

For Immediate Release

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GLOBAL VIRAL FORECASTING INITIATIVE (GVFI) and
GVF Inc. ANNOUNCE NEW INITIATIVES AND STRUCTURE

GVFI NOW KNOWN AS GLOBAL VIRAL;
GVF Inc. NOW KNOWN AS METABIOTA

San Francisco, CA –Global Viral Forecasting Initiative, a non-profit organization and Global Viral Forecasting Inc., a for-profit company, have worked in tandem since 2009 to conduct in-depth field research and services to better understand and control the spread of microbial threats.

Founded by Dr. Nathan Wolfe, both organizations have sought to improve public health surveillance in partnership with governments, universities and private organizations. “As the needs of the global public health community have evolved, our organizations have adapted to better serve,” notes Dr. Wolfe. “Our new names reflect this evolution. We are committed to innovation and to being on the leading edge of scientific work.”

Global Viral Forecasting Initiative (GVFI), now known as Global Viral, has evolved its mission concurrent to the needs of the global public health community. Going forward, Global Viral will focus on scientific leadership, community health development & education and exploratory research.

Global Viral Board member Sally O’Brien says of the changes, “I’m excited about the broadening of Global Viral’s mission. We’re proud of the critical health infrastructure we’ve built in our sites in Africa and Asia. Expanding our reach to leadership development and further exploration of the microbial world is a natural progression for the organization.”

Global Viral will soon announce details of a newly established competitive fellowship program. The Global Viral Fellows program will develop future leaders of global health by embedding emerging scientists into an international network of governments, academics and NGO partners.

On the for-profit side, going forward GVF Inc. will be known as Metabiota. Taking inspiration from the scientific term, which describes the stable relationship between a group of hosts and their microbial inhabitants, Metabiota will continue to provide services to governments and the private sector as GVF Inc. has for years.

The company specializes in microbial threat detection, evaluation and response through the integration of field and lab research. Metabiota products and services include: global field-based biological threat research, pathogen discovery, outbreak response and clinical trials.

Learn more about Global Viral at globalviral.org and Metabiota at metabiota.com.

About Global Viral

Global Viral's mission is to promote understanding, exploration and stewardship of the microbial world. Originally founded as the Global Viral Forecasting Initiative (GVFI), Global Viral is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit that received seed funding from google.org and the Skoll Foundation in 2008. Among its current activities, the Global Viral Fellows program supports research, data and policy leaders and links them together in a network aimed at addressing the most important global infectious disease threats. Global Viral maintains its headquarters in San Francisco, CA and has ongoing activities in sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia.

About Metabiota

Metabiota's mission is to mitigate threats from, and create harmony with, the microbial world. Metabiota develops and implements products, services & technologies for governments and the private sector. The company specializes in disease and pathogen detection, evaluation and response through the integration of field & lab research with health data analytics. Metabiota has a demonstrated track record in international collaboration, scientific and public health surveillance capacity building, and research with high public health impact. Metabiota maintains offices in San Francisco, CA, Washington, DC, and Guangzhou, China.

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