

## 2014-15 Technical Coordinators

### CADRE CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

Philip J. Silvers (USA)

Francis F. Tsubira (Uganda)

### BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY

Maureen V. Duncan (USA)

Ian W. Geddes (Scotland)

Jones Y. Kyazze (Uganda)

### CHILD & MATERNAL HEALTH

Himansu K. Basu (England)

Catherine Noyer-Riveau (France)

Deepak M. Purohit (India)

### DISEASE TREATMENT & PREVENTION

Rajaratnam T. Arasu (Malaysia)

Estela Emeric (Argentina)

Frederick W. Hahn Jr. (USA)

### ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Deniel Banks (USA)

Chalermchat Chun-In (Thailand)

Jean-Claude Piers de Raveschoot  
(France)

### PEACE & CONFLICT RESOLUTION

David I. Clifton Jr. (USA)

Hugh Munro (Scotland)

Mark Zober (Israel)

### WATER & SANITATION

Kenneth W. Grabeau (USA)

John Kevan (Australia)

Vishwas Sahasrabhojane (India)

## Message from the Chair

Phil Silvers

Dear cadre volunteers:

It is an honor to be asked by Trustee Chairman John Kenny to chair the Cadre of Technical Advisers, and it is a challenge to follow the leadership of RI Director Mike Webb.

I will be consulting in coming weeks with Chairman John and with General Secretary John Hewko and his staff to identify potential directions for the cadre. We learned a lot at the cadre training events in Sydney. There is a wealth of talent and dedication within this group. We learned that of the 415 cadre members, 62 percent of us have received at least one assignment – a process that takes into account many factors. We also surmised that many Rotarians have never heard of the cadre, and those who have perceive it in very narrow way. The cadre has skills shortages in water and sanitation and maternal and child health, and needs to increase membership in Africa, Southeast Asia, and among Spanish-speaking financial auditors in North and Central America. In addition, sustainability is still an elusive concept for many TRF project planners and proposal writers.

Many of you are Rotary friends who already know me. However, TRF staff asked me to provide a brief profile here. I have a doctorate in higher education /public administration and have been a program evaluation research and strategic planning professional for more than 40 years, and for eight years taught graduate research methods at a major university. My proposal-writing and research projects — some of which run into the millions of dollars — have included epidemiology, workforce econometrics, early childhood development and literacy, indigenous health services, and criminal justice. I have been honored to represent Rotary in 37 countries on six continents, as a team leader, speaker, and president's representative.

Please share your thoughts and aspirations for the cadre at [silverlode@cox.net](mailto:silverlode@cox.net). Chairman John is an eager listener.

Phil Silvers,  
RI Director, 2008-10  
Chair, Cadre of Technical Advisers 2014-17



### Remember to visit the cadre's shared site

If you're a registered cadre member, you can use the site by signing in to My Rotary at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) and visiting the Rotary Workgroup section in your profile. The site serves as a document resource, survey tool, and news and information center. Contribute to discussion groups, download training documents, access the *Tech Talk* archive, view photo galleries, and more.

## In Our Own Words

### The Fight Against Tuberculosis in Lithuania

Axel von Bierbrauer, Rotary Club of Neunkirchen/Saar, Germany (District 1860)



Dr. Axel von Bierbrauer checks out a tuberculosis diagnostic unit during his visit to the university hospital in Vilnius, Lithuania.

***Editor's note: Some identifying details, such as names of the project location and sponsors, have been omitted, to ensure confidentiality.***

A post-project site visit to Lithuania — this was my first assignment as a cadre member, this January. The assignment was quite well matched to my qualifications as a pulmonologist and infectious disease specialist, as it centered on a \$700,000 3-H grant for fighting tuberculosis (TB) in Lithuania.

Lithuania, in northeastern Europe, gained independence from the former Soviet Union during the early 1990s. One result was that the health care system collapsed, and the incidence of TB dramatically increased. Lithuania came to have one of the highest incidences of TB and one of the highest TB death rates in Europe. An especially major concern was the observed increase of multi-drug-resistant TB (MDR-TB), which could eventually spill over to neighboring

countries, as well as to Western Europe.

Rotarians in Lithuania, together with Danish Rotarians in their binational District 1460, had been engaged since these early years in the fight against TB, and in 2008 they continued their dedication by setting up a four-year 3-H grant for reducing the spread, morbidity, and mortality of TB in Lithuania.

The project comprises 12 TB centers all over the country, with the more sophisticated diagnostic procedures being performed in the university hospitals in Kaunas and Vilnius. It especially aimed at providing faster TB diagnosis, assuring correct treatment, improving the nutritional status of TB patients, and increasing TB awareness in the community, as well as supporting the government in launching additional programs to fight TB.

To reach these goals, the most important activities were supplying reagents and microscope slides for TB testing; purchasing a sophisticated TB diagnostic unit for Kaunas University; distributing brochures, giving talks, and producing television spots for patients and the public; distributing nutritional packages to improve the general health of TB patients; and motivating patients to complete the whole course of treatment, through an incentive system.

During my visit to various places in Lithuania, including both university hospitals, I experienced three days full of information, communication, and

discussion with many engaged Lithuanian Rotarians, doctors, and nurses, as well as with beneficiaries. It turned out that the project was well-planned, accurately implemented, and stringently conducted. The continuous and powerful support by the international sponsors (the Danish Rotarians) may definitely serve as an outstanding example of successful international cooperation.

Nearly all elements of the five objectives were fulfilled. Particularly with regard to important epidemiological TB index numbers (e.g., reduced rate of death, decreasing incidence), there is objective evidence of the success of the project. However, the full effect may be visible only in the coming years. The challenge will be to maintain the results through further continuous improvement of diagnostic techniques (a follow-up grant is underway) in concurrence with the intensified engagement of the Lithuanian health care authorities.

My first assignment for me personally was a great experience — I really was able to feel the sense of Rotary on many points within this project, and furthermore, I gained a lot of useful stimulation for running my own holistic global grant project near Lake Victoria in rural Kenya.

## A recap of the cadre training in Sydney



Cadre members (from left) Mark Zober, Peter Cheng and DG Korhan Atilla were among the participants.

More than 50 Rotarians from 16 countries and geographical areas participated in the cadre's training efforts at the 2014 Rotary International Convention in Sydney. Past RI President Ray Klinginsmith kicked things off by discussing the global launch of the Foundation's new grant model in 2013 and the importance of the cadre's role in the stewardship of Foundation funds. Attendees had the opportunity to meet with other Rotarians within their area of expertise for roundtable discussions on water and sanitation, health, economic and community development, peace and conflict resolution, and financial auditing.

A panel of current and former cadre technical coordinators (Past RI Director Keith Barnard-Jones, child and maternal health; PDG Sylvia Byers, basic education and literacy; and PDG John Kevan, water and



sanitation) answered questions and discussed their experiences in the field on cadre assignments. Also, the attendees participated in a group activity designed to enhance monitoring and evaluation skills through the simulation of a cadre site visit. The exercise aimed to replicate in a single afternoon the interactions that cadre members have during the course of a typical three-day site visit, with Rotarians, project beneficiaries, representatives of cooperating organizations, and others involved in a grant's implementation. Points of emphasis included Rotary's monitoring and evaluation efforts and community needs assessments and the cadre's role in supporting sustainable projects.

With each cadre training, we try new techniques and utilize different formats so that repeat attendees experience a unique and informative session. If you would like to offer feedback or ideas for future cadre training, email [cadre@rotary.org](mailto:cadre@rotary.org). Your input is critical as we aim to provide the best possible experience. For those who were unable to attend the training event in Sydney, all presentations and training materials are available on the cadre shared site. The Stewardship Department would like to extend a very special thanks to all Rotarians who participated in the training, especially to our presenters and those who assisted with the site visit exercise. Thank you also to Rotarians Mark Zober and Peter Cheng for providing the photos of the training you see in this issue. We thank everyone for their interest in the cadre's development



opportunities.

The next cadre training will be held in conjunction with the 2015 Rotary International Convention in São Paulo. Details will be announced later this Rotary year.



### Recent Cadre Visits



This bakery was among the small businesses, launched with the help of a 3-H grant, that cadre member Maureen Duncan visited in Bolivia.



Members of a Rotary Community Corps gather during cadre member Jane Mung'oma's evaluation of economic and community development projects in Uganda.

## The Rotary Foundation's Area of Focus Managers

Area of focus managers provide support and guidance for Rotarians' activities in The Rotary Foundation's six areas of focus. Managers are available for consultation on new initiatives and project design and collaborate with cadre members to strengthen grant projects. The next few issues of *Tech Talk* will feature the biographies of the managers. Contact information for all of the area of focus managers can be found [in this document](#).



### **Erica Gwynn—water and sanitation**

Erica Gwynn is the area of focus manager for water and sanitation and also manages the Rotary International/USAID International H2O Collaboration and the Project Enhancement Process (PEP) pilot. She provides technical and program design support for a variety of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programming initiatives.

Erica holds a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's in aquatic toxicology and environmental health from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Her career has focused on the links between WASH, public health, and the environment.

She has collaborated on or led investigations into water resource management, water quality, and chemical pollution in the Great Lakes region, the Arctic, Latin America, and East Africa. She has worked as a scientist for various agencies and institutions, including the University of Michigan, the U.S. Department of Natural Resources, Paragon Laboratories, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In 2008, she was awarded a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship to live and work in Jocotepec, Mexico, for two years, investigating the biological and socioeconomic links between heavy metals in Lake Chapala, Mexico, and the dietary habits of local women of childbearing age.

Erica's research background allowed her to transition easily to development and implementation of programs related to watershed management and WASH, particularly those related to household water treatment, community water distribution systems, and hygiene and health education. She simultaneously serves as director of A Vision for Clean Water, a nonprofit organization focused on facilitation and capacity building in WASH. She joined Rotary in December 2012.



### **Mary Jo Jean-Francois — basic education and literacy**

Mary Jo Jean-Francois is a global education professional who supports Rotarian efforts related to basic education and literacy. She has worked in education both in the United States and abroad but began her career as the district director for a state representative in Chicago. Quickly realizing that her interests lay primarily in strengthening the representative's education policies and improving schools within the district, Mary Jo left her work in government to volunteer as a teacher in Haiti. She worked in education in Haiti both before and after the 2010 earthquake. While there, she served as the director of community

development for The Haitian Project, country program manager for

Outreach International, and education manager and education technical adviser for World Vision International. While with World Vision, she managed the education, advocacy, and disaster risk reduction portions of a \$5 million education grant from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). She also served on the United Nations education cluster as a strategic group member. Mary Jo focuses on educational programming and is particularly passionate about community assessment in education, teacher training, and program evaluation. She joined Rotary's staff in April 2013, after being inspired by Haitian Rotarians' passion for serving their own communities. Her work centers on applying the Foundation's grant-making policies and encouraging high-quality project design. Mary Jo holds a BA in political science from Loras College and an MS in public service management from DePaul University.

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