

SUMMARY
NIH INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES MEETING
May 9, 2006

Dr. Sharon Hrynkow, Chairperson of the NIH International Representatives Committee, welcomed the IC representatives to the Stone House. She next introduced the presenters at today's meeting, Dr. Michael Gottlieb, Associate Director for Science at the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health on the Grand Challenges for Global Health program, and Mr. Bruce Butrum, FIC Chief Grants Management Officer on International Grant Writing Resources.

Grand Challenges for Global Health: Dr. Gottlieb provided a presentation (attached) on the genesis, goals and efforts by the Grand Challenges for Global Health initiative that's was launched to help researchers achieve the scientific breakthroughs need to prevent, treat and cure the diseases of the developing world. The GCGH initiative was first announced by Bill Gates at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, in January 2003. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, in partnership with NIH, launched the initiative with a \$200 million grant to the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH). The initiative was designed to fund research that promises to greatly advance work against diseases that disproportionately affect people in developing countries. The initiatives' Scientific Board was charged with identifying specific scientific or technological innovations that are (1) likely to have a global impact, (2) show high potential for feasibility, and (3) may remove a critical barrier to solving health problems. Several notable individuals having NIH ties served on that board, including Drs. Zerhouni, Varmus and Klausner. Over 1,500 letters of intent from 75 countries were received by the GCGH, including 445 applications for individual projects. The Gates Foundation provided an additional \$250 million in May 2005 to fund research projects under the initiative, bringing the foundation's commitment to \$450 million. Dr. Gottlieb briefly outlined the 14 specific goals of the initiative which, if solved, could lead to important advances in prevention and treatment of diseases in the developing world. Grant offers have been made to over 40 projects in 2005. Moreover, the initiative has attracted international partners, including from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Wellcome Trust. Dr. Gottlieb noted that further information on the initiative could be obtained at www.gcgh.org.

International Grant writing Resources: Mr. Bruce Butrum noted that there are limited resources at NIH focused on grant writing for international and domestic investigators. FIC has created a resource CD which has been used and distributed throughout NIH. Over 15,000 CDs have been distributed over the past three years. He provided an updated version of this CD to participants at the meeting. This updated version now includes information about the 424 application process. This CD is also online and can be found at the wwwfic.nih.gov website. Mr. Butrum reported that FIC staff has conducted many grant writing seminars at FIC scientific/network meetings. He also

noted that FIC has utilized Dr. Beth Fisher at the University of Pittsburgh to present grant writing seminars at several venues. He provided examples of other grant writing seminars offered by other ICs, including NIAID and CSR. Moreover, he provided examples of NIH grant writing websites from NIAID, NIDDK, NCI, NIDA, NIGMS, NHGRI, and OER. Mr. Butrum's presentation is attached. He may be contacted for more information at butrumb@nih.gov. In connection with this presentation, Dr. Hrynkow noted that FIC has recently made information on its website for a range of international grants available to developing country scientists. This effort was produced by FIC's Ms. Hannah Leslie.

Announcements: Dr. Hrynkow noted that FIC represented NIH at recent Joint High level Committee meeting with Japan, and cited 3 areas raised for future consideration, including interdisciplinary research and training, strengthening global health research training, and enhancing global health research in areas such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. She then described the NIH Career Fair event held on April 27, thanking FIC's Sonja Madera and Jean Flagg-Newton for their efforts in organizing the event, and encouraging ICs to participate next year. Then, Dr. Hrynkow indicated appreciation to the group for input recently received on the resources provided by NIH to augment HHS/OGHA international activities.

Greetings by Dr. Roger Glass: Dr. Glass, the newly named Director of FIC, and NIH Assistant Director for International Research, provided brief remarks introducing himself to the group. He noted that he will formally takeover his duties in June. One of his main goals will be efforts to find common agendas between FIC and ICs to advance the NIH mission in support of international health research, including through leveraged collaborative funding where feasible. Towards this end, he intends to visit with each IC during the summer. He also noted that he will be asking Oxford University's Dr. Richard Peto to make a presentation to the group, possible at the July 11 IC representatives meeting.

Other Items: Copies of a memorandum from the Deputy Director for Management at NIH regarding implementation of changes to HHS international travel policies was made available at the meeting. In addition, the latest edition of FIC's "Global Health Matters" was available to attendees at the meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 11, 2006, at 1 p.m. in the NIH Stone House.

Attendance:

Dr. Sharon Hrynkow, Chairperson; Mr. George Herrfurth, Executive Secretary; Ms. Julia Royall, NLM; Dr. Lana Shekim, NIDCD; Ms. Helen Wegman, NHLBI; Mr. Craig Carlson, NCCAM; Ms. Natalie Tomitch, NIH/OAR; Ms. Dale Weiss, NIDA; Dr. Lois Cohen, NIDCR; Dr. Karen Babich and Dr. Willo Pequegnat, NIMH; Dr. John Haller, NIBIB; Dr. Danuta Krotoski, NICHD; Dr. Sherry Mills, OER; Dr. Yuan Liu and Ms. Stacey Chambers, NINDS; Ms. Gayle Bernabe, NIAID; Dr. Michael Chang, NCRR, Ms. Dina Dajani, HHS/OGHA. FIC staff: Ms. Sonja Madera, Mr. Kevin Bialy, Dr. Henry Francis, Dr. Kim Pham, Ms. Judy Levin, Dr. Ana Cheplinsky