

SUMMARY
NIH INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES MEETING
November 14, 2006

Dr. James Herrington, Director, Division of International Relations (DIR) Fogarty International Center (FIC), welcomed the IC representatives to the FIC Conference Room at the NIH Stone House. Dr. Herrington noted that he was asked to chair the meeting while FIC Director Dr. Roger Glass was on travel in India and, unfortunately, unable to participate at this meeting.

NIH International Activities Report – Analysis for 2007: Dr. Karen Hofman, Director of FIC's Division of Advanced Studies and Policy Analysis (DASPA), presented on the need and rationale for NIH development of a 2007 international activities portfolio analysis. Dr. Zerhouni strongly supports development of such a report and FIC will be coordinating it across NIH. Dr. Hofman outlined the rationale for such an activity, noted that a similar annual exercise was formerly conducted until a few years ago, and underscored that IC engagement was needed to ensure that the best product possible be developed by May 2007 to present to Dr. Zerhouni and NIH stakeholders. She provided a timeline leading up to publication of a report on NIH international activities which begins with a briefing to the NIH IC International representatives at this meeting. The rationale for producing such a report, initially for the period FY04-05, was that (1) existing reports on USG spending on global health research are inconsistent; (2) National governments and multilateral organizations/foundations seek more robust information on such investments; (3) global health advocates in Congress and elsewhere need to know current international research spending by NIH; and (4) Americans believe that USG should invest in addressing disparities in global health, particularly in the less developed countries. Dr. Hofman outlined a set of analytic questions that the report would seek to address, including how much the NIH invests in international health research and how NIH investments compare with the global burden of disease. She also identified some examples of the type of information that would be included in the report, including countries and regions where NIH investments are made and by biomedical and behavioral research priority. She noted that the report would draw from a range of data resources provided by the ICs. Next steps in the process include a letter to be sent out by FIC Director Dr. Roger Glass to IC directors in the near future calling for ICs to collect and compile data in January and send compiled data to FIC in February for production of a report by May 2007. She noted that future reporting will likely be for 2-year increments, e.g., the 2008 edition would report on data for the FY06-07 period. Dr. Hofman addressed questions raised at the meeting and asked that any further comments from IC representatives should be submitted to her or Ms. Temina Madon at FIC as soon as possible. Dr. Hofman also acknowledged the assistance of Ms. Julie Marquardt, FIC Communications Office, with this endeavor. Dr. Hofman's PowerPoint presentation on this subject is attached.

Fogarty International Center Strategic Planning: Dr. Linda Kupfer, FIC/DASPA, presented on the FIC Strategic Planning Process and sought IC representatives comments on three emerging strategic issues: (1) balancing the global health research emphasis between communicable and non-communicable/chronic diseases; (2) addressing the emergence of "implementation science" as a discipline to facilitate and accelerate the applications of important research findings on a global scale; and (3) confronting the challenge of building sustainable research capacity. She noted that FIC has a section on its website (<http://www.fic.nih.gov/>) that solicits input from FIC stakeholders on the future direction of the FIC. IC representatives at the meeting had questions and offered several comments in support of the strategic planning process and expressed positive anticipation of the results of the exercise when they become available by mid-2007. One representative stressed the need for FIC to stress its role in building research capacity abroad consistent with its long-standing expertise in this area.

Announcements: Dr. Glass will be meeting with representatives of the German Research Foundation on November 20. A DCPD regional meeting is being planned for New Delhi in January 2007; further details to be made available. FIC continues to provide training for the new enhanced Foreign Tracking System. The next training sessions are on November 15 and 16. The DHHS Secretary together with NIAID Director Dr. Anthony Fauci will be traveling to China via Japan in early December.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 9, 2007, at 1 p.m. in the NIH Stone House.

Attendance:

Dr. James Herrington, Acting Chairperson; Mr. George Herrfurth, Executive Secretary; Ms. Julia Royall, NLM; Dr. Henning Birkedal-Hansen, NIDCR; Ms. Dale Weiss, NIDA; Dr. Karen Babich, Dr. Willo Pequegnat, and Ms. Anna Beitin, NIMH; Mr. Gray Handley, NIAID; Dr. Cindy Caughman, NCCR; Dr. Z.J. Zheng and Ms. Helen Wegman, NHLBI; Dan Raiten, NICHD; Dr. Dan Gerendasy, CSR; Ms. Gail Wolfson, OAR. FIC staff: Mr. Kevin Bialy, Ms. Tina Chung, Mr. John Makulowich, Dr. Karen Hofman, Dr. Linda Kupfer, Ms. Julie Marquardt, Dr. Henry Francis, Ms. Linda Perret, Ms. Traci Eikhaus