

SUMMARY
NIH INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES MEETING
November 8, 2005

Dr. James Herrington, Director, Division of International Relations, Fogarty International Center (FIC), welcomed the IC representatives to the Stone House.

FIC Announcements: Dr. Herrington reported on the upcoming trip by Dr. Zerhouni to Singapore and China in mid-December, which will include a meeting of the Heads of International Research Organizations (HIRO). The purpose of the China trip will be to meet with leaders in medical research at the Chinese Academy of Science (CAS), the Chinese Academy of Medical Science (CAMS), and other agencies in order to explore new means of cooperation. Dr. Hrynkow will accompany Dr. Zerhouni on the trip to China.

Dr. Herrington next informed the group about the pending U.S.-Russia umbrella S&T Agreement that is close to finalization and signature. He noted that the trip he took as part of a U.S. delegation in September was useful in forging closer ties between FIC and the Russian Academy of Science, the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, the Russian Ministry of Science and the Institutes of Epidemiology and Molecular Biology. He also noted that Secretary Leavitt will meet with his Italian counterpart to discuss cooperation in health, and that NCI, ORD and NIAID will participate in a workshop group prior to the Secretarial event.

The visit of the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall on November 3 was a success. The Duchess of Cornwall, leader of an NGO in the UK on osteoporosis, led the meeting which included Dr. Zerhouni, Deputy Secretary Azar, Surgeon General Carmona and leaders across NIH.

State Department Foreign Public Outreach Efforts and the Interagency Strategic Communications Fusion Team: Dr. Herrington introduced Mr. Robert Peterson of the Department of State's Office of Strategic Communication who provided a presentation on U.S. Information Outreach to Foreign Publics and Governments. Mr. Peterson's Office coordinates planning and evaluation of international communications activities within the State Department and with other USG agencies. He provided an overview of State's Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs activities that are led by Under Secretary Karen Hughes. Under Secretary Hughes oversees the efforts of three Bureaus that focus on international public information activities, including the Bureau of Public Affairs, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the Bureau of International Information Programs (IIP – where Mr. Peterson currently serves). Mr. Peterson distributed several examples of State's outreach efforts to various groups, including young Arab males and Chinese Mandarin speakers. Mr. Peterson is also Chief of Staff for the Interagency Strategic Communication Fusion Team, a body established in 2003 to ensure timely,

effective and consistent public affairs information to foreign publics and governments across USG agencies. He underscored that all of the efforts that State's Public Diplomacy Bureaus seek to pursue are aimed at engaging foreign audiences, informing them accurately about U.S. policies and views and influencing such audiences. He noted that some recent IIP outreach efforts have included health-related issues, including those related to avian flu and influenza. He indicated that State would welcome suggestions from NIH regarding other potential topics. Mr. Peterson invited Dr. Herrington to an upcoming meeting in early December of the Interagency Strategic Communication Fusion Team.

Upcoming Events and Other Issues:

Dr. Herrington noted that there are several upcoming meetings with or in Vietnam, including one to commemorate 10 years of establishment of U.S.-Vietnam diplomatic ties. From November 15-19 there will be a meeting in Hanoi of the 5th Joint Commission Meeting held under the auspices of the U.S.-Vietnam S&T Agreement. From November 15-17, the U.S. and Japan will be holding a regional meeting in Vietnam to discuss HIV and TB issues. Also during that timeframe, NIEHS will be holding a studies meeting in Vietnam. Dr. Herrington will represent FIC/NIH at the JCM.

Dr. Lois Cohen, NIDCR, reported that the Former Director of the National Science Foundation, Dr. Rita Colwell, will speak at NIH on Tuesday, November 15 at 3:30 p.m. in the Natcher Auditorium when she presents the 2005 David E. Barmes Global Health Lecture. Dr. Colwell, who is Distinguished University Professor at the Center for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, will talk about "Global Climate, Environmental Pathogens, and Human Health: A New Paradigm." Her lecture will focus on the relationship between climate and infectious disease, including cholera. The Barmes Lecture is co-sponsored annually by the NIDCR and FIC.

NICHD's Dr. Danuta Krotoski provided an update on the activities of the four committees of the Extramural Programs Management Committee (EPMC). Further information on EPMC may be obtained from Dr. Krotoski.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 10, 2006, at 1 p.m. in the NIH Stone House.

Attendance:

Dr. James Herrington, FIC/DIR Director; Mr. George Herrfurth, Executive Secretary; Ms. Julia Royall, NLM; Dr. Lana Shekim, NIDCD; Ms. Helen Wegman, NHLBI; Ms. Peggy Murray, NIAAA; Dr. Karl Western, NIAID; Dr. Craig Carlson, NCCAM; Ms. Dale Weiss, NIDA; Dr. Phillip Chen, OD/OIR; Dr. Lois Cohen, NIDCR; Dr. Walter Schaffer, OD/OER; Dr. Karen Babich, NIMH; Dr. John Haller, NIBIB; Dr. Danuta Krotoski, NICHD. FIC Staff: Ms. Sonja Madera; Ms. Judy Levin; Mr. Kevin Bialy; Ms. Tina Chung; Dr. Henry Francis; Mr. John Makulowich; Dr. Jean Flaggs-Newton