

The John Edward Fogarty International Center

Advancing science for global health since 1968



Congressman John Edward Fogarty: a champion for global health research



Decades before phrases like “globalization” and “multiculturalism” became commonplace, Rep. John Edward Fogarty (D-RI) advocated for international health research to reduce suffering and foster peace and prosperity throughout the world. Over

the course of his 27 years in Congress, Fogarty was a champion for NIH and for the value of medical research. During his tenure as Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee with responsibility for health funding, the budget for NIH grew from \$37 million in 1949 to \$1.24 billion in 1967.

Fogarty’s remarkable achievements belie his humble beginnings. Born in Rhode Island to a second-generation Irish immigrant family, his formal education was limited and he followed his father into the bricklaying trade.

His political career began when he was elected president of the local bricklayers’ union. Three years later, he defeated five prominent Democrats in the primaries and went on to win a seat in Congress. He was a mere 26 years old.

Over the years, Fogarty repeatedly, but unsuccessfully, argued for the creation of an international health research institute to promote the study of global health problems. His sudden death of a heart attack on January 10, 1967, provided the catalyst that finally brought his “Health for Peace” center into existence in July 1968. Since then, the John E. Fogarty International Center has assumed a prominent place in the global health community, funding research and building sustainable scientific capacity at home and abroad.



“I visualize this center . . . as representing the visible and tangible embodiment of this nation’s devotion to the use of science for peaceful purposes and the good of mankind.”

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

www.fic.nih.gov

REP. JOHN EDWARD FOGARTY

1913–1967