

To: Beth Balderston <info@cervicalcanceraction.org>
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From Email: info@cervicalcanceraction.org
Subject: Cervical Cancer Action news: Gates Foundation announces "Grand Challenge" for cervical cancer screening
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Cervical Cancer Action News Brief | February 2015

News and views of interest to our community

Gates Foundation announces "Grand Challenge" for cervical cancer screening

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has announced the 17th round of Grand Challenge Explorations, including a challenge to improve cervical cancer screening at scale.

The Challenge program website explains:

"To encourage innovators around the world to think outside the box and potentially address challenges outside their primary field of work, we are posing a short and concise list of key challenges that remain unmet by the world's greatest minds. We ask that applicants review our priority funding areas for additional information and consider ideas that can be sufficiently tested within the scope of a GCE Phase I award (\$100,000 USD over 18 months). While these are big challenges and we don't expect complete solutions here, we expect proposals to clearly outline success metrics to help us understand whether the idea will ultimately be transformative. We seek ideas that are 'off the beaten track,' daring in premise, and clearly different from the approaches currently being developed or employed."

This is the specific challenge:

Enable self-testing for cervical cancer

"High-throughput and low-cost point-of-care/contact tests are needed by cervical cancer prevention programs that use HPV mobile screening campaigns. Clinically-validated nucleic acid biomarkers offer high sensitivity for diagnosing women with cervical cancer or pre-cancer (histologically confirmed CIN2+ or higher lesions) but suffer from low to medium specificity, resulting in additional resources to identify those who are harboring or at risk of developing cancer. We seek biomarkers that can be measured in simple-to-collect cervical, vaginal and urine specimens to diagnose women with cervical cancer or pre-cancer (histologically confirmed CIN2+ or higher lesions) in a screening population. Preferred biomarkers will have preliminary clinical evidence that targeted biomarkers are non-inferior to current validated biomarkers, and can be reliably measured in less than two hours with minimal instrumentation and operator processing."

Learn more at [The Grand Challenges home page](#).

Cervical Cancer Action Governing Council

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