

**SUMMARY**  
**NIH INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES MEETING**  
**January 10, 2006**

Dr. Sharon Hrynkow, Director, Fogarty International Center (FIC), welcomed the IC representatives to the Stone House. She next introduced the presenters at today's meeting, Dr. Dean T. Jamison, FIC, on the Disease Control Priorities Project (DCPP) update and Dr. Michael St. Louis, CDC Coordinating Office for Global Health, on an update on Science and Global Health at the CDC.

Disease Control Priorities Project Update: Dr. Jamison provided an overview of the recently concluded DCPP, its outcomes and next steps in its dissemination. He noted that the DCPP is an alliance of organizations, led by FIC, designed to review, generate and disseminate information on how to improve population health in developing countries. The DCPP's principal partners are FIC, the World Bank, the World Health Organization, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He provided details as to the two DCPP objectives to inform health sector decision-making in developing countries to decrease illness, disability, death and economic burden, and broadly communicating such findings throughout the world. He also provided the history and genesis of the DCCP that was based as a follow-up to a 1993 World Bank report on "Disease Control Priorities in Developing Countries." A 1200-page DCPP publication is set for release on April 3 at a major event hosted by the Chinese scientific community in Beijing. It will also be presented at a series of international health policy meetings thereafter. Dr. Jamison noted that the National Library of Medicine has been instrumental in devising a searchable internet-based system for accessing the report which should go far in enabling others to use it as a major policy tool. It was noted by Dr. Hrynkow that many chapters of the report were co-written by senior NIH staff from a range of ICs. Moreover, several ICs provided support for preparation and review of key chapters of the report. Dr. Jamison's full PowerPoint presentation on this report is attached to this summary. This same presentation was also made to Dr. Zerhouni and all IC Directors recently.

Update on Science and Global Health at the CDC: Dr. Michael St. Louis provided an overview of CDC's renewed efforts to include global health as one of its six strategic imperatives. He noted that the "Coordinating Office of Global Health (COGH)", directed by Dr. Steve Blount, is to lead and coordinate CDC's global programs to promote health and prevent disease in the U.S. and abroad, including ensuring rapid detection and response to emerging health threats. Under this mandate COGH is now reaching out to renew partnerships and begin new ones with a range of other principal actors in the global health field, including the NIH, the FIC and other NIH ICs. He noted that over 180 CDC personnel are stationed in various countries throughout the world, with additional slot available for up to 220 CDC positions in total. Dr. St. Louis outlined several ideas for collaboration with the NIH which are included in his attached presentation. Dr. Hrynkow noted that NIH would be pleased to review these ideas and

seek ways to enhance cooperation and collaboration between NIH and CDC. Both noted how these renewed efforts were stimulated by the keynote presentation made by NIH Director Dr. Zerhouni at the Joseph Mountin lecture at CDC recently. Dr. St. Louis will serve as COGH's liaison to FIC and NIH in his role as Science and Global Health Director at COGH. FIC exchanged IC points-of-contact with CDC in order to facilitate future communication and collaboration between COGH and FIC.

International Travel: Dr. Hrynkow noted that FIC had sent inquiries around to the IC representatives to gather information on how DHHS international travel policies and procedures have adversely impacted work conducted by IC scientists. NIH/OD's Kenneth Stith is the NIH point person on this issue. She asked Dr. Jim Herrington, Director of FIC/DIR, to highlight the responses so far. Dr. Herrington offered this abbreviated list of reported concerns that have been raised by ICs:

- Science is international enterprise and the artificial distinction DHHS makes between domestic and international travel is specious at best and destructive at worst.
- DHHS travel policies are overly cumbersome, time eroding, overly restrictive and incompatible with mission of NIH.
- Travel has been inappropriately singled out and restricted.
- Prohibition against use of annual leave during international travel is not family friendly.
- Last minute issuance of tickets caused by last minute receipt of travel clearance from DHHS has resulted in NIH travelers being bumped/delayed, thus significantly affecting work performance and relations with host governments/researchers who have to change their tight work schedules to accommodate late arriving NIH travelers.
- The 50-mile rule has required that staff commute very early in the morning and back to their residence late at night for at least a week...or pay out of pocket to stay at the Baltimore site to rest. Being on one's feet and available for researchers attending these events from breakfast through evening sessions seemed counter-productive and unnecessarily burdensome for staff well-being and may have hampered their ability to sustain optimal responsiveness. Further, it is not family friendly.
- International travel is work, not relaxation, and causes stress and exhaustion that is not considered realistically with coach travel restrictions for > 9 hour flights.
- Omega Travel does not appear to view NIH employee as valued customer.
- Omega Travel does not appear to obtain lowest cost airfares.
- Omega Travel does not offer quality lodging, within per diem, at international destinations.

Dr. Hrynkow noted that this information will be provided by NIH to make the case that DHHS/OGHA travel policy and other policies should be amended to afford greater flexibility for NIH to pursue its scientific mission in the most efficient and effective manner possible, while considering the employee as the most valuable asset to NIH.

Support for HHS/OGHA Activities: Dr. Hrynkow briefly reported on a request that she sent to the IC representatives regarding the NIH FY 2006 assessment to defray costs that HHS/OGHA accrues/incurs each fiscal year to support its international health activities. She noted that NIH is requested to provide nearly \$2 million from across the NIH ICs to fund HHS/OGHA priorities. She requested that ICs provide input noting where such HHS/OGHA activities have been helpful or less than helpful in the past so that NIH may have information as to how it thinks its resources should be expended by HHS/OGHA.

FIC Report: Dr. Elias Zerhouni, accompanied by Dr. Hrynkow, visited Beijing from December 19-21. Dr. Zerhouni was participating as a member of the Heads of International Research Organizations (HIRO) group meeting to discuss shared interests and concerns in medical research. Dr. Zerhouni also held discussions with the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (CAMS), and the President of the National Science Foundation of China. Chinese S&T officials noted to Dr. Zerhouni that China would double its scientific research budget over the next five years. During his visit, Dr. Zerhouni also signed an amendment to the NIH-CAS Memorandum of Understanding to expand the scope of collaboration between the two organizations, and also include other Chinese organizations, such as the CAMS and the Chinese Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Embassy Science Fellow Program (ESFP): The ESFP is a program designed to place USG scientists at an overseas Post for one to three months to provide expertise, advice and assistance with issues relating to the environment, science and technology and health. The Fellow's Agency pays for salary, non-lodging per diem, and international travel costs, while the Post must provide housing, office space, computer, e-mail/Internet access, and local transportation cost. The ESFP provides a valuable mechanism through which experts from USG technical agencies can assist Posts on country specific issues. The U.S. Embassy in Laos has accepted an NIAID staff member to come and provide expertise in the area of infectious diseases, including avian flu, in the summer of 2006. NIH applicants are currently being considered for the U.S. Embassies in Brazil (medical research regulation) and Indonesia (infectious diseases). The 2006 ESFP cycle will begin in mid-February when the State Department sends an announcement cable to which Posts can respond with a request of USG experts, including biomedical and public health researchers.

FIC Advisory Board Meeting: Dr. Hrynkow noted that the FIC Advisory Board will have its open meeting on Tuesday, February 7 from 8:30 to 11:45 a.m. in the NIH Stone House. Speakers will include Dr. Hrynkow and Dr. Joel Breman who will be presenting on the results of the DCCP. Dr. Hrynkow also noted that Dr. Ting-Kai Li, Director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism will now be serving as an ex officio member of the Board. Further information on the Board meeting may be obtained from FIC's Dr. Jean Flagg-Newton.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 14, 2006, at 1 p.m. in the NIH Stone House.

Attendance:

Dr. Sharon Hrynkow, FIC Acting Director; Mr. George Herrfurth, Executive Secretary; Ms. Julia Royall, NLM; Dr. Lana Shekim, NIDCD; Dr. Mike St. Louis, CDC; Ms. Helen Wegman, NHLBI; Ms. Isabel Ellis, NIAAA; Dr. Craig Carlson, NCCAM; Ms. Dale Weiss, NIDA; Dr. Lois Cohen, NIDCR; Dr. Karen Babich, NIMH; Dr. John Haller, NIBIB; Dr. Danuta Krotoski, NICHD; Dr. Sherry Mills, OER; Dr. Yuan Liu, NINDS; Dr. David Sorrentino, NIAID; Ms. Gail Wolfson, OAR; Dr. Nell Armstrong, NINR; Dr. Michael Chang, NCRR; Dr. Jose Serrano, NIDDK; Ms. Kathleen Collins and Ms. Katie Herz, NIAID. FIC Staff: Dr. Ken Bridbord, Dr. Flora Katz, Dr. Barbar Sina, Dr. Jeanne McDermott, Dr. Joel Breman, Ms. Nalini Anand, Ms. Anne Bertini, Ms. Sonja Madera, Dr. Dean Jamison, Dr. James Herrington, Dr. Chris Schonwalder, Dr. Karen Hofman, Dr. Ann Davis, Mr. Kevin Bialy, Dr. Henry Francis, Mr. John Makulowich