

SUMMARY
NIH INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES MEETING

January 13, 2004

Welcome and Introductions: Dr. Sharon Hrynkow, Chair, and Acting FIC Director, welcomed the IC representatives to the Stone House. She introduced Richard Millstein as the new FIC Acting Deputy Director. She also noted that Dr. Stephen Groft (absent) from the NIH Office of Rare Diseases (ORD) would now serve as an ORD representative to the IC International Representatives meetings.

Update on FIC Transitional Issues: Dr. Hrynkow reported that Dr. Gerald Keusch resigned his position as FIC Director on January 1, 2004, to take up duties as Assistant Provost for Global Health at the Boston University (BU) Medical Campus and Associate Dean for Global Health at BU's School of Public Health. She provided an update on the search process for the permanent Director.

Dr. Hrynkow further elaborated that during the transitional period, among other things, FIC would like to work with ICs to identify ways in which FIC can assist them in their international activities. In particular, she noted that FIC has seen an increasing interest among ICs to develop new agreements with foreign institutions to enhance research collaboration. Consequently, she has asked Ms. Minerva Rojo, Director of FIC's Division of International Relations, to develop guidance that could be posted to the intranet to aid ICs in making decisions as to when they might consider developing international agreements, the types of agreements they might want to consider, and the process for developing such agreements to further the ICs research agenda. Ms. Rojo commented that she will be convening a meeting of interested IC representatives over the next few weeks to initiate a dialogue on this issue and asked the IC representatives to canvass their respective staffs to determine whether anyone is planning to develop such agreements over the next few months. She further indicated that she would like to use the first meeting to identify the ICs specific, immediate needs and interests as a point of departure. Dr. Hrynkow noted that this effort should link with efforts being pursued by the NIH technology transfer community to, among other things, ensure consistency in the process of achieving international agreements to which NIH ICs may wish to undertake.

Dr. Hrynkow also noted that FIC would continue its efforts during the transitional phase to develop the outline for its next multi-year strategic plan so that ideas may be in place for the next FIC Director to review for consideration as part of whatever strategic plan is ultimately developed. Dr. Hrynkow also noted that she is undertaking meetings with NIH IC Directors to review ways and means that FIC can further collaborate and serve the international agendas and activities of the various ICs. She thanked NIAID's representative, Dr. Karl Western, for recently seconding staff to FIC/DIR and noted that FIC would welcome other IC secondments to FIC Divisions. She also noted that FIC will continue to work closely with the HHS Office of Global Health Affairs (OGHA) on

behalf of the NIH community and that maintaining this strong relationship is a priority for her.

FIC/Ellison International Clinical Training Program: Dr. Pierce Gardner, FIC Senior Adviser for Clinical Research and Training, gave a presentation on the development and implementation of the FIC/Ellison Program. A copy of the slides for this presentation is attached. This FIC/Ellison Program was announced in May 2003. Its purpose is to provide early career opportunities for U.S. dental and medical graduate students in the health professions to participate in mentored clinical research in developing countries. Dr. Gardner outlined the selection process and eligibility requirements for the Program (graduate students only), together with the criteria for training sites, and the actual location of the 14 sites that have been selected – of which one-half are in Africa. Dr. Gardner also elaborated on the proposed activities that will be undertaken by all selected trainees in early July 2004. He also outlined the mechanisms of support for the Program. Finally, he asked that those interested in more information contact Dr. Aron Primack, Program Officer in the FIC Division of International Training (DITR) at primacka@mail.nih.gov

Update from the FIC Bioethicist: Dr. Liza Dawson introduced herself as the new FIC bioethicist, replacing Dr. Jim Lavery, who left the position in 2003. Dr. Dawson comes to FIC with 5 years of experience in bioethics at the Johns Hopkins University Bioethics Institute, where she was project director of a survey of researcher experiences with international ethics issues, and a consultant to the National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC), which issued a report on international research ethics in 2001. Currently Dr. Dawson is helping to plan the Global Forum for Bioethics in Research, to be held in Paris in April. This is an annual meeting co-sponsored by FIC, other ICs, and other agencies to hear views from developing country researchers and science funding agencies on ethical issues surrounding research in resource poor settings. This year's topic for the meeting is intellectual property and benefit-sharing in developing country research. Dr. Dawson also mentioned that she is available for discussion and assistance to other ICs dealing with research ethics issues in the international setting. Her email address is dawsonl@mail.nih.gov.

Universities, Technology Transfer and Global Health: Nalini Anand, Legal and Science Policy Analyst in FIC's Division of Advanced Studies and Policy Analysis, provided a summary of a consultation convened by FIC on December 11, 2003. The meeting brought together senior academic leadership and technology transfer managers from approximately a dozen large research universities to explore new ways to fulfill university missions to create and disseminate knowledge for the global public good, particularly with respect to technologies that are primarily relevant to developing world public health needs. Discussion at the meeting included an examination of barriers to international health research collaboration in the academic setting and how universities might collectively overcome these barriers to create an enabling environment. Participants also explored the prospects of developing "good practices" in university intellectual property management, which would necessitate an examination of how universities manage research tools, evaluating the benefits and drawbacks of broad

licensing vs. exclusive licensing, the development of alternative licensing provisions, and the need to broaden the scope of licensing partners to include public-private partnerships, foundations, and other non-profit organizations.

Over the course of the meeting, participants described several examples of university research and/or technology transfer initiatives that promote R&D on diseases that do not have a lucrative market. Participants also discussed strategies for increasing awareness within universities and for building expertise and resources in technology transfer for global health, and the possibility of university technology transfer offices taking an active role in building capacity in developing countries with respect to technology management. Potential next steps identified by participants included the formation of small working groups to tackle key areas (e.g., best practices, capacity-building, advocacy), publicizing existing university global health initiatives as models for the greater academic community, and further consultations that would include the private sector.

Announcements/Updates (in addition to those to be circulated electronically in the Highlights of NIH International Activities):

The FIC Advisory Board Meeting will be held on February 10 beginning at 8:30 am in the Stone House. NIH IC International Representatives are invited to attend.

Dr. Dushanka Kleinman will speak to FIC staff and the NIH IC International Representatives on the “NIH Roadmap” and where international activities and research fit into it. This meeting will be held in February with a date and location to be announced later.

The next meeting of the NIH IC International Representatives and Partners will be Tuesday, March 9, 2004, at 1 pm in the Stone House.

Attendance:

Dr. Sharon Hrynkow, FIC Acting Director; Mr. George Herrfurth, Executive Secretary, FIC; Dr. Susan Newcomer, NICHD; Dr. Lois Cohen and Dr. Kevin Hardwick, NIDCR; Ms. Julia Royall, NLM; Dr. Karl Western, NIAID; Mr. John Whitaker, NEI; Dr. John Haller, NIBIB; Dr. Donna Mayo and Dr. Javier Escobar, NIMH; Dr. Yuan Liu, NINDS; Dr. Luis Salicrup, OD/OTT, Dr. Steve Gust and Dr. Patricia Needle, NIDA; Dr. Phil Chen, OD/OIR; Dr. Marta Capmbell, NIA; Ms. Helen Wegman, NHLBI; FIC staff: Ms. Saadia Ali, Ms. Nalini Anand, Dr. Ken Bridbord, Mr. Bruce Butram, Ms. Liza Dawson, Ms. Kirstin Erickson, Mr. Maria Kaspar, Ms. Judy Levin, Dr. Jeanne McDermott, Ms. Pamela Masten, Mr. Anthony Measham, Ms. Sonja Madera, Mr. Dick Millstein, Ms. Wendy Prudhomme, Ms. Minerva Rojo