countries. By vaccinating pregnant women, we can prevent disease and death among these babies and their mothers.”

‘Speed dating’ for prospective students

The School of Medicine has adopted a new interview process known as Multiple Mini Interview’s (MMI), designed to reveal qualities in candidates that are most aligned with the school’s core professionalism competencies.

The new interview process is similar to speed dating in concept: The applicant is presented with questions, issues or scenarios at eight separate stations, each of which is staffed with a different interviewer or rater who subsequently evaluates the candidate’s performance. The applicant spends eight minutes at each station. The interviewers are selected from among a pool of UMMS faculty, clinicians, educators, students and staff.

While each rater is unique, they follow a script to ensure that all students have similar interview experiences.

“Students like the MMI because they have multiple opportunities to shine,” said Mariann Manno, MD, professor of pediatrics and emergency medicine and associate dean for admissions for the School of Medicine.

“With the traditional interview process, a terrific student could have a bad interview. With the MMI, a single bad review can be neutralized by the reviews of multiple other raters.”

