

MEDICUBA-EUROPA, **A GROWING SOLIDARITY NETWORK THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT**

April 2013

Dear Friends:

MediCuba-Europa is currently, as it has been for the last 15 years, the only European wide network of Cuban solidarity organisations focusing on healthcare. MediCuba Europa has full and associate member organisations across 12 European countries, who share projects and resources with a common objective: solidarity with the Cuban health system.

The work of MediCuba-Europa is coordinated and given cohesion through its 'Common Fund'. The Fund guarantees the continuity and sustainability of projects and facilitates a permanent flow of solidarity – this is particularly important when emergencies arise.

Since our establishment MediCuba-Europa has contributed to the development of the Cuban health system, and hence helped guarantee universal access to the right to health of the Cuban people, through: research and development projects, sourcing hi-tech equipment for Cuba, and supporting the manufacture of medicines in Cuba.



Currently MediCuba-Europa is engaged in solidarity and cooperation projects with Cuba across five programme areas:

- Supporting the manufacture of medicines in Cuba through projects supporting supplying raw materials and equipment to the Cuban pharmaceutical industry within the framework of the Cuban National Plan on Import Substitution, and circumventing the US blockade which has a particular impact on medicines and transnational pharmaceutical companies.
- Support for cancer surgery through cancer action research projects, the provision of high-tech surgical equipment, professional exchanges, training and scientific diffusion.
- Medical, chemical and bio-pharmaceutical research and development through projects supporting technological development in the Havana "Science Park" in particular the biotechnology sector and Centre of Molecular Immunology (CIM) which develops vaccines, anti-bodies and other products for applied biomedicine. We also support, in the bio-pharmaceutical sector, development and production projects of anti-asthmatic and anti-cancer drugs in collaboration with the Cuban Centre for Research and Development of Medicines (CIDEM).
- Paediatric Antitumor One of the most inhumane impacts of the blockade imposed by the US government against Cuba is it can make it impossible to obtain vital medicines for children including paediatric antitumor drugs. MediCuba-Europa supports initiatives to get around this, through both the direct supply of such medicines but also through research and development initiatives for pharmaceutical products in Cuba aimed at cancer treatment for children.
- Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM). MediCuba-Europa contributes, through material support and the supply of hi-technology equipment, to this extraordinary international educational solidarity Project by Cuba. The ELAM trains doctors from 110 countries, in a prime example of internationalist solidarity and south-south cooperation.



Cuba is presently facing a fresh crisis which aggravates its already delicate situation. The damage caused by hurricane Sandy, has necessitated the diversion of resources which sustain vital scientific health research to finance the urgent reconstruction effort in the parts of Cuba most seriously hit by the storm. The support of MediCuba Europa in plugging this gap is hence in effect indirectly supporting reconstruction in the present national post-emergency situation. One of our projects involves the replacement of the generator which powers one of the main pieces of apparatus in the Centre of Molecular Immunology, which was damaged by the hurricane.

From 1997 on mediCuba-Europa has collaborated with the Cuban health sector and has succeeded in mobilising sufficient resources to do so thanks to the solidarity of thousands of person who work with the organisations that form part of MediCuba-Europa across the continent.

Today, in the era of economic crisis in Europe, when official institutional Support for our projects is being reduced or terminated, we more than ever need support from civil society organisations and individual citizens. We therefore invite you to support MediCuba-Europa solidarity with Cuba through contributing to our Common Fund. Your support is essential to us and will assist in solidarity with Cuba, an example to the world of upholding health as a fundamental the right of humanity.

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