

## **Summary of NIH International Highlights**

**January – March 2004**

Dr. Elias Zerhouni, Director, NIH, together with FIC Acting Director Dr. Sharon Hrynkow and Dr. Jack Whitescarver, Director, OAR, met with the Indian Secretary of Health, Mr. J.V.R. Rao and the Director-General of the Indian Council of Medical Research, Dr. N.K. Ganguly, on January 14 on issues related to collaboration between NIH and Indian research institutions. Issues discussed included the Government of India research project clearance process, women's health and primate research, and the potential for HPV vaccine testing in India. Secretary Rao and Dr. Ganguly also met with other senior NIH officials including Drs. Straus, Fauci, Maddox, Nakamura and Volkow.

Drs. Zerhouni and Hrynkow met with the European Commission's Director of Health Research, Dr. Octavi Quintana, on February 3 to discuss ways to enhance collaborative activities between NIH and the Commission. The meeting afforded the opportunity to review the relationship between the EC and the member states and to discuss factors that limit NIH collaboration with EC-funded research groups. Dr. Quintana also met with several other IC Directors, including Drs. Fauci, von Eschenbach, and Battey.

On March 2, Drs. Zerhouni, Kirschstein and Hrynkow met with Drs. Myron Weisfeldt and Paul Leitman from John Hopkins University (JHU) to discuss NIH international activities, and FIC programs in particular and to hear about a JHU proposal to foster research activities in the Middle East.

Dr. Raynard Kington, Deputy Director, NIH, along with Mr. Richard Millstein, FIC Acting Deputy Director, and Ms. Minerva Rojo, Director of FIC's Division of International Relations met with a delegation from Singapore on February 13 to discuss NIH practices related to funding of biomedical and behavioral research at universities in an effort to gather information for a review of Singapore's future university research funding activities.

### Fogarty International Center (FIC)

On January 14, FIC and the Japan Society for the Promotion Science (JSPS) hosted the annual reception honoring the 2004 JSPS Fellowship Awardees now conducting research on the NIH campus. Dr. Hrynkow welcomed the awardees and their mentors and congratulated JSPS for its excellent support over the years. The JSPS fosters young researchers and promotes international scientific cooperation

Dr. Hrynkow met with Dr. Joxel Garcia, Deputy Director, Pan American Health Organization, and the senior PAHO team on January 20 to discuss potential areas of cooperation, including research and training on trauma and injury. This meeting was a follow-on to an earlier discussion between Dr. Zerhouni and Garcia. One immediate

outcome of the meeting was PAHO's co-sponsorship of the FIC/NIH trauma and injury research training program.

On January 23, Dr. Hrynkow met with the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Board on Global Health to discuss FIC programs and directions for FY 2004.

Dr. Hrynkow met with Jack Galbraith, President and CEO, and Dr. Rabia Mathai, Chief Technical Advisor, of the Catholic Medical Mission Board on February 3. The CMMB is a US-based Catholic-sponsored philanthropic organization focusing on providing health care globally.

Dr. Hrynkow and FIC staff met with Dr. John Boright, Director, Office of International Affairs at the National Academy of Science on February 4, to discuss the NAS InterAcademy Medical Panel, and other areas of common interest.

From February 13 to 15, Dr. Hrynkow participated as Federal liaison at the AAAS Committee on Science, Engineering and Public Policy (COSEPP) meeting held in Seattle. While in Seattle, Dr. Hrynkow met with officials at the Gates Foundation to discuss ongoing collaborations and to outline upcoming FIC activities.

Dr. Sharon Hrynkow, joined by Dr. Ken Bridbord, Director of FIC's Division of International Training and Research, and Ms. Judy Levin FIC/DIR's Program Officer for Africa and the Middle East, met with Morocco's Minister of Health, Dr. Mohamed Cheikh Biadillah, as well as Morocco's Ambassador Aziz Mekouar and scientists from Morocco's Ministry of Health on January 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss opportunities to assist Morocco in its efforts to build research capacity.

From February 24 to 26, Dr. Hrynkow represented NIH at a meeting "Developing a Global Health Research Collaborative among the Major National Health Research Agencies" organized by The Rockefeller Foundation in Bellagio, Italy. FIC co-sponsored the meeting that brought together science leadership from Canada, France, the UK, South Africa, Brazil, Mexico, as well as NGOs and academic sectors.

On March 3, Dr. Hrynkow was invited to meet with Congressman Jim Langevin (D-RI), who holds the Congressional seat formerly held by John Fogarty. Dr. Hrynkow provided an overview of programs and activities of interest, including the new trauma and injury research training program. Dr. Hrynkow met with Mr. Andy Olson of Senator Bill Frist's staff to discuss FIC's AIDS programs in Africa on March 12.

On March 12, Dr. Hrynkow met with Prof. Sari Nusseibeh and Prof. Menahem Yaari of the newly launched Israeli-Palestinian Science Organization (IPSO) to discuss potential mechanisms of cooperation. IPSO's goal is to bring Israel and the Palestine Authority together using science as a bridge.

Dr. Pierce Gardner, FIC Senior Advisor for Clinical Research and Training, and Dr. Joel Breman, FIC Senior Scientist, attended an Institute of Medicine meeting on "Expanding

Antiretroviral HIV Care in Resource Constrained Countries” in Washington, D.C. on January 27 and 28. The meeting was part of an IOM study supported by FIC and OAR.

Dr. Gardner made a presentation on International Health Research Training Opportunities at the Western Regional International Health Conference in Tucson on January 30.

On February 27-28, Dr. Gardner made a presentation on “Vaccine Issues for Older Women” and chaired a panel on Malaria in Pregnancy at a Conference on Women and Infectious Disease in Atlanta. Dr. Gardner also attended and served on the conference steering committee for the International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases held February 29-March 3 in Atlanta.

Dr. Ellis McKenzie, Senior Scientist in FIC’s Division of International Epidemiology and Populations Studies (EPS) hosted a meeting of the Smallpox Modeling Working Group of the Secretary’s Advisory Council on Public Health Preparedness on January 28-29 at the Stone House.

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

From January through March, the DCPP Secretariat has worked to plan and implement a program of consultations and editors’ meetings related to chapter development for the second edition of *Disease Control Priorities in Developing Countries* (DCP-2). Recent and upcoming editors’ meetings include: the 16<sup>th</sup> Editors’ Meeting held at the Stone House, NIH on January 20, 2004 and the 17<sup>th</sup> Editors’ Meeting to be held at the World Bank on March 16, 2004. Recent and upcoming consultations include: a consultation on child health and nutrition – “Child Survival: From Knowledge to Action” in Venice, Italy, co-sponsored with the World Health Organization and the World Bank, on January 26-28, 2004 and a separate DCPP consultation on Trends in Cause-Specific Child Mortality in Venice, Italy, on January 29, 2004. The DCPP also co-sponsored a meeting on Antiretroviral Drug Use in Resource-Constrained Settings at the Institute of Medicine/National Academy of Science on January 27-28, 2004. While attending the International Clinical Epidemiology Network (INCLIN) meeting in Agra, India, on February 11-14, 2004, Dean Jamison presented an overview of the DCPP during a plenary session incorporating the meeting’s theme, “Leveraging Research through Policy and Practice”. On March 25-27, 2004, several editors will meet with the Advisory Committee to the Editors of DCPP, which is convened by the Inter-Academy Medical Panel, of which the US IOM/NAS is a member, in Paris, France.

On February 17, 2004, DCPP received confirmation of additional funding at \$2.885 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to assist in publishing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of *Disease Control Priorities in Developing Countries*. Former PAHO Director, Sir George Alleyne has agreed to serve as the DCPP Dissemination Committee Chairperson and is working with dissemination working group members to draft an action plan and proposal. The DCPP Secretariat has also begun the search for a public relations firm for collaboration on the upcoming dissemination of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of *Disease Control Priorities in Developing Countries*.

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

## **Bilateral Activities**

### **Africa**

On January 12, Ms. Judy Levin, FIC/DIR Program Officer for Africa and the Middle East, participated in a meeting, together with FIC/DITR's Dr. Ken Bridbord, and the Commissioner of Health for the Plateau State in Nigeria and researchers from the University of Maryland's Institute of Human Virology (IHV), to discuss FIC support for IHV activities in Jos, Nigeria,

### **The Americas**

In late February, FIC developed NIH input on a draft report on "Health Along the U.S.- Mexico Border" prepared by the HHS Office of Global Health Affairs. NIH's input focused on current research partnerships and collaborations to help address the many health challenges in the region, as well as with respect to NIH bilingual patient health education materials.

### **Asia and the Pacific**

#### **Japan**

On January 16, Ms. Gayle Bernabe, NIAID/FIC Fellow, facilitated a meeting between Dr. Deborah Duran, NIH/OD Office of Science Policy and Planning, and Dr. Lawrence Solomon, NIH/OD Office of Science Policy, and a Japanese delegation comprised of representatives from various Japanese universities and agencies and research scientists from the GWU's Center for International S&T Policy. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the U.S. Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), and how NIH evaluates and measures performance.

On February 9, Ms. Bernabe, together with Mr. Bruce Butrum, FIC Grants Management Officer, Dr. Bengali Zakir, CSR, Dr. Rachel Nugent, FIC/DITR, and Dr. Aron Primack, FIC/DITR met with a delegation from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science & Technology (MEXT), Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc., and the Embassy of Japan. The purpose of this meeting was to continue the discussions regarding MEXT's interest to develop a program to train Japanese program officers at NIH. The meeting focused on an overview of the science and technology policies in Japan, the needs for reform of Japan's research and development funding system, and measures MEXT is taking to improve its system, which includes establishing consistent management and evaluation systems operated by program directors/program officers.

## Malaysia

On February 11, Dr. Aron Primack, FIC/DITR, Ms. Carol Sienché, NCI/OESI, and Ms. Bernabe met with Dr. Mazalan Kamis of Malaysia and Dr. Rosemary Caffarell from Cornell University to discuss possible funding opportunities related to NIH breast cancer research activities.

## **Central and Eastern Europe (CEE)**

On January 14, Ms. Natalie Tomitch, FIC/DIR's Program Officer for Russia, NIS and CEE, presented to IC representatives and FIC staff on the results of the "Bridges in Life Sciences" networking workshop held in Budapest, Hungary, in October 2003. The joint presentation with representatives of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center of Los Angeles provided an overview of key outcomes from the meeting's eight thematic breakout groups involving NIH-funded PIs and their CEE partners, which included: (1) the establishment of a regional networking forum; (2) creation of a public regional database of NIH-funded research and training projects; and (3) the need to develop innovative funding mechanisms (e.g., "bridge" or "glue" grants) to facilitate multi-center, multidisciplinary, multinational, integrated regional networks. In addition, the Budapest workshop highlighted specific research-related training needs in the region, including grantsmanship and grants management, bioethics, technology transfer, media training, and mentored clinical research and support of quality epidemiological studies.

Ms. Tomitch conducted a meeting at FIC on January 23 with a delegation of International Health fellows from George Washington University's Central and Eastern European Program which included health economists, mental health specialists, and family practice physicians from Bulgaria and Romania. Dr. Aron Primack, FIC/DITR, joined Ms. Tomitch for the presentation and discussion on international collaboration through NIH and FIC.

On February 20, Ms. Tomitch participated in an interagency meeting on "HIV/AIDS in Europe and Eurasia" hosted by the State Department's Office of Global AIDS Coordination and the NIS Office for NIS Assistance. The meeting was used to explore viability of establishing an interagency coordination mechanism for U.S.-Russia/NIS/CEE cooperation in HIV/AIDS. Several related high-level events were highlighted in the meeting, including follow-up to last Fall's Bush-Putin Summit; the recent Dublin ministerial meeting on the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Eastern and Central Asia; and Secretary Thompson's planned visit to Moscow in June 2004.

## **Middle East**

On February 26, Ms. Judy Levin, together with NIAID staff, participated in a meeting with Dr. Rami Rahamimoff, Chief Scientist for the Israeli Ministry of Health, to explore possibilities for NIH-Israel collaborative infectious disease research.

## **Newly Independent States (NIS)**

### Ukraine

On February 5, Ms. Natalie Tomitch, FIC/DIR's Program Officer for Russia, NIS and CEE, met with Mr. Victor Shulepov, new Science Counselor at the Embassy of Ukraine, to provide a briefing on NIH and FIC research and training opportunities for scientists from the Ukraine, as well as an overview of current and planned NIH activities in the region. Mr. Shulepov shared information on current Ukrainian biomedical research, including jaw disorders and facial developmental deformities in children and state-of-the-art cardiovascular surgery.

### Kazakhstan/Central Asia (CAR)

On February 11, Ms. Tomitch met with Mr. Galimzhan Nurmagambetov, Science Counselor at the Embassy of Kazakhstan, to review collaborative opportunities for Kazakhstani health scientists and to discuss planned NIH activities in the CAR region. These include a scientific conference in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on children's environmental health in Central Asia and the Middle East organized by an International Training and Research Program in Environmental and Occupational Health (ITREOH) grantee working in the region; a team site visit of key infectious disease research and public health institutes to explore collaborative opportunities of mutual interest; and an annual meeting of a new International Cooperative Biodiversity Groups (ICBG) cooperative project. In advance of these meetings, Ms. Tomitch is planning a special presentation/brown bag discussion for interested NIH ICs to provide a regional briefing and stimulate discussion on priority public health needs and opportunities for collaborative research in the region.

On February 24, Ms. Tomitch and OAR staff met with representatives of the U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation (CRDF) to discuss the status of the CRDF-NIH HIV/AIDS initiative announced last Fall. CRDF is currently reviewing the workshop proposals and plans to announce workshop grants in late March. The second phase of the initiative will involve a competition for two-year research grants.

## **Multilateral Activities**

Mr. George Herrfurth, FIC/DIR Program Officer for Multilateral Cooperation, represented NIH in interagency meetings held on February 17 and 24 regarding the proposed revision of the WHO International Health Regulations (IHRs) related to national reporting of infectious disease episodes and their potential international implications. The WHO aims to develop a revised, proposed IHR for approval by the 2005 World Health Assembly. The revision process will continue into early 2005 and concentrate on substantive legal and technical issues associated with possible expansion of mandate and scope of the IHRs.

On February 20, Ms. Rojo represented FIC in a conference hosted by NIDDK for science officers and other representatives from foreign embassies in Washington. The purpose of

the meeting was to help address the increasing interest of foreign governments to have their scientists return home upon completing their training at NIH. Ms. Rojo presented a brief overview of FIC's programs and NIH opportunities for collaboration, including through the Global Health Research Initiative Program for New Foreign Investigators (GRIP) and other bilateral efforts. In response to questions related to the role of governments in reversing "brain drain", Ms. Rojo noted that governments can help by providing a place to which their scientists can return to enable them to continue their research and collaboration with NIH while helping to address their countries' health priorities.

### **Program Notes**

The AIDS International Training and Research Program (AITRP) Phase I Evaluation Feasibility Study has been concluded. Reports are available from Dr. Linda Kupfer (tel.: 301 496-3288). FIC is currently planning a Phase II Outcome Evaluation of the AITRP program that will utilize the FIC Framework for Evaluation.

The Phase II Outcome Evaluation of the Fogarty International Research Collaboration Award (FIRCA) is now underway. The logic model and plan for the evaluation is available from Dr. Kupfer. FIC is currently seeking permission from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to carry out a survey of the evaluation with U.S. PIs and their international collaborators to assess outcomes and impacts of a decade of work under FIRCA.

The FIC International Trainee Tracking System is currently in the design phase. FIC is now determining which metrics (institutional, individual, national) to follow so as to effectively track training outcomes of its 14 training programs.

FIC will hold a review of its International Training and Research on Population and Health in the near future. The review will be conducted by 4-6 outside experts and will utilize the FIC Framework for Evaluation to assess the program and produce recommendations on its future direction before the new Population and Health RFA is released in Fall 2004.

Dr. Rachel Nugent, FIC's Division of International Training and Research (DITR), participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Global Development Network (GDN) in New Delhi, India from January 26 to 30. The GDN helps build capacity for research on economic development and is a co-funder of the Fogarty International Studies in Health and Economic Development, along with NIA, NICHD and NIH/OBSSR.

Ms. Emmy Cauthen, Program Analyst in FIC's Division of Advanced Studies and Policy Analysis, served as the FIC representative at a media resource fair for Latin American health reporters sponsored by Merck, Sharpe & Dohme and the InterAmerican Press Association on February 10. FIC along with several other exhibitors showcased their respective online resources for journalists in attendance at the event. The fair also

provided an opportunity for journalists to network and obtain information on upcoming events and training programs focused on health and medical reporting.

From February 18 to 21, Dr. Aron Primack, FIC/DITR, participated in a meeting of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SNRT) in Scottsdale, Arizona which included a pre-meeting session on International Activities and Research on Nicotine and Tobacco with six of 15 FIC grantees.

Dr. Joel Bremen, Senior Scientific Advisor in FIC/EPS, participated in a March 9-11 meeting of the WHO International Commission for the Certification of Dracunculiasis in Geneva, Switzerland.

### **Recent FIC Seminars and Talks**

- February 11 – Dr. Linda Kupfer, FIC/DASPA, provided a seminar on the “FIC Framework for Evaluation.”
- February 18 – Dr. Carlos Daniel Ruiz Carrascal, visiting scientist at the State University of New York at Buffalo, gave a presentation on “The Biology of African Highlands Malaria.”
- February 24 – Professor Avidan U. Neumann, Bar-Ilan University in Israel, spoke on “Hepatitis viral dynamics – from mathematical models to the patient’s bedside.”

### **Upcoming Events**

- On March 17, FIC will cosponsor a Roundtable with women scientists from the Middle East during Women’s History Month in the Stone House from 10 am to 12 noon. The Roundtable will give the NIH community the opportunity to learn about the unique experiences and challenges faced by Middle Eastern women scientists working at NIH. FIC POC is Judy Levin (301 496-4784)
- Career Fair for Foreign Fellows at NIH will be held March 19 in the Natcher Atrium. It is co-sponsored by NCI, NIEHS, FIC and others. FIC POC is Sonja Madera (301 496-4784)
- April 7 – World Health Day focus on Road Traffic Injuries. FIC and its partners will announce a new research training program on Trauma and Injury.
- Global Forum on Bioethics in Research to be held in Paris on April 22. FIC POC is Dr. Karen Hofman (301 496-1491)
- FIC, OWRH and the Canada’s Institute on Gender and Health will sponsor a 1-day Forum on April 27 in the Stone House on the subject of sex and gender as related to broad global health concerns. The Forum will bring together several international research funding agencies and NIH ICs to discuss existing programs focused on gender and health as well as potential future partnerships. FIC POC is Emmy Cauthen (301 594-7857)
- The next NIH IC International Representatives meeting is Tuesday, May 11, at 1:00 pm in the Stone House.
- FIC Advisory Board Meeting is May 18 at 8:30 a.m. in the Stone House.
- Science Day at NIH for Ambassadors to be hosted by FIC. Date TBD. Stay tuned!



**National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI)**  
**Highlights of International Activities**

**GLOBAL** - The NHLBI is developing a Strategic Plan to provide blood transfusion safety programs to countries struggling with limited resources. An Advisory think-tank on Global Blood Safety is being put together this spring to identify needs, potential collaborative organizations, target countries, and realistic interventions to achieve a safer blood supply.

**PAHO** - 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. The major focus of joint activities in the area of heart disease includes the prevention of hypertension that builds on the Institute's Pan American Hypertension Initiative (PAHI) as well as the "Salud para su Corazón" program. A follow-up meeting of the nine PAHI partners is planned for Summer 2004 in Washington.

**NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATES** - An eighteen member delegation of medical device specialists and representatives of regulatory agencies in the countries of the former Soviet Union visited NIH in early February as part of the SABIT program of the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The NHLBI Division of Heart and Vascular Disease prepared presentations on the NHLBI programs to develop and improve the efficacy of circulatory medical devices, including: tissue engineering, NHLBI-sponsored imaging research, and risk assessment of medical devices.

**EUROPEAN UNION** - On February 4, the Associate Director for International Programs, NHLBI met with a delegation of leaders from the biomedical research programs of the European Union to discuss current EU and NHLBI programs and opportunities for future interactions and possible collaboration between EU and NHLBI research networks in cardiovascular diseases. The delegation was led by a Spanish health official.

**AFGHANISTAN** - The NHLBI has developed a proposal for training of Afghan health professionals in blood resources management and training. This is part of a DHHS US-Afghanistan initiative.

**CANADA** - A meeting of NHLBI and Canadian partners will be held in April 2004 to discuss US and Canadian proposals in response to the joint RFA's. 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 planned for the spring of 2004.

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 on 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 on hypertension, asthma, stress in cardiovascular disease and gender differences in adaptive responses, and blood resources. Also, four NHLBI staff members expressed interest in assisting in health projects in Iraq in response to an earlier request from DHHS.

**SWEDEN** - The Associate Director for International Programs, NHLBI met in February with a delegation of Swedish health educators and science writers to discuss NHLBI's programs in cardiovascular disease prevention and control and NHLBI's initiatives in women's health. The visitors expressed great interest in both of these areas, especially in NIH approaches to communications with health professionals and the public.

**VIETNAM** - A Vietnamese scientist is working in the Hematology Branch, DIR, during January - April in joint research on blood safety and bone marrow transplantation. Also, a three member group of scientists are scheduled to visit Vietnam March 8-13 to present lectures at hematology and blood transfusion institutes in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, and at the Medical College in Hue.

## National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM)

### *Bi-Monthly Update of International Activities*

January – March, 2004

#### COUNTRY-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

##### Singapore

Dr. Jack Killen and Karen Kun met with Dr. Paul Lietman, Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics and Pharmacology and Molecular Science at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Dr. Eu Leong Yong, Director of Research, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, National University of Singapore on February 19th. Drs. Lietman and Yong are collaborators on a grant funded under NCCAM's Planning Grants for International Centers for Research on CAM (PICRC) initiative. Their work focuses on studying the potentially bioactive and chemopreventive properties of herbal and food substances utilized in Traditional Chinese Medicine.

##### South Africa

Dr. Jack Killen and Karen Kun met with Dr. Anthony MBewu, the Executive Director for Research of South Africa's Medical Research Council (MRC), on January 29, 2004. The group discussed the six national research programmes of the MRC, as well as its Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) Initiative. The core functions of MRC's IKS Initiative include the development of research studies in indigenous knowledge; the development of institutional and community networks that promote the integration of traditional and contemporary scientific knowledge; and the incorporation and implementation of relevant policies and legislation governing intellectual property issues and equitable sharing of rewards derived from the health research of traditional knowledge.

Dr. Jack Killen will additionally visit South Africa, March 4-13, to further explore opportunities related to traditional medicine. At MRC's offices in Capetown, he will meet with Dr. MBewu, Dr. Gilbert Motlalepula Matsabisa, Manager of the IKS Initiative, and other traditional medicine researchers from the MRC and South African academic institutions. In Durban, he will participate in a workshop entitled, "Biomedical and Traditional Healing Approaches to HIV/AIDS in South Africa," where he will provide a keynote presentation about NCCAM and its history of addressing research needs in complementary and alternative medicine. He will additionally partake in other workshop sessions including one concerning research priorities in traditional medicine. The workshop is being organized by the Centre for Traditional, Complementary and Alternative Medicine (TCAM), Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine, University of Natal, and is being supported by the U.S. Department of State and the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health. Additionally, in Durban, Dr. Killen will visit the Doris Duke

Medical Research Institute, the Nkosi Albert Luthuli Hospital (a paperless facility), and the “muthi” market, where local healers sell African and Ayurvedic products.

## MULTILATERAL ACTIVITIES

### Workshop on Standardization of Botanical Dietary Supplements: Global Perspective

Drs. Jack Killen and Qi-Ying Liu are involved as planning committee members for a workshop entitled, “Standardization of Botanical Dietary Supplements: Global Perspective.” The workshop is supported through a cooperative agreement between the National Center for Natural Products Research at the University of Mississippi and the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition of the Food and Drug Administration. Planning committee members, and potential members, are from the U.S., Brazil, China, India, Korea, New Zealand, and Pakistan.

### Pan American Health Organization and World Health Organization

NCCAM recently submitted its 2003 Collaborating Center Annual Report to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and World Health Organization (WHO). NCCAM is a PAHO/WHO Collaborating Center for Traditional Medicine, and its activities in the areas of research, communications and consultation assist in advancing global knowledge concerning traditional medicine. Please contact Karen Kun if you would like to receive a copy of the 2003 Annual Report.

## **National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)**

The Associate Director for International Health, NIDCR, met on January 21 with the co-directors of the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) program at Hahnemann-Drexel University of the Health Sciences and the President of Hadassah College about the potential development of a Middle East program to serve not only Israel but also as a future bridge to peace project. During that visit discussions also took place about women's health research involving the dental school at the University of Pennsylvania and the potential involvement in a US-Israel Binational Symposium that would include oral health and women's health issues.

The International Health Officer, NIDCR, is a member of the American Dental Association's Committee on International Programs and Development, which provides guidance to the ADA regarding its international oral health programs. The Committee met in Chicago on February 2.

Prof. B. Rager, Deputy Chief Scientist, Israel Ministry of Health and Ben Gurion University Medical School, visited the NIH campus on February 19, and met with the Associate Director for International Health. Discussion centered around issues of oral health research capacity-building particularly for clinical research careers, women's health and research related to that topic, and science education initiatives for secondary schools in Israel and the US.

The Director, NIDCR, and the Associate Director for International Health, along with various NIDCR intramural and extramural staff met on February 20 with representatives of the Japanese dental school faculties to discuss capacity-building for research within US schools and how such initiatives may be relevant to the Japanese schools which have similar problems in producing graduates who want to pursue clinical research careers.

The Associate Director for International Health met on February 23 with two visitors from Rochester who are interested in promoting collaborative research between Israeli young investigators and US scientists. Discussions focused on extramural mechanisms available to non-US scientists and the NIH grants process.

In a continuation of regular quarterly meetings, OIH staff hosted representatives of US-based international dental organization representatives in a lunch meeting on February 24. Participants shared information about current issues and planned activities which cross education, research and service domains, such as: accreditation of foreign dental schools; educational programs which may involve dental educators in teaching the teachers in developing countries, a planned first World Congress in Dental Education (2007) and pre-conferences/symposia in North America, Latin America/Caribbean, Africa, Asia and Europe; updating the international collaborative research agenda involving NIDCR and the international research community; oral health research and the Global Forum on Health Research.

The Associate Director for International Health participated in the annual session of the American Dental Education Association, held in Seattle, March 6-9. Her activities included a program on mentoring in the public sector and another on “Science Knows No Country: International Collaborative Oral Health Research.”

**National Institute of Child Health and Human Development**  
**Highlights of International Activities**  
**January-March 2004**

**Africa**

*Site Visit to Global Network Project in Democratic Republic of Congo.* Dr. Anne Rimoin, Center for Research for Mothers and Children (CRMC), NICHD, conducted a site visit, January 10-17, 2004, of the new Global Network for Women's and Children's Health Research project that is based in the Kinshasa and Sankuru District, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The purpose of the site visit was to train laboratory staff in methods of specimen collection and laboratory isolation of *S. pneumoniae*, to assess progress on protocol development, to observe the pre-test of study materials, and to meet with key officials in the DRC government and collaborating institutions.

*Healthy Newborn Partnership Meeting in Ethiopia.* Dr. Linda Wright, Deputy Director, CRMC, NICHD, attended a meeting of the Healthy Newborn Partnership in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, February 23-26, 2004. WHO Afro and the Healthy Newborn Partnership Secretariat (Saving Newborn Lives of the Save the Children Foundation) jointly hosted the meeting, which included a broad spectrum of agencies and academics working in Africa: WHO/AFRO, Saving Newborn Lives, JHPIEGO, WHO/Geneva, the World Bank, UNICEF, UNFPA, the Population Council, USAID, PACT, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The presentations focused on infections and neonatal health; newborn health planning framework; working groups on infections, birth asphyxia, and stillbirth, advocacy, and the evidence for postnatal standards of care and field implementation. The meeting concluded with development of a roadmap for inclusion of the newborn in the WHO Millennium Development Goals and a Partners' Panel for future plans. After the meeting, Dr. Wright participated in site visits to the Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) project in the KMC Children's Hospital and the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital.

*Botswana PEPFAR Team Visit and "Mashi" Study Site Visit.* Dr. Lynne Mofenson participated as part of a core team visit to Botswana that was organized by the U.S. Department of State as part of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The team was also composed of representatives from the U.S. Agency on International Development (USAID), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Health Resources Services Administration. Dr. Mofenson served as the NIH representative of the group and provided information about NIH research programs that might synergize/collaborate with Botswana's PEPFAR program. The team visit occurred in Gaborone, Botswana during the week of March 1, 2004. While in Botswana, Dr. Mofenson also conducted a site visit at the NICHD-supported MASHI project directed by Dr. Max Essex, Harvard University School of Public Health. The Botswana-Harvard AIDS Institute Partnership (BHP) is a close collaboration between the Botswana government and the Harvard AIDS Institute at the Harvard School of Public Health that

was initiated in 1996. This collaboration conducts the “Mashi” (“Milk”) Study, which recently completed enrollment of 1200 mothers and their infants to evaluate strategies to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission (MTCT). There are four Mashi study sites in Botswana located in two villages (Molepolole and Mochudi), one town (Lobatse), and one city (Gaborone).

## **The Americas**

### *U.S. Conferences on Topics Relevant to Global Health.*

- World Bank Conference on “Reaching the Poor: What works, what doesn't and why,” Washington, D.C., February 18-20, 2004, was attended by Dr. Linda Wright, Deputy Director, CRMC, NICHD
- CDC International Conference on “Women and Infectious Diseases: From Science to Action,” Atlanta, GA., February 27-28, 2004, was attended by Dr. Nancy Moss, CRMC, NICHD
- CDC Conference on “Emerging Infectious Diseases,” Atlanta, GA, March 1-2, 2004 was attended by Dr. Anne Rimoin, CRMC, NICHD.

*Visit to Global Network Site in Brazil.* On February 2-3, 2004, Dr. Nancy Moss, CRMC, NICHD, traveled to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to visit and evaluate three possible data collection sites in this area for possible replacement of the research unit site in Sao Paolo that is part of the NICHD-supported Global Network for Women’s and Children’s Health. This Global Network research unit in Brazil is conducting a clinical trial to study the efficacy of antioxidant therapy at or before 20 weeks of gestation to reduce the incidence and severity of preeclampsia in obstetric populations at high risk.

*ICCP Spinal Cord Injury Clinical Trials Workshop.* Dr. Nancy Shinowara, Health Scientist Administrator, National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research, NICHD, participated in the first “Spinal Cord Injury Paralysis Workshop” that was sponsored by the International Campaign for Cures of Spinal Cord Injury Paralysis (ICCP). The ICCP meeting was held in Vancouver, Canada, on February 17-22, 2004. The purpose of the workshop was to 1) establish an international forum where design and conduct of spinal cord injury clinical trials can be discussed; 2) make available to the international community the experiences of current clinical trial initiatives; and 3) enhance communications and collaborations among scientists, regulatory authorities, spinal injury clinicians, and people with spinal cord injuries.

*Meeting of the International Collaborative Program on Female Health and Egg Quality.* A meeting of the *NICHD International Collaborative Program on Female Health and Egg Quality* took place in Bethesda, MD. on February 27-29, 2004. Dr. Richard Tasca, Reproductive Sciences Branch, Center for Population Research, NICHD serves as Research Coordinator for the group and hosted the meeting. The group includes partners from Adelaide and Melbourne, Australia and from Nottingham and Southampton, England. Other U.S. partners are from St. Louis, Philadelphia and Rochester, Minnesota. The purpose of the meeting was to review progress on the various projects that have to do with the impact of pre- and peri-conceptual female nutrition and assisted reproductive



technologies on the quality of human eggs and preimplantation embryos. Most importantly, this collaboration will investigate the long-term impact of human egg or preimplantation embryo quality on birth weight, blood pressure, behavior, diabetes and other effects that are manifested in the offspring derived from those eggs or embryos.

*A Multicultural Caribbean United Against HIV/AIDS Congress.* The NIH Office of AIDS Research (OAR) cosponsored a Congress on “A Multicultural Caribbean United Against HIV/AIDS” that was held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on March 3-7, 2004. Dr. Susan Newcomer, Statistician (Demography), Demographic and Behavioral Sciences Branch, Center for Population Research, NICHD, attended the meeting and participated in the affiliated OAR-coordinated Grantsmanship Workshop on “Introduction to NIH, the NIH/HIV Program, and Funding Opportunities,” which was held on March 7.

## **Europe**

*WHO Saving Newborn Lives Technical Meeting.* NICHD CRMC Deputy Director Linda Wright attended the WHO/Saving Newborn Lives technical meeting that was held in Geneva, Switzerland on January 22-23, 2004. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a research strategy to diagnose birth asphyxia at the community level in developing countries. This was a follow-up to an earlier WHO technical meeting in Geneva on November 9-12, 2003, at which asphyxia was included in a revision of the Integrated Management of Childhood algorithm, attended by Dr. Wright and Dr. Anne Rimoin, CRMC, NICHD.

*WHO Expert Consultation on the Use of Antiretrovirals.* On February 5-6, 2004, the World Health Organization (WHO) held a meeting of experts from developed and resource-limited countries to review new data relevant to the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission (PMTCT) and HIV treatment and to discuss, revise, and finalize updated WHO guidelines for PMTCT. Dr. Lynne Mofenson, Chief, Pediatric, Adolescent, and Maternal AIDS Branch, Center for Research for Mothers and Children, NICHD, was invited to participate in this meeting as an expert consultant.

*WHO Specialist Panel Meeting on Reproductive Health.* Dr. Robert Spirtas, Chief, Contraception and Reproductive Health Branch, Center for Population Research, NICHD, will participate in the WHO Specialist Panel Meeting on Epidemiological Research in Reproductive Health, that will be held in Geneva from March 16 to March 18, 2004.

*Meeting of the Ghent-International AIDS Society (IAS) Working Group on HIV in Women and Children (Ghent Group).* Dr. Jennifer Read, Medical Officer, PAMA Branch, CRMC, NICHD, has been invited by the UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP), Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR), to attend the meeting of investigators for Project A25035 ‘Impact of HAART during pregnancy and breastfeeding on MTCT and mothers’ health’ on March 24-26, 2004 in Geneva,

Switzerland. Dr. Read contributed to the development and finalization of the protocol, which has two parts: 1) a prospective cohort study of eligible HIV-infected pregnant women and their children, followed until two years after delivery/birth (women enrolled in the cohort study who meet WHO criteria for antiretroviral therapy will be placed on such therapy as soon as possible; women not receiving antiretroviral therapy will be offered short-course MTCT prophylaxis); and 2) a nested randomized controlled trial of eligible women enrolled in the prospective cohort study with CD4+ cell counts between 200 and 500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>. The randomized controlled trial will evaluate a regimen of three antiretroviral drugs (zidovudine, lamivudine, and nevirapine) beginning at 34-36 weeks gestation, through delivery, until six months postpartum, and a short-course regimen consisting of zidovudine beginning at 34-36 weeks gestation until the onset of labor, plus one dose of zidovudine and one dose of nevirapine at the onset of labor. All infants born to women enrolled in either part of the study will receive one dose of nevirapine within 72 hours after birth.

*Microbicide 2004 Conference and International Working Group on Microbicides Meeting.* Several NICHD program staff will participate in the upcoming “Microbicide 2004 Conference” that will be held in London, United Kingdom, on March 28-31, 2004, and the International Working Group on Microbicides meeting that will follow on April 1. Dr. Patricia Reichelderfer, Microbiologist, CRHB, CPR, and Dr. Joanne Luoto, Medical Officer, CRHB, CPR, will attend both meetings. Dr. Susan Newcomer, Statistician, DBSB, CPR will chair a panel at the Microbicide 2004 meeting and act as rapporteur for the Social and Behavioral Sciences track. Dr. Reichelderfer will chair a plenary session and has been invited to meet with Her Royal Highness Princess Anne of Great Britain, who will be attending part of the conference. While in London, Dr. Reichelderfer will also perform a site visit at St. George’s Hospital and meet with research staff at the International Virology Center.

*Global Network Steering Committee Meeting.* The Global Network for Women’s and Children’s Health Research Steering Committee met on January 4-9, 2004, in Miami, Florida. Each Global Network research unit site had individual site protocol meetings (reverse site visits) during this time. The Steering Committee met for two days during which each site presented a report on its work during a poster session. The group discussed plans for the future, and voted on mini-protocols to be developed into full common protocols. Protocols that will be developed into common protocols include training for resuscitation of community-born infants with acute perinatal asphyxia, peer counseling for exclusive breast feeding, education to reduce episiotomies, and active management of the third stage of labor with delayed cord clamping. The NICHD, in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, supports the Global Network, which involves cooperative agreements with teams of U.S. and foreign investigators to conduct research at sites in Latin America, Asia, and Africa.

**NIH Office of Technology Transfer (OTT)  
International Activities January-March, 2004**

- **OTT is working on ways to enhance the process of transferring technologies to developing countries to meet global health problems.** In particular, OTT is identifying potential partners in developing countries for Public Health Service (PHS) technologies, based on the needs and capabilities of partner institutions.
- At OTT, we have also identified **international organizations, regional agencies, other parts of USG, private foundations and professional societies** that might have an interest in technology transfer issues related to health and that could possibly become partners of NIH in this endeavor. During this period we completed agreements with the Program for Appropriate Technologies in Health (PATH) and the Wellcome Trust aimed to enhance technology transfer activities in developing countries.
- OTT has already had some initial success in transferring technologies related to malaria, dengue, meningitis, pertussis, HIV/AIDS, diabetes and cancer to several companies, research institutions and public foundations in **India, Mexico, China, Brazil, South Africa and other Sub-Saharan African countries.**
- **Some examples of significant technologies that OTT has already completed to bring them to the market in developing countries include:**
  - Didanosine (ddi) and anti-HIV drug to be manufactured in Mexico and distributed to Costa Rica, Panama, Dominican Republic and other Latin American and Caribbean countries.
  - Meningococcal conjugated vaccine commercial license to PATH. The vaccine will be manufactured at the Serum Institute in India and plan to be distributed in all of Sub-Saharan African countries, Latin America, the Caribbean, Southeast Asia, Central and Eastern Europe
  - Dengue vaccine and transfer of materials that could with potential use for the development of an acellular pertussis vaccine to various companies in India
- Dr. Rohrbaugh was part of the U.S. Delegation to the Global Forum on Biotechnology (GBF). The Forum was convened from 2-5 March 2004 under the auspices of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in partnership with the Government of Chile and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB). The conference was attended by more than 1500 participants from 80 countries, including experts from governments, non-governmental organizations, scientific institutions, industry and the media. The overall objective of the GBF was to examine the potential offered by biotechnology in all its facets for the creation of wealth and the improvement of the quality of life of people in developing countries and transitional economies.
- Dr. Rohrbaugh and Dr. Salicrup wrote the paper *International Technology Transfer at NIH—Partnerships and Opportunities with Developing Countries* that was presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM). OTT had a total of five different posters at this Meeting held in San Antonio, Texas on March 2-5.
- Dr. Salicrup has been invited by AUTM's officials to be part of the *Technology Managers for Global Health* a Special Interest Group in developing countries.