

## **Summary of NIH International Highlights**

**May - July 2004**

Dr. Elias Zerhouni, NIH Director, accompanied by FIC Acting Director Dr. Sharon Hrynkow, met with Dr. Natasa Karamanlis, the wife of the Greek Prime Minister, who visited NIH to meet with Dr. John Gallin and his staff at the NIH Clinical Center, as well as with Greek-American scientists and Greek postdoctoral fellows at NIH. FIC also hosted a luncheon for Dr. Karamanlis and the NIH scientists and postdoctoral fellows at the Stone House.

Dr. Zerhouni, together with Dr. Hrynkow and DIR Program Officer for Africa and the Middle East, Ms. Judy Levin, met with Jordan's Minister of Health, Mr. Said Darwazeh and Jordan's Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Karim Kwar, on June 1. The purpose of the meeting, held at the request of the Secretary Thompson, was to explore avenues for strengthening the research collaborations between U.S. and Jordanian scientists. Minister Darwazeh also met with several IC Directors, including NCI's Dr. Von Eschenbach, NICHD's Dr. Alexander and NHLBI's Acting Director Dr. Alving during his visit to NIH.

### **Fogarty International Center (FIC)**

May 20 – Dr. Hrynkow met with Sarah Brandel, Senior Official for the Arctic, DOS, to discuss opportunities for US leadership in Arctic-wide collaboration on health matters in connection with Russia's assuming the Chairmanship of the Arctic Council.

May 24 – Dr. Hrynkow met with Dr. Ferruccio Bonino, Scientific Director of the Italian National Institute of Molecular Genetics. The discussion focused on collaboration between DHHS and the Italian Ministry of Health, and how to establish an Italian counterpart of the Fogarty Center devoted to the development of culture of science in Italy.

May 27 – Dr. Hrynkow met with Mr. Bruno Schmits, Head of the Unit on Research Training Networks, Directorate of the Human Factor, Mobility, Marie Curie Activities, Research Directorate, European Commission. She presented an overview of extramural, intramural and FIC training and research grants to Mr. Schmits

June 1 – Dr. Hrynkow and FIC Acting Deputy Director, Mr. Richard Millstein, met with the Department of State's new Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health, Space and Science, Dr. Lee Morin, and Ms. Judith Kaufmann, Director of State's Office of International Health Affairs, to discuss State Department support for NIH global health research efforts.

June 2 – Dr. Hrynkow spoke to the faculty and students at the University of Virginia on "Opportunities and Trends in Global Health".

June 15 - Dr. Hrynkow attended the Annual Meeting of the National Academy of Science's Roundtable on Science and Technology for Sustainability.

June 16 - Dr. Hrynkow and Dr. Aron Primack, FIC Program Officer in the Division of International Training and Research, met with Professor Peter Smith, Dean, Medical and Health Sciences, New Zealand, to talk about global outreach initiatives in medical research and health care.

June 16 – Dr. Hrynkow attended the NAS program entitled "Bridges to Independence: Opportunities & Challenges to Fostering the Independence of Young Investigators in the Life Sciences". This meeting was a follow-up to an October meeting chaired by Dr. Kirschstein on postdoctoral training. Recommendations from that meeting were presented to the Advisory Committee to the Director. The NAS meeting provided background for decisions that NIH will make regarding post-doctoral training and fostering independence of young investigators.

June 16 – Dr. Hrynkow met with Dr. Bruce Scoggins, the Chief Executive Officer of the Health Research Council of New Zealand together with FIC Program staff on June 16. The purpose of the meeting was to investigate opportunities for partnering and collaboration between U.S. and New Zealand biomedical researchers.

June 23 – Dr. Hrynkow and FIC staff hosted representatives from the foreign diplomatic corps from Latin American and Caribbean region for an afternoon of presentations by NIH IC Directors on recent advances in sciences and to discuss areas of need or opportunities for international collaborations. Drs. Hrynkow, von Eschenbach, Vokow, and Alving made presentations.

June 24 – FIC, with the delegation from Rhode Island, hosted a program entitled "Emerging Trends in Global Health: The Silent Epidemic of Mental Health Disorders" on Capitol Hill. Senators Reed and Chafee and Representatives Kennedy and Langevin provided remarks. Drs. Thomas Insel, Nora Volkow and Barbara Alving of NIH spoke on the global burden of mental illness.

June 29 – July 3 – Dr. Hrynkow traveled with the U.S. Delegation led by Secretary Thompson to Moscow and St. Petersburg to meet with the Russian Minister of Health and high level Ministry staff and to visit the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences and the Pediatric AIDS Center. Dr. von Eschenbach also served on the U.S. delegation.

July 8-9 – Dr. Hrynkow attended the National Academy of Sciences 9th International Polar Year (IPY) Implementation Workshop. The workshop was organized around the recommendations in the National Academies' Polar Research Board to assess environmental and social change in the polar regions; to explore new scientific frontiers; to develop critical human and physical infrastructure; and to excite and engage the public.

July 9 – Dr Hrynkow met with Hungary’s Minister of Health, Dr. Mihaly Kokeny, and his staff about collaborative efforts and opportunities between NIH and Hungarian research institutions.

Dr. Millstein and Dr. Aron Primack met with Dr. Moussa Maiga, Deputy Director-General, West African Health Organization, and Dr. Samba Duale, SARA Project, on May 24 to discuss possible FIC collaboration in the sub-Saharan region of Africa.

Dr. Pierce Gardner, FIC Senior Scientist for Clinical Research and Training, participated in a May 13 workshop at Howard University on “The Implications of Global Health Trends for Health Professional Education”. Dr. Gardner gave a presentation on NIH-funded opportunities for international research training for students in the health professions.

Mr. Rob Eiss, Senior Advisor for Strategic Initiatives, represented FIC at a conference on “Brain Drain, Brain Gain: New Challenges” organized by the Cite des Sciences et de L’Industrie in Paris, France from June 30 to July 1. The conference addressed issues involving the global market for scientific personnel in S&T fields, including the increasing involvement of industrial firms in both research and collaboration with the public sector, migration, the expanding transnational cooperation of academic institutions and industrial firms, and training and career development needs required of the new generation of biomedical scientists.

### **Disease Control Priorities Project (DCPP)**

From mid-May through mid-July, the DCPP Secretariat has worked to implement a program of consultations and discussions related to chapter development for the *Disease Control Priorities in Developing Countries*, second edition (DCP-2) and to begin planning the DCPP Strategic Communication Plan for dissemination of DCP-2. To date, the Secretariat has received 50 of the more than 80 chapter drafts.

Sir George Alleyne is actively working with dissemination working group members to draft an action plan and proposal for submission to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. On May 3-4, a Disease Control Priorities Project Strategic Communications Plan Development meeting was held. At a second meeting on July 8, Fleishman Hillard presented proposed strategies, tactics, and opportunities in the Strategic Communications Plan for review and discussion by the DCPP Secretariat and DCPP Partners.

On June 3, Dr. Dean Jamison presented a seminar on “The Economics Returns to Health” to the Caribbean Commission on Health and Development during a technical consultation in St Kitts, based on a recent publication “Health, Wealth, and Welfare” in *Finance & Development* and “Growth Rates of GDP and of ‘Full Income’ in 7 CARICOM Countries, 1960-2000”.

On June 24-25, Dr. Jamison chaired the Institute of Medicine’s Board on Global Health meeting.

On July 1, Dr. Jamison presented a session on “Mapping Interventions” during the Integrating Interventions and Health Systems Workshop in Johannesburg.

Further information on the DCPD can be accessed at: <http://www.fic.nih.gov/dcpp>

## **Bilateral Activities**

### **Africa**

On June 16, Ms. Judy Levin, FIC Program Officer for Africa and the Middle East, met with Dr. Barry Schoub, Director of the South African National Institute for Communicable Diseases and Mr. John Robertson, the CEO of the National Health Laboratory Service in South Africa. She also organized meeting between Dr. Schoub and Mr. Robertson with program specialists from NIAID, FIC and CSR.

### **Asia and the Pacific**

#### **Australia**

On May 17, Mr. Gregg Davis, FIC/DIR Program Officer for East Asia and the Pacific, facilitated meetings between Dr. Wayne Melrose, biomedical research scientist from the James Cook University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, with NIAID scientists to discuss filariasis and other parasitic and vector-borne diseases.

Mr. Davis met with Dr. John Horvath, Australia’s Chief Medical Officer, together with representatives from NIAID, including Drs. Ernest Takafuji and Karl Western, on June 9 to discuss research funding for bioterrorism preparedness and Class A agents.

#### **China**

On May 28, Mr. Davis and Dr. Phil Chen, Senior Advisor to the NIH Deputy Director of Intramural Research, met with Dr. Su Jing, from China’s Ministry of Science and Technology, and Mr. Sun Hui and Mr. Xu Jie from the Chinese Embassy to discuss the NIH intramural program and budget issues.

#### **Vietnam**

Mr. Davis met with Dr. Pham Trang from Vietnam’s National Institute of Gerontology to discuss opportunities for collaboration on Aging research. Dr. Thang also met with representatives from the National Institute of Aging’s Drs. Joe Rifkind, Huber Warner and Miriam Kelty.

### **Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the Newly Independent States (NIS)**

Ms. Natalie Tomitch, FIC Program Officer for Russia, CEE and NIS, and NICHD’s Dr. Danuta Krotoski participated in a “Bridges in Life Sciences” CEE regional research network meeting focusing on reproductive health and low birth-weight that took place in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, May 10-11. The event included a training component on

grantsmanship and NIH/FIC opportunities for U.S.-CEE collaboration, as well as on technology transfer.

On May 24, Ms. Tomitch participated in a NIH-hosted meeting of the Arctic Human Health Assessment sub-group under the Arctic Monitoring and Pollution (AMAP) working group of the Arctic Council. The purpose of the meeting was to provide progress report on current projects and to discuss the interagency process for developing the next Arctic Health Research Plan, including from the perspective of the NIH Roadmap.

On June 29, Ms. Tomitch met with representatives from the Council of Rectors of Medical Universities of the Central Asian Region (CAR), whose U.S. visit was sponsored by the University of South Florida and the American International Health Alliance. The visitors expressed interest in NIH and FIC research and training opportunities for collaboration, particularly related to HIV/AIDS. Ms. Katie Herz, Specialist in NIAID's Office of Global Affairs, who is the NIAID lead for the upcoming NIH site visit to Central Asia from September 9 to 19, organized this meeting.

Ms. Tomitch participated in a CEE/NIS regional conference on Graduate Public Health Education, which took place July 1-3, in Kiev, Ukraine. Representatives of programs and schools of public health throughout the CEE and NIS regions, which are supported by the Open Society Institute and the Association for the Schools of Public Health of Europe, attended this conference. Ms. Tomitch presented a talk on NIH/FIC research and training opportunities for U.S.-CEE collaboration.

## **Middle East**

### Egypt

Eight of the twelve research proposals from the U.S.-Egypt Joint Fund annual call for collaborative projects that were assigned to FIC/NIH for review were approved for funding at the Joint Fund's meeting in Cairo in May.

## **Multilateral Activities**

Mr. George Herrfurth, FIC/DIR Program Officer for Multilateral Coordination, represented NIH in an OSTP-hosted interagency meeting on May 25 regarding potential U.S. involvement in the UNESCO science agenda. OSTP is developing proposals for greater USG involvement with UNESCO's science agenda and programs focused on freshwater.

Mr. Herrfurth organized a meeting between Dr. Albino Belotto, Chief of PAHO's Veterinary Public Health Unit and PAHO's Dr. Primo Arambulo with representatives from NCCR, NIAID and the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use to discuss the Peruvian Primatology Project. The PPP currently provides approximately 250 primates annually for NIH intra- and extramural research. PAHO is currently seeking support for infrastructure improvements for PPP facilities.

## **Program Notes**

Dr. Mark Miller, Director, FIC Division of International Epidemiology and Population Studies (EPS), attended the Annual Global Vaccine Research Forum in Montreux, Switzerland, from June 7-11. Dr. Miller, together with EPS's Dr. Cecile Viboud, also attended a Workshop on Pandemic Influenza hosted by the Institute of Medicine in Washington, D.C. on June 16-17.

Dr. Ellis McKenzie, EPS Senior Scientist, served on an NIGMS Steering Committee meeting on Models of Infectious Disease Agent Study, May 3-4. From May 20 to 22, Dr. McKenzie, together with EPS Scientist Dr. David Smith, attended a Conference on Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases in Atlanta. Dr. McKenzie also participated in a Technical Advisory Group meeting related to the Malaria Vaccine Initiative from June 15-18 in Basel, Switzerland.

Drs. Jeanne McDermott and Barbara Sina, Program Officers in FIC's Division of International Training and Research (DITR), participated in an NHLBI-convened Working Group on Global Blood Safety meeting on May 28.

Dr. Rachel Nugent, DITR Program Officer, participated in a June 16 meeting in Washington, D.C., of DCPD economists working on chapters related to cardiovascular disease where she presented the analysis of cost-effectiveness of lifestyle-related (obesity and inactivity) interventions.

Dr. Nugent attended a June 22-23 workshop sponsored by NIDDK on Modifiable Behavioral Determinants of Obesity at which NIH scientists and outside experts assessed the state of scientific knowledge about the topic.

On June 26, Dr. Flora Katz, DITR Program Officer, spoke at a meeting of the Conquer Fragile X Foundation on "International Opportunities in Fragile X Research". The Foundation supports both domestic and international research on Fragile X Syndrome and is interested in discussing possible synergies and partnerships with FIC.

From July 4 to 17, Dr. Jeanne McDermott traveled to Thailand to participate in three AIDS-related meetings: A meeting on "Nursing Science and HIV/AIDS: Global Challenges and Opportunities" (July 7-8); a "World Workshop on Oral Health and Disease and AIDS" (July 8-10); and the XV International AIDS Conference (July 11-16).

On July 13-14, Ms. Nalini Anand, Science and Legal Policy Analyst, FIC Division of Advanced Studies and Policy Analysis (DASPA), participated in the American Association for the Advancement of Science's Humanitarian Use Exemption Working Group meeting in Washington, D.C.

**Recent FIC Seminars and Talks**

- June 8 – Ms. Leah Belsky, NIH Clinical Center Department of Bioethics, gave a presentation on “The Ancillary Care Responsibility of Medical Researchers”
- June 23 – Dr. Rebecca Katz, Office of Population Research at Princeton, gave a talk on “Revisiting Yellow Rain: Lessons Learned for the Investigation of Chemical and Biological Weapons Allegations”.
- July 15 – Ms. Caroline Karutu, FIC Division of Advanced Studies and Policy Analysis, gave a presentation on “The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in International Health Research: Promises and Challenges”.

**NHLBI Highlights of International Activities**  
**May – July 2004**

**GLOBAL** - At the initiative of the Acting Director, the NHLBI is developing a Strategic Plan to provide blood transfusion safety programs to countries struggling with limited resources. The Institute hosted an Advisory think tank on Global Blood Safety on May 28 to identify needs, potential collaborative organizations, target countries, and realistic interventions to achieve a safer blood supply.

**WHO**

The NHLBI has been re-designated a WHO/PAHO Collaborating Center for Research and Training in Cardiovascular Diseases in recognition of the Institute's past achievements in prevention and control of cardiovascular diseases and training of international scientists, and NHLBI's plans for continued collaboration with WHO and PAHO.

The Director, NHLBI Division of Lung Diseases, participated in a WHO meeting in Geneva, Switzerland in June to develop plans for a global program to prevent and control the growing health problem of chronic pulmonary disease. throughout the world.

**PAHO** - In 2003, the Directors of NHLBI and the Pan American Health Organization signed a document for joint collaboration in cardiovascular disease prevention and control during the next five years. A major focus of joint activities in the area of heart disease has included the prevention of hypertension which builds on the Institute's Pan American Hypertension Initiative (PAHI) as well as the "Salud para su Corazón" program. On June 28, 2004, the Acting Director, NHLBI and NHLBI staff met with PAHO representatives to plan the agenda for a follow-up meeting of the nine PAHI partners. This meeting has been postponed from June 2004 until October 2004. The meeting will focus on the overall prevention of cardiovascular disease, and be preceded by site visits of NHLBI staff to study sites in countries in Latin America, and reciprocal visits by Latin American health professionals to NHLBI centers focusing on prevention of cardiovascular disease.

**CANADA** - A meeting of NHLBI and Canadian partners was held in April 2004 to discuss US and Canadian proposals in response to the joint RFAs. This meeting is part of the US-Canadian Partnership in Cardiovascular, Pulmonary and Blood Diseases which includes the joint review, evaluation, and funding of programs to address novel strategies to resuscitate heart attack and trauma patients; cellular and molecular imaging of heart, lung, and blood systems; and management of thrombotic disorders such as heart attack, stroke, deep vein thrombosis, and pulmonary embolism. Each program will be conducted at multiple sites in the US and Canada for several years, starting in 2004.

**INDIA** - A six-month visit by an Indian scientist to Nobel Laureate Nirenberg's laboratory is underway.

A visit to India is being planned for the Fall by the Chief of the Hematology Branch to explore collaborative opportunities in the area of hepatitis virus infections and post-hepatitis aplastic anemia as well as in viral hemorrhagic fevers, e.g. dengue.

**IRAQ** - Four proposals were submitted for consideration in the NIH response to the President's \$2.45 B supplemental fund to strengthen the Iraqi health research effort. The proposals concern collaborations in hypertension, asthma, stress in cardiovascular disease, and gender differences in adaptive responses, and blood resources. Also, four NHLBI staff members have expressed interest in assisting in health projects in Iraq in response to an earlier request from DHHS.

**ITALY** - In July and September an Italian scientist from the Department of Pharmacological Sciences, University of Milan will collaborate with colleagues at the Department of Pathology, Harborview Medical Center, Seattle in research vascular smooth cell remodeling, focusing on the re-expression of a glycoprotein involved in the regulation of matrix metalloproteinase activity.

In August, Dr. Franco Bernini, Dept Pharmacological and Biological Sciences, Uni Parma will conduct joint research with Dr. George Rothblat, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia on the pharmacological control of cellular cholesterol metabolism, including the effects of dihydropyridine calcium antagonist on intercellular migration of cholesterol, on extracellular acceptors, and induced cell cytotoxicity.

**RUSSIA** - The Dean of the School of Medicine, Moscow State University, visited US cardiovascular centers during June and presented a paper on joint US-Russia joint research at a major scientific meeting in Boston in June. He is the Russian Coordinator for the US-Russia collaboration in basic research in cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases. He also met with the Acting Director, NHLBI, and the Associate Director for International Programs, NHLBI to discuss future collaborations between US and Russian scientists in areas of mutual interest and benefit.

Three Russian exchange visits are planned for basic research in cardiovascular disease. Host institutions are the University of Rochester, the Indiana Center for Vascular Biology and Medicine, and the third is the University of Pennsylvania. Two of the scientists are coming in September, and one in February.

**VIETNAM** - A Vietnamese scientist worked in the area of bone marrow transplantation in the Hematology Branch, NHLBI Intramural Research in January-May. Follow-up exchanges are planned.

**National Institute of Child Health and Human Development**  
Highlights of International Activities  
May-July 2004

*Trans-NIH Initiative on Monitoring and Management of Grants in the Developing World.* On June 30, 2004, Dr. Danuta Krotoski, Acting Associate Director for Prevention Research and International Programs (PRIP), NICHD, and Dr. Karen Hofman, Director, Division of Advanced Studies and Policy Analysis, FIC, presented to the NIH Extramural Program Management Committee (EPMC) on the challenges associated with the management of research grants to institutions in less developed countries. They also reinforced the need for a trans-NIH tracking system to monitor international grants. The EPMC presentation was a follow-up to the December 16, 2003 NIH roundtable discussion on the management and monitoring of grants in the developing world that was attended by representatives of 15 NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices.

Also related to these issues is an NIH-organized workshop to be held in the Fall 2004 with representatives of organizations that provide research grants to scientists and institutions in the developing world. A planning meeting at NIH on July 14 identified potential participants from both governmental and non-governmental funding organizations. The focus of the workshop will be on both challenges and successful approaches to effective foreign grants management. The NIH committee to plan the workshop includes: Dr. Danuta Krotoski, NICHD; Drs. Karen Hofman, Kenneth Bridbord, and Jeanne McDermott, FIC; Drs. Paula Strickland, Karl Western, and Michael Hollingdale, NIAID; Dr. Jack Killen, NCCAM, Dr. Jodi Black, NCI, Dr. Karen Babich, NIMH, Dr. Lois Cohen, NIDCR, and Dr. Douglas Boyd, NHLBI.

*International Extramural Associates Program (IEAP).* The NICHD is developing an RFA to establish an International Extramural Associates Program (IEAP). The purpose of this initiative is to train a cadre of scientists/administrators who can provide effective administration, at their home institutions, of research funded by the U.S. government and/or international organizations. Modeled after the NICHD Extramural Associates Program (EAP), the IEAP will aim to increase participation of developing country institutions and scientists in biomedical and behavioral research and research training through an integrated residency and institutional grant support program. The IEAP curriculum, based on the already existing EAP curriculum, will include training specific to conducting NIH-funded research in developing countries. The NICHD will be posting an announcement about this RFA in the NIH Early Notification System. ICs with potential interest in this new program should contact Dr. Danuta Krotoski at NICHD for further information.

*President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).* A meeting was held on May 21 in Washington D.C. at the Secretariat, Global AIDS Coordinator's offices, "Essential Principles of the Network Model and Emergency Plan Activities to Enhance National Networks" that was attended by Drs. Heather Watts and Jennifer Read, Medical Officers in the PAMA Branch, NICHD. Dr. Read also participated in a subsequent working group on May 27 to finalize recommendations. The meeting focused on defining the principles

that should guide the “layered network model for care” that is being supported by PEPFAR in the 15 PEPFAR countries, which include Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guyana, Haiti, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam, and Zambia.

*The Global Network for Women's and Children's Health Research: Global Network Steering Committee V and Global Network Scholar Training.* The fifth Steering Committee for the Global Network for Women's and Children's Health Research (GN) was held in Washington D.C., June 23 to 24, 2004. The Global Network is a public/private partnership between NIH and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funded in 2001. The GN goals are to conduct research to improve the outcome of mothers and children in the developing world, to build sustainable research infrastructure, and to provide enhanced training opportunities. During the conference, U.S. Principal Investigators, Senior Foreign Investigators, NICHD representatives, and data center representatives from RTI International met to discuss progress and future plans for all 10 GN research units around the world. Through collaborations, the GN has initiated the development of several common protocols. Dr. Linda Wright, Deputy Director, Center for Research of Mothers and Children, NICHD, and Dr. Paul Wise, GN Steering Committee Chair, facilitated the voting process for prioritizing common protocols. The neonatal resuscitation intervention common protocol submitted by Dr. Waldemar Carlo from the University of Alabama at Birmingham was voted as the highest priority and will be initiated in upcoming months.

On June 18, 2004 eight scholars from GN sites convened in Washington D.C. for a three day training workshop on developing research protocols. The GN scholars will help to strengthen and expand the global infrastructure for women's and children's health research. Countries represented included: Argentina, Brazil, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala, India, Pakistan, Tibet and Zambia. The GN scholars worked collaboratively with mentors to develop their own observational study protocols scheduled to begin in January 2005. Topics of research include: kangaroo mother care, postpartum depression, breastfeeding, and risk factors associated with asphyxia.

*Second Informal Consultation on Long Term Studies (LTS) on Environmental Threats to the Health of Children in Developing Countries.* Dr. Danuta Krotoski, Acting Associate Director, PRIP, NICHD, and Dr. Jenny Pronczuk Medical Officer, International Programme on Chemical Safety, Protection of the Human Environment, World Health Organization, are organizing the Second Informal Consultation on “Long Term Studies (LTS) on Environmental Threats to the Health of Children in Developing Countries” that will be held at the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in Washington D.C., on August 23-25, 2004. Drs. Krotoski and Pronczuk serve as co-chairs of the International Interest Group (IIG) of the National Children's Study (NCS). The IIG provides an opportunity for international scientists to be familiar with the development of the NCS and to stimulate cooperation among longitudinal cohort studies in different countries. The goal of this meeting is to establish a common set of environmental measurements among LCS focusing on the specific needs and opportunities in developing countries.

## AFRICA

*Partnerships in Africa Grantee Meeting, Pretoria, South Africa.* The NICHD, in collaboration with the Office of AIDS Research, NCCAM, NIMH, FIC and the Office of the DHHS Health Attaché, U.S. Embassy Pretoria, organized a successful meeting of the “Partnerships for HIV/AIDS Research in African Populations” grantees in Pretoria (Centurion), South Africa, May 24-26. The highly interactive meeting brought together NIH program and grants administration staff with principal investigators and administrators from the U.S. and Africa representing the ten grantee partnership teams. Grantees with projects in Ghana, South Africa, Zambia, Burkina Faso, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Malawi attended. NIH participants included Dr. Yvonne Maddox, Deputy Director, NICHD; Dr. Danuta Krotoski, Acting Associate Director, PRIP, NICHD, Dr. Susan Newcomer, Statistician, Demographic and Behavioral Sciences Branch (DBSB), Center for Population Research (CPR) NICHD; Dr. Willo Pequenat, NIMH, and Ms. Trude Hilliard, Grants Management Specialist, NIDDK. Mr. Gray Handley, HHS Health Attaché for the Southern Region of Africa and Dr. Bridget Jeffery, University of Pretoria and a “Partnership in Africa” grantee, co-hosted the meeting, which included a reception hosted and attended by Ambassador Cameron Hume. In addition to mid-course project progress reports by the grantees, the focus of the meeting was on challenges as well as best practices with respect to effective grants administration. Recommendations were made to increase networking and scientific opportunities and to improve communication/information exchange among the partners.

*Multivitamins Reduce HIV Disease Progression in Women in Tanzania clinical trial.* Results from an NICHD- and FIC-funded grant conducted in Tanzania were published by Dr. Wafaie Fawzi, the principal investigator, in the July 1, 2004 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. In this study, multivitamin supplements containing high doses of the vitamin B complex, as well as vitamins C and E, given to HIV-infected women during pregnancy and for more than 5 years after they gave birth reduced the symptoms of AIDS or severe HIV-related symptoms, bolstered counts of CD4 immune cells, and modestly lowered HIV levels in the blood. While multivitamins cannot replace antiretroviral therapy as the primary modality of treatment of severe HIV disease, these results suggest that use of multivitamins by HIV-infected women during and after pregnancy can slow the course of HIV disease, and could provide a low-cost treatment to prolong the time before they need antiretroviral therapy.

*WHO-CDC-NICHD Clinical Trial of Maternal Antiretroviral Prophylaxis to Prevent Breast-Milk Transmission of HIV (Kesho-Bora Study).* Dr. Jennifer Read, Medical Officer, Pediatric, Adolescent, and Maternal AIDS Branch (PAMA), Center for Research for Mothers and Children (CRMC), NICHD participated in the first Data Safety and Monitoring Committee (DSMB) meeting for the Kesho Bora project in Geneva, Switzerland on May 18-19, 2004. This project was initiated by staff within the Department of Reproductive Health and Research at WHO, and consists of a prospective cohort study of HIV-infected women and the children as well as a nested randomized clinical trial. The CDC and the NICHD are co-funding a site in Nairobi, Kenya, in this multicenter protocol. During the prospective cohort study, HIV-infected women are

offered antiretroviral therapy according to WHO guidelines. Children born on study who are ultimately determined to be HIV-infected are offered antiretroviral therapy. HIV-infected women who do not meet criteria for initiation of antiretroviral therapy during pregnancy, with CD4+ counts between 200 and 500, are offered enrollment into a randomized clinical trial evaluating the efficacy of triple-drug antiretroviral prophylaxis during the latter part of pregnancy and continuing for approximately six months while breastfeeding compared to a short-course prophylactic regimen of zidovudine to the mother, one dose of nevirapine to the mother, and one dose of nevirapine to the newborn. During the two-day meeting, members of the DSMB met with members of the Project Coordinating Committee, including Dr. Read, to discuss the protocol, the manual of procedures, planned interim analyses of the data, and planned communication among DSMB members as well as between the DSMB and the Project Coordinating Committee. Dr. Read served as rapporteur for the meeting.

*WHO Nutrition and HIV/AIDS Consultation in Africa.* Plans for a major WHO consultation on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS in Africa are progressing. The meeting is currently scheduled for April 2005 and is likely to be held either in Durban, South Africa or Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Dr. Daniel Raiten, Health Scientist Administrator, PRIP, and Endocrinology, Nutrition and Growth Branch, CRMC, NICHD, is a member of the WHO Technical Advisory Group on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS that is planning the consultation, along with leadership provided by DHHS Health Attaché Gray Handley. Recently, Mr. Handley and WHO staff held a meeting in Pretoria, South Africa, to further engage other U.S. Government agencies, other funding agencies, and representatives from the key health ministries in sub-Saharan Africa in developing plans for the consultation, which will focus on nutritional considerations in the prevention, care and treatment of HIV/AIDS in resource-limited countries.

## **THE AMERICAS**

*Caribbean Conference on Clinical Management of HIV/AIDS:* Dr. Lynne Mofenson, Chief, PAMA, CRMC, NICHD attended the "First Caribbean Conference on the Clinical Management of HIV/AIDS: A Multidisciplinary Team Approach" held June 16-19, 2004 in Montego Bay, Jamaica. Dr. Mofenson gave a plenary presentation on "State of the Art on Prevention of Mother to Child HIV Transmission," and co-moderated a break-out session regarding Caribbean responses to prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission. The purpose of the meeting was to provide didactic and skill-building training on HIV/AIDS clinical care to Caribbean health care providers, to introduce and familiarize participants with the regional treatment and care guidelines, and to promote a multidisciplinary team approach to AIDS care by exploring Caribbean models and best practices in care and support. Approximately 250 Caribbean health care providers attended the meeting, including physicians, nurses, social workers, pharmacists, and HIV-infected individuals.

*Caribbean Guidelines for Prevention of Mother to Child HIV Transmission and for Treatment of Opportunistic Infections in Children.* Drs. Lynne Mofenson and Leslie Serchuck, from PAMA Branch, have been working with the Caribbean HIV/AIDS

Regional Training (CHART) Network and Caribbean Epidemiology Center (CAREC) for several months to assist in the development of draft guidelines for the care and treatment of persons with HIV infection in the Caribbean. These guidelines are being developed by CAREC in collaboration with the HIV International Training and Education Center at the University of Washington, Seattle. The guidelines were developed by experts in the Caribbean as well as the US, with the goal of using existing treatment and prevention guidelines and adapting them for the specific problems related to the reality of HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean. Dr. Serchuck assisted with guidelines for treatment of opportunistic infections in HIV-exposed and infected children, and Dr. Mofenson assisted with guidelines for prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission. The draft guidelines were provided to attendees at the “First Caribbean Conference on the Clinical Management of HIV/AIDS: A Multidisciplinary Team Approach” held June 16-19, 2004 in Montego Bay, Jamaica, and comments are being solicited.

*NICHD International Site Development Initiative (NISDI).* Drs. Jennifer Read and Leslie Serchuck, Medical Officers, PAMA Branch, CRMC, are coordinating this international site development initiative, which includes a perinatal protocol focused on HIV-infected pregnant women and their infants and a pediatric protocol focused on late outcomes in HIV-exposed uninfected as well as infected children; participating sites are the Bahamas, Brazil, Mexico, and Argentina. As of June 30, 2004, 724 women have enrolled in the perinatal study and 1,027 HIV-exposed uninfected and infected children have enrolled in the pediatric study. Site investigators are now actively developing concept sheets for research and manuscript development on data from the studies.

## ASIA

*XV International AIDS Conference, Bangkok, Thailand:* Three NICHD staff were among the group of 20 NIH scientists selected to represent the DHHS at the XV International AIDS Conference held in Bangkok, Thailand, on July 11-16, 2004. They included Dr. Lynne Mofenson, Chief, PAMA Branch, CRMC, Dr. Jean-Charles Grivel, Staff Scientist, Laboratory of Cellular and Molecular Biophysics, Division of Intramural Research (DIR), and Dr. Joanne Luoto, Medical Officer, Contraception and Reproductive Health Branch (CRHB), CPR. Dr. Mofenson was presenter on three abstracts presented as posters: “Alternatives to CD4 count for predicting risk of HIV disease progression in HIV-infected children in resource-poor countries”; “Perinatal zidovudine exposure in PACTG 076 and long-term effect on hematologic parameters in HIV-exposed but infected children”; and “Perinatal antiretroviral exposure and effect on hematopoiesis in HIV-exposed, uninfected children: The Women and Infants Transmission Study”. She was coauthor on another poster and an oral presentation: “Choice of first-line ART regimen in PENPACT 1: a randomized trial of combination antiretroviral regimens and treatment switching strategies in antiretroviral naïve children >30 days to 18 years of age”; and “Predictive value of total lymphocyte count (TLC) for disease progression in untreated HIV-infected children in Europe and USA,” respectively. Dr. Mofenson was also the Chair of an oral presentation session on pediatric HIV infection and treatment. Dr. Grivel delivered a presentation entitled, “Chemokine/Cytokine Modulation by Measles Virus induces HIV-1 Suppression in Human Lymphoid Tissue *Ex Vivo*” and a

poster on “CXCR4-tropic HIV-1 suppresses replication of CCR5-tropic HIV-1 in human lymphoid tissue by selective induction of CC-chemokines.”

The NICHD CRH Branch, CPR, represented by Dr. Luoto, supported via contract the work of several investigators who delivered 13 poster and other presentations at the Bangkok meeting. Dr. Jennifer Read, PAMA Branch, although she did not attend the meeting, was the first author or co-author of four presentations: a poster presentation listed above (“Alternatives to CD4 count for predicting risk of HIV disease progression in HIV-infected children in resource-poor countries”); a poster presentation entitled “Seroprevalence of HIV infection among pregnant women in rural Tamil Nadu, India”; and two oral presentations: “Phase III trial of antibiotics to reduce chorioamnionitis-associated MTCT of HIV”; and “Reduced lopinavir exposure during pregnancy: preliminary pharmacokinetic results from PACTG 1026s.”

*OAR Grantsmanship Workshop for Researchers from India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan.*

The following NICHD staff participated in the NIH Office of AIDS Research grantsmanship workshop held on May 6-7, 2004, for young and mid-career researchers from India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan: Drs. Heather Watts and Leslie Serchuck, Medical Officers in the PAMA Branch; Dr. Susan Newcomer, Statistician, DBSB, NICHD; Dr. Patricia Reichelderfer, Microbiologist, CRHB; Dr. Daniel Raiten, HSA, PRIP and ENGB; and Dr. Henry Levin, Head, Section on Eukaryotic Transposable Elements, Laboratory of Gene Regulation and Development, DIR. The purpose of the workshop was to help these visiting researchers to establish collaborations with U.S. scientists and to learn more about NIH procedures to stimulate more research cooperation. NICHD staff met with individual workshop participants to discuss research interests and opportunities.

*Short-course AZT plus single dose nevirapine is superior to short course AZT alone in reducing mother to child transmission in Thailand clinical trial.* A single dose of the drug nevirapine given at the beginning of labor, when combined with a short course the antiretroviral drug AZT, dramatically reduces a woman’s chances of passing HIV on to her child, according to a study of Thai women funded in part NICHD; this was reported by Marc Lallemand, the principal investigator, and colleagues in the July 15 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Transmission was 6.3% with short course AZT alone compared to 1.1% with short-course AZT plus single-dose maternal/infant nevirapine. In the same study, resistance mutations, detectable very early after delivery, were found in some of women who had received a single-dose of NVP. Women who had virus resistance and later required therapy for their HIV disease were less likely to achieve maximal viral suppression with triple antiretroviral combination containing nevirapine. In a second study reported in the same issue, women from the clinical trial who later required anti-HIV therapy because they developed low CD4+ cell number at some point (generally many months) after they had given birth were followed for 6 months after starting a triple antiretroviral combination containing nevirapine. In the women who had received single-dose nevirapine during labor, those who had viral strains resistant to nevirapine found at 10 days postpartum were least likely to have maximal viral suppression after 6 months of therapy. However, there was no difference in the amount

of increase in CD4+ cells or in weight gain after 6 months of therapy in women who had or had not received single-dose nevirapine.

*India Perinatal Implementation Protocol in Rural Tamil Nadu, India.* “A prospective cohort study of the seroprevalence of, and interventions to decrease the risk of mother – to-child transmission of, human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV) in Tamil Nadu, India,” led by Dr. Jennifer Read, PAMA, CRMC, NICHD, had a poster presentation at the XV International Conference on AIDS being held in Bangkok, Thailand July 11-16. The protocol, which is evaluating implementation antenatal HIV counseling and testing, and offering short-course AZT regimen for prevention of mother to child transmission in women found to be HIV-infected, was recently modified to change the antiretroviral prophylaxis regimen to a short-course regimen of AZT plus maternal/neonatal single-dose nevirapine, based on results from an NICHD-sponsored clinical trial in Thailand showing enhanced efficacy of this regimen compared to AZT alone.

Indo-US Joint Programs on Maternal and Child Health and Human Development Research and on Contraception and Reproductive Health Research. Dr. Altaf Lal, DHHS Science Attaché, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi, India, met with Drs. Yvonne Maddox, Danuta Krotoski, and Daniel Raiten at NICHD on Tuesday, July 13, to discuss the two Indo-U.S. Programs for which the NICHD serves as the Secretariat: the Indo-U.S. Joint Program on Maternal and Child Health and Human Development Research (MCHDR) and the Indo-U.S. Joint Program on Contraception and Reproductive Health Research (CRHR). Dr. Maddox, Deputy Director, NICHD, serves as the U.S. co-chair of the Joint Working Groups for both the MCHDR and CRHR programs. Dr. Daniel Raiten coordinates the Secretariat activities in support of these programs.

The Indo-US Joint Working Group (JWG) on Maternal and Child Health and Human Development Research (MCHDR) will hold a workshop on “Risk Factors for Morbidity and Mortality in India” in New Delhi, September 27-28, 2004. The JWG MCHDR business meeting will follow on September 29-30. On October 24-28, 2004, the Indo-US Joint Working Group on Contraception and Reproductive Health Research (JWG CRHR) will sponsor an interim training workshop for Indian investigators related to social and behavioral science issues. Dr. Susan Newcomer, Demographic and Behavioral Sciences Branch, CPR, NICHD, is organizing the workshop, which will be held in Mumbai, India.

## **EUROPE**

International Society for the Study of Behavior Development Meeting, Ghent, Belgium. From July 11 to July 16, Dr. Marc Bornstein, Head of the Section on Child and Family Research in the Laboratory of Comparative Ethology, DIR, NICHD, traveled to Ghent, Belgium to attend the 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavior Development. He delivered a presentation entitled, “Toddlers play in cultures of origin, acculturating cultures, and cultures of destination.” Dr. Sarah Friedman, CRMC, NICHD, also participated in the meeting. Dr. Friedman organized and chaired a symposium on “Developmental, Social, and Emotion Regulation Links to Executive Function.” She also presented a paper on “Predicting individual differences in attention,

memory, and planning in first graders from experiences at home, childcare, and school.” The paper was based on data from the NICHD Study of Early Child Care and Youth Development. Dr. Friedman serves as the coordinator of the NICHD Early Child Care Research Network.

### **MIDDLE EAST**

*Jordanian Delegation Visit to NIH.* On June 1, 2004, Mr. Said Darwazeh, Minister of Health, Jordan, led a delegation to visit the NIH. Included in the Jordanian delegation were Mr. Karim Kawar, Ambassador of Jordan to the United States (who joined the meeting with Dr. Zerhouni only); Dr. Salah Mawajdeh, Director, FDA of Jordan; Dr. Samir Khleif, Medical Director, King Hussein Cancer Center, Amman; Senior Investigator, NCI; and Mr. Maher Matalka, Trade and Commerce Attaché, Embassy of Jordan, Washington, DC. The delegation members were accompanied by Ms. Judy Levin, Program Officer for Africa and the Middle East, FIC, and Ms. Jane Coury, Program Officer for the Middle East, Office of Global Health Affairs, Office of the Secretary, DHHS. In addition to meeting with the NIH Director, Dr. Elias Zerhouni, and FIC Acting Director, Dr. Sharon Hrynkow, the delegation held separate meetings with the Directors of NCI, NICHD and NHLBI. In the meeting held at NICHD, Dr. Duane Alexander, Director, NICHD, was joined by Dr. Danuta Krotoski, Acting Associate Director for Prevention Research and International Programs, NICHD.

**National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM)*****Bi-Monthly Update of International Activities***

May - July, 2004

## COUNTRY-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

**Australia**

Dr. Stephen Myers, Director of the Australian Centre for CAM Education and Research, a joint venture of Southern Cross University and the University of Queensland visited NCCAM on May 26 and met with Drs. Richard Nahin and Kim McFann concerning CAM-related clinical trials, Chris Thomsen concerning CAM-related information and communication issues, and Dr. Jack Killen and Karen Kun concerning Office of International Health Research activities.

**China**

Drs. Jack Killen and Qi-Ying Liu and Karen Kun met with Dr. Hin Wing Yeung, the General Secretary of the International Society for Chinese Medicine (ISCM) on May 19, 2004. The Society is based in Macau and the group discussed the current state of research concerning Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), and the evidence-base for TCM. In addition to serving as the General Secretary of ISCM, Dr. Yeung is also a Professor at the Macau University of Science and Technology.

Drs. Jack Killen and Qi-Ying Liu participated in the conference, "Globalization of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Shanghai, July 24-27, 2004. The conference was co-sponsored by the Society of Chinese Bioscientists in the U.S., the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and the Consortium for Globalization of Chinese Medicine. They additionally met in Shanghai with representatives of the Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, the Shanghai Innovative Research Center of TCM and the Shanghai University of TCM. In Beijing, Drs. Killen and Liu also participated in meetings with representatives of the State Administration of TCM, China Academy for TCM, Beijing Academy for TCM and Peking University.

**India**

Dr. Jack Killen met with Dr. Sandras Thyagarajan, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Madras, on June 1<sup>st</sup>. They discussed the University's Center for Herbal Sciences and its traditional medicine research activity. Dr. Thyagarajan was visiting the U.S. under the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Program, and he and Dr. Killen were joined by Chris Mrozowski, a program officer in the U.S. Department of State's Office of International Visitors.

Dr. Yamini Tripathi, Head of the Department of Medicinal Chemistry at Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi, visited NCCAM on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Tripathi was a participant in the

“Indo-US Workshop on Traditional Indian Systems of Medicine Research,” that was held in New Delhi during October 2003 (that NCCAM co-sponsored.) Dr. Tripathi presented his work on an antiatherosclerotic poly-herbal drug formula and the scientific basis of Ayurveda to staff members of both the Divisions of Intramural Research and Extramural Research and Training. In addition, he met with Drs. Marc Blackman, Julia Arnold, Barbara Moquin, Irini Manoli and others of the Division of Intramural Research, and toured Intramural labs.

Dr. Jack Killen met on June 28<sup>th</sup> with Dr. Altaf Lal, HHS Health Attaché in India, US Embassy, New Delhi. They discussed NCCAM’s Planning Grants for International Centers for CAM Research (PICRC) initiative, and PICRC-funded projects involving scientific collaborations in India.

Dr. Jack Killen met with Professor Ranjit Roy Chaudhury, Head of the Scientific Advisory Group for Traditional Medicines of the Indian Council of Medical Research on July 14. Prof. Chaudhury additionally serves as chair of the Board of Trustees of the International Clinical Epidemiology Network. Drs. Chaudhury and Killen discussed ongoing clinical trials in India in the area of traditional medicine.

### **Ireland**

Dr. Jack Killen participated in an “Enterprise Ireland” meeting that was held at the NIH on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, and organized by the Office of Technology Transfer/OD. Meeting participants included Irish companies in the health and biotechnology fields, and NIH technology transfer and extramural program staff.

### **Japan**

Dr. Qi-Ying Liu and Karen Kun met with Drs. Masao Nasu and Nobuyasu Yamaguchi of the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Osaka University, and Dr. Yasuyo Hijikata of the Japanese Society for Oriental Medicine on June 9<sup>th</sup>. The group discussed quality control issues concerning biologically based products in the U.S. and Japan.

### **South Africa**

Dr. James Hartzell of the Nelson Mandela School of Medicine, University of Natal, Durban met with Dr. Jack Killen on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Dr. Hartzell played a key role in developing and coordinating a workshop in March 2004 at the Mandela School of Medicine on Biomedical and Traditional Healing Approaches to HIV/AIDS. The workshop was partially supported by the US Embassy in South Africa, and Dr. Killen was a participant.

### **Sweden**

David Finer, a medical writer associated with the Karolinska Institute, met with Chris Thomsen, Karla Heeler and other NCCAM Office of Communications and Public Liaison

staff members on June 7<sup>th</sup>, and provided a presentation on CAM related information and communication issues in Sweden. Dr. Jack Killen also joined the presentation and information exchange.

### **OTHER INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

#### **25<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Psychosomatic Research**

Dr. Margaret Chesney provided a presentation, “Psychosomatic and complementary medicine: alternative pathways to integrative medicine,” as part of a symposium on CAM during the 25<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Psychosomatic Research in Berlin, Germany, June 23 – 26, 2004. Additionally, Dr. Chesney served as a co-chair and discussant for a symposium on social stress and stress protection in women at the conference.

**National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB)**

May – July 2004

On May 17, Dr. Roderic Pettigrew, Director, NIBIB, presented on the “New Horizon in Biomedical Imaging” at the annual International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine meeting in Kyoto, Japan.

On May 21, Dr. Chris Kelley, Director, Division of Discovery Science & Technology, NIBIB, gave an overview of research and training opportunities at the NIBIB at the 7<sup>th</sup> World Materials Congress in Sydney, Australia.

On July 9-13, Dr. Pettigrew participated in the International Workshop on Flow and Motion sponsored by the International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine.