

**SUMMARY**  
**NIH INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES MEETING**  
**September 14, 2005**

Dr. Sharon Hrynkow, Acting Director, Fogarty International Center (FIC), welcomed the IC representatives to the Stone House. She introduced Dr. James Herrington who now serves as the Director of FIC's Division of International Relations. Dr. Herrington, formerly of CDC, most recently served as a senior advisor at the UN Foundation on global health issues and has extensive international experience. Dr. Herrington, in turn, introduced two new FIC/DIR Program Officers, Ms. Tina Chung, who will serve as Program Officer for the East Asian region as well as Dr. E. Ann Davis, who will serve as Program Officer for Europe. Ms. Chung joins FIC from the HHS/OS Office of Global Health Affairs. Dr. Davis has served both in CDC and USDA. Both have broad international experience. Dr. Hrynkow also noted the departure of Mr. Rob Eiss from FIC. Mr. Eiss has joined the London-based Centre for Management of Intellectual Property in Health Research and Development (MIHR) as its new Chief Executive Officer as of September 1.

Upcoming Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) in Russia: Dr. Hrynkow turned to Dr. Herrington to make brief remarks on the preparations for the September 28-29 U.S.-Russia JCM meeting that he will attend together with FIC/DIR's Ms. Natalie Tomitch. The JCM is held under the auspices of the U.S.-Russia Science and Technology Agreement. Meetings are held on an annual basis to take stock of initiatives taken under the terms of the agreement as well as to identify and discuss potential new areas of cooperation. Dr. Herrington requested that the IC members provide whatever information they deem appropriate pertaining to their research investments and other areas of cooperation with Russian scientists. He indicated that FIC/DIR would shortly provide an updated NIH country page for Russia to the IC representatives together with ideas for potential areas of cooperation with Russian scientists that would be aimed at advancing NIH interests and priorities in biomedical and behavioral research. The NIAAA representative, Ms. Peggy Murray, also noted that NIH ICs make investments in the Civilian Research and Development Foundation (CRDF) activities in Russia that should be factored into any discussions with Russian research policy makers (see also [www.crdp.org](http://www.crdp.org)). Dr. Hrynkow noted that a briefing was held at the last IC reps meeting on CRDF activities for 2005-06 and that FIC would provide an update on CRDF activities to provide to the IC representatives in the near future. Dr. Hrynkow also noted that FIC would seek information from HHS/OS as to the future schedule of JCMs with other countries so as to better coordinate and prepare NIH participation in these meetings. FIC would provide a list of any such upcoming JCMs to the IC representatives.

Other Issues: Dr. Herrington noted that FIC/DIR had contacted the IC representatives for input into a proposed U.S.-China Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between HHS and China's Ministry of Health on emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. Comments from the ICs on this proposed agreement are requested by COB on Thursday, September 15. A brief discussion ensued as to the nature and issues covered under this proposed MOU as well as another potential agreement that is under review on other health and health-research related issues that is being proposed with China's Academy of Sciences and NIH. Ms. Tina Chung was asked to prepare and provide a brief overview on current and proposed agreements with China to provide to the IC representatives in the upcoming weeks.

Dr. Hrynkow reported that she would be traveling to China and the Republic of Korea (ROK) in October. Dr. Hrynkow's visit to the ROK will enable her to cooperate with Korean scientists and educators on mutual interests related to women's health research matters. The China visit will include attendance along with NIAAA Director, Dr. Lee, at a seminar on "Obesity, Nutrition and Alcohol Abuse". Dr. Hrynkow will also be working with China Academy of Science leaders on the scope and language for the proposed NIH-China agreement. Her visit will also be in advance of a proposed visit to China by NIH Director Dr. Zerhouni in December. Dr. Zerhouni will participate in a HIRO (Directors of International Health Research Institutions) meeting that China, as a new HIRO member, will be hosting. Dr. Zerhouni may also sign the proposed U.S.-China health research agreement during his visit as well as conduct site visits to NIH-funded research institutions while in China.

Dr. Hrynkow also noted that she will be traveling to Vancouver, Canada, later in September to work with Canadian, Australian and New Zealand counterparts on issues of mutual interests related to indigenous people's health research priorities, particularly in light of the U.S.-Canada agreement signed on this issue in September 2004.

Dr. Hrynkow next introduced Ms. Hannah Leslie who is working at FIC to help develop databases on travel scholarships for foreign scientists who wish to come to the U.S. as well as U.S. scientists wishing for international experience abroad. She will shortly be conducting a survey on this activity with the IC representatives so as to get input for the end-users of the database. She will also be working on the "Opportunities Book" that FIC formerly developed and FIC may ask IC representatives to join a group aimed at this project.

Dr. Hrynkow also noted that FIC would continue to provide the IC representatives with lists of upcoming visits and that this activity, formerly undertaken by FIC/OD, would shortly be taken over by FIC/DIR.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 8, 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. Nell Armstrong, NINR; Dr. Michael Chang, NCRRL; Dr. Lana Shekim, NIDCD; Mr. Douglas Boyd, NHLBI; Ms. Peggy Murray, NIAAAA; Dr. Karl Western, and Dr. Vassil St. Georgiev, NIAID; Dr. Jack Killen, NCCAM; Mr. John Whitaker, NEI; Dr. Phillip Chen, OD/OIR; Dr. Lois Cohen, NIDCR; Dr. Walter Schaffer, OD/OER. FIC Staff: Ms. Sonja Madera; Ms. Judy Levin, Dr. Ken Bridbord; Mr. Kevin Bialy; Ms. Tina Chung; Dr. E. Ann Davis; Dr. Ana Chepelinsky; Ms. Hanna Leslie.