

Dear GAFFI supporter,

GAFFI is undergoing a radical transformation. Building on the extraordinary work done over the past decade we are entering a phase where we will leverage our achievements to equip and enable locally owned and managed hubs across the globe to save lives that would otherwise be lost to opportunistic fungal infections in HIV patients.

Since GAFFI's founding 10 years ago, its tireless work has ensured the inclusion of fungal diseases into the discourse of human infectious diseases and made them a global priority. This manifested itself powerfully in 2022 when WHO released its **Fungal Pathogen Priority List**. This report hit the headlines globally and propelled the topic of fungal disease into people's living rooms, often for the first time. GAFFI has engaged with and supported WHO for ten years and contributed to framing the key conclusions of the report. In addition, GAFFI successfully advocated for multiple diagnostics to be included on WHO's Essential Diagnostic List and multiple antifungal agents to be listed as Essential Medicines.

To enable us to build hubs and local networks at local level that will be able to save lives directly, GAFFI formed close relationships with 75+ local ambassadors across the globe that are powerful voices and valuable mycology and health system experts where they operate. We also started to form strategic relationships with key organisations such as PAHO, Africa CDC, US CDC, WHO and others.

However, the key element of our new strategy which focuses in on equipping and enabling locally owned and managed hubs across the globe to save lives that would otherwise be lost to opportunistic fungal infections in HIV patients, are the learnings from our Guatemala project. By enabling our local partner organisation, Asociación de Salud Integral, it was demonstrated that over a 2-year period that the mortality due to previously undetected fungal infections in HIV patients could be reduced by 30% utilising readily available diagnostics and treatments.

GAFFI's new and focused strategy builds on these foundations and will for the coming period be about reducing mortality in HIV related fungal infections. This is not to say that we will ignore other areas where fungal infections cause death and suffering, such as in TB, cancer, leukaemia, COPD and in intensive care patients. However, by equipping local health care professionals and implementing the infrastructure required to reduce mortality related to fungal infections in HIV patients, they will have a solid foundation for expanding into these areas as they choose. Also, by focusing on HIV patients we will be able to accelerate our impact and save more lives quickly by leveraging existing healthcare infrastructure already existing for these patients in many locations.

The learnings from the Guatemala project have now been taken to Argentina and are being implemented in Santa Fe province and Buenos Aires as part of a project lead by local experts. Here, we will also have the opportunity to expand by integrating a clinical and lab

digital observation database, biobank and an image repository. This project is also supported by PAHO and US CDC.

The immediate priority is to build our relationship with Africa CDC and establish hubs in Africa where we equip and support the many eminent experts on the ground. They will be able to leverage the learnings from South America and develop solutions that are both uniquely local whilst building a globally integrated dataset which can give rise to new insights and accelerate the development of new and more effective diagnostics and treatments.

GAFFI is investing in strengthening its Board and Executive to ensure we are equipped to build the network of strategic partnerships needed to implement the strategy and provide the support the hubs are requesting. We are also actively looking for funding partnerships that will allow us to make the multi-year commitments needed to build the local expertise, experience and infrastructure required to establish sustainable operating models that become independent of ongoing philanthropic financing.

We would be delighted to hear from you if you want to learn more about GAFFI, our work and plans going forward. This is one of the few areas remaining in the medical field where we already have solutions waiting to be implemented at affordable prices that will save millions of lives.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'O. Aasheim', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Oddi Aasheim  
Chairman