

Summary of NIH International Highlights

July-November 2004

During the week of November 15, NIH Director, Dr. Elias Zerhouni, participated in the Summit on Global Health Research in Mexico City on behalf of Secretary Thompson. Approximately 40 other Health Ministers or senior health research policy makers attended from other countries. Its focus was on the role biomedical research can play in assisting to meet the health-related targets and timetables set out in the UN's Millennium Development Goals. Dr. Zerhouni presented on the NIH Roadmap and strategic perspectives on interdisciplinarity as a means to address global health challenges. Dr. Hrynkow joined Dr. Zerhouni for the Summit, and along with several FIC senior staff members, participated in the Eighth Global Forum for Health Research meeting that was held simultaneously with the Summit.

Dr. Zerhouni, together with Dr. Hrynkow, and FIC/DIR Program Officer for the Middle East and North Africa, Ms. Judy Levin, met with Iraq's Minister of Health, Dr. Ala'adin Alwan and the Iraqi Ambassador to the United States, Ms. Rend Rahim Francke on August 12. FIC also hosted a reception at the Stone House on behalf of Secretary Thompson for Dr. Alwan and senior leadership of other HHS agencies that have been involved in reconstruction activities in Iraq.

On September 20, Dr. Zerhouni signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with his counterpart from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Dr. Alan Bernstein, signifying interest to increase cooperation on indigenous peoples' research issues. FIC contact for more information on this LOI is Ms. Natalie Tomitch.

Dr. Zerhouni, together with Dr. Hrynkow, met with Professor Colin Blakemore, Chief Executive of the UK Medical Research Council (MRC) on September 29 to discuss NIH research issues and possible future NIH-MRC collaborations. Views were also exchanged on the scope and agenda of the next "Heads of International Research Organizations" (HIRO) meeting that will be hosted by Dr. Zerhouni in December.

On October 21, Dr. Zerhouni met with Dr. Abdullah Sherzai, Deputy Health Minister of Health for Afghanistan to discuss possible areas for NIH-Afghani collaboration in biomedical and behavioral research. Dr. Sherzai also met with NICHD Director, Dr. Duane Alexander, as well as Mr. Rob Eiss, Acting Director, FIC Division of International Relations (DIR) and Dr. Zakir Bengali, FIC/DIR Program Officer for Southeast Asia to discuss potential NIH initiatives in Afghanistan, including with respect to "distance learning".

Fogarty International Center (FIC)

On September 17, Dr. Hrynkow presented an overview of the FIC/NIH mission and a discourse on NIH international research priorities and challenges at the Foreign Service

Institute's course on Environment, Science, Technology and Health (ESTH) at State Department facilities in Arlington, Virginia. Drs. Ana Chepilinsky and Henry Francis of FIC's Division of International Relations joined her at the event.

FIC hosted a visit to NIH by Russian Senior Arctic official Ambassador Vitaly Churkin on September 23. Dr. Hrynkow and Ms. Natalie Tomitch, FIC Program Officer for Russia, Eurasia and the CEE met with the Ambassador to discuss FIC's new role as NIH representative on Arctic issues, Russia's research priorities as it assumes the chairmanship of the Arctic Council, and plans for International Polar Year (2007-2008).

On September 28, Dr. Hrynkow met with Peru's Minister of Health, Dr. Pilar Mazzetti, to discuss Peru's interests in strengthening research and research training between NIH and Peruvian institutions. Dr. Hrynkow was joined in the meeting by FIC staff, including Dr. Ken Bridbord, Dr. Ana Chepelinsky and Dr. Barbara Sina. Dr. Mazzetti also met with Dr. Story Landis, NINDS Director, and NINDS staff during her visit to NIH.

Dr. Hrynkow represented NIH at an HHS-sponsored briefing for foreign diplomats that was held on October 7 in Washington, D.C. She reviewed priority international programs and FIC training initiatives. The event allowed HHS agencies to brief the foreign diplomatic community on international activities related to bilateral, regional and global health issues.

On October 12, Dr. Hrynkow and Dr. T.K. Li, NIAAA Director, presented at the 11th U.S.-China Joint Commission Meeting on Science and Technology Cooperation. The purpose of the meeting was to explore future U.S.-China opportunities for partnering and collaboration including with respect to biomedical and behavioral research. The NIH discussion focused on opportunities in the neurosciences.

Dr. Hrynkow was invited by Congressman Jim Leach to provide an overview of FIC activities at a meeting on global health issues at the College of Public Health, University of Iowa, on October 21. Dr. Flora Katz, Program Officer in FIC's Division of International Training and Research joined the briefing.

On November 4, Dr. Hrynkow together with FIC staff, and NIAID and Gates Foundation representatives met with Dr. Agneta Wennerholm, Project Manager in the Secretariat of the Multilateral Initiative on Malaria (MIM) on the future of the MIM's Secretariat as it moves from Sweden to another country and to prepare for the next international conference on malaria to be held in Cameroon in November 2005.

Disease Control Priorities Project (DCPP)

From July through November 2004, the DCPP Secretariat implemented a program of consultations and discussions related to chapter development for the *Disease Control Priorities in Developing Countries*, second edition (DCP-2). The strategic communications and dissemination phase of DCP-2 is now underway. Additionally, to

date, the Secretariat has received sixty-five of the seventy-two chapter drafts planned for publication.

Recent and upcoming consultations and editors' meetings include: a DCPD co-sponsored consultation with Harvard School of Public Health and Merck and Co, to review the research chapters and develop key recommendations to advance global health research and development, on September 7-8, 2004, in Whitehouse Station, NJ, at Merck and Co., Inc; a consultation on the Health Care Finance and Taxes and Subsidies chapters, on September 16, 2004; a DCPD sponsored consultation on the Elimination/Eradication and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases chapters at the Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), on October 4, 2004; and the 20th Disease Control Priorities Project Editors' Meeting on October 14-15, 2004, in Washington, DC, at The World Bank.

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

Bilateral Activities

Africa

On October 4-5, Dr. Henry Francis, FIC/DIR program Officer for Sub Saharan Africa, attended the National program and Steering committee meeting on HIV/AIDS treatment to discuss and plan the conference agenda for a PHS sponsored clinical AIDS meeting.

On October 8, Dr. Henry Francis met with Jeffery Griffin's of Tufts University and Dr. Alex Ezeh of the African Population and Health Center (APHRC) to discuss international distance learning methodologies and the use of African research centers for international research. Dr. Griffin's research work has shown that Internet linkage with universities, clinical and other rural organizations and individuals is feasible for developing sustainable research collaborations. Dr. Ezeh described the extensive research capability of the APHRC to perform NIH research through direct collaborative research relationships. He listed his website, www.aphrc.org, as a good reference source for potential international collaborators.

On October 14, Dr Francis met with Dr. Classens and Ms. Milo Zama of the South African Department of Health to discuss research-funding opportunities for health officials interested in Health services research in HIV/AIDS populations.

Asia and the Pacific

Australia

On October 19, Mr. Gregg Davis, FIC/DIR Program Officer for East Asia and the Pacific, and Dr. Zakir Bengali, FIC/DIR Program Officer for Southeast Asia, met with Mr. Ian Lucas of the Australian Department of Education, Science and Training to discuss access to research data from projects funded by NIH. This meeting was in

response to a recent NIH proposal about making NIH-funded data publicly available within 6 months of publication.

Korea

On October 29, Mr. Davis and Mr. Rob Eiss, FIC/DIR Acting Director, attended the 6th U.S.-Korea Joint Committee Meeting on Scientific and Technological Cooperation. The purpose of this meeting was to explore opportunities for U.S.-Korea partnering and collaboration including with respect to biomedical and behavioral research. Participants from NIAID also attended the meeting.

Latin America and the Caribbean

On September 13, Dr. Ana Chepelinsky, FIC/DIR Program Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, attended the PAHO-USAID Symposium on Partnership for Public Health in the Americas meeting at PAHO headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Chepelinsky represented NIH/FIC at the HHMI Funding Panel held in Montevideo, Uruguay on October 7-8. During her visit to Uruguay, Dr. Chepelinsky also met with Dr. Alberto Nieto, President of the Fundaquim Foundation and Dean, School of Chemistry, Universidad República, to discuss the participation of Uruguay in the FIC-led Pan American Fellows (PAF) Program.

On October 13, Dr. Chepelinsky presented a poster at the NIH Hispanic Scientist Day on Fogarty Programs for NIH trained foreign scientists. She also met with NIH postdoctoral fellows from Latin America during this event. Also on October 13, Dr. Chepelinsky moderated the Latin American regional workshop at the ICOHRTA/Brain Disorders Network Meeting organized by Dr. Kathleen Michels, Program Director in FIC/DITR.

On November 4, Dr. Chepelinsky presented a lecture about her scientific career to Mexican college and graduate students participating at the Mexican-American Science and Engineering Society (MEAS) meeting and job fair in Austin, Texas.

Middle East

On August 20, Ms. Judy Levin, FIC Program Officer for the Middle East and North Africa, met with Dr. Rami Rahamimoff, Chief Scientist for the Ministry of Health in Israel and Dr. Mordehai Cohen, Science Attaché at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, DC, to discuss the organization of potential scientific meetings to be held in Israel under the auspices of the U.S.-Israeli bilateral health agreement.

Ms. Levin met with two Iraqi scientists visiting Washington area scientific institutions in a program sponsored by the U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation (CRDF) on September 21. After an overview of NIH, they also met with scientific staff of the Clinical Center and NIAID.

On October 7, Ms. Levin met with Dr. Abdulrahman Al Nuaim, Chief Operating Officer and Professor of Medicine at the King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to discuss ways in which to expand the number of collaborations between U.S. scientists and researchers based at King Faisal. She also arranged meetings for Dr. Al Nuaim with his Clinical Center counterpart and hosted a meeting involving FDA and HRSA staff.

On October 25, Ms. Levin facilitated meetings between an Israeli Department of Defense Rehabilitation delegation and medical staff of the Clinical Center Rehabilitation Medicine Department.

Russia, Eurasia and Central and Eastern Europe (CEE)

On September 19-20, Ms. Natalie Tomitch, FIC Program Officer for Russia, Eurasia, and CEE, and FIC's senior staff representative on Arctic issues, participated in the US-Canada Roundtable on Native Health Research Priorities, organized by IHS and HealthCanada.

Ms. Tomitch and Dr. Bonny Harbinger, Deputy Director of OTT, met with a Finnish government delegation on September 23 to exchange views on HHS/NIH technology policy and technology transfer as well as to present an overview of the NIH Roadmap and its role in accelerating translation of research results.

Ms. Tomitch facilitated a visit to the NIH by a group led by the Directors of the Pediatric AIDS Center and the Center for HIV Positive Pregnant Women and Children, both of which are part of the Federal AIDS Center in St. Petersburg, Russia. The delegation's primary interests included state-of-art testing and diagnosis of HIV-exposed infants/children, pediatric HIV treatment, and prevention of mother-to-child transmission. The group met with representatives of NIAID, NICHD, FIC, and OAR, and toured the Clinical Center's pediatric ward.

Ms. Tomitch organized the 11-member NIH delegation, consisting of representatives of NIAID, NIMH, and NICHD, to participate in a "Bridges in Life Sciences" regional research network meeting focusing on HIV/AIDS and related conditions. The meeting took place in Bucharest, Romania, on October 14-16 and included plenary sessions as well as interactive poster/networking sessions involving NIH grantees and their partners from CEE, as well as representatives of the European Commission's Research Directorate, USAID, and local representatives of the Global Fund. The event included a training component on grantsmanship and technology transfer as well as an overview of NIH/FIC opportunities for U.S.-CEE collaboration.

On October 21, Ms. Tomitch represented FIC at a meeting of the Polar Research Board of the National Academies. The primary objective of the meeting was to discuss planning for International Polar Year and to address the Board's next priority topics and responsibilities related to US participation in the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), which is keen on strengthening emphasis on research related to human health.

Ms. Tomitch facilitated a brainstorming session on Graduate Public Health Education in CEE and Eurasia, which took place November 4 at the Stone House. Representatives of the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) and the Open Society Institute (OSI-NY), which together support a network of emerging Schools of Public Health in CEE and Eurasia, joined FIC staff and several FIC grantees active in this region in a discussion to explore ways in which our networks can collaborate to meet common goals.

South Asia

On August 10, Dr. Zakir Bengali, FIC Program Officer for South Asia, coordinated the visit of Major General Masood Anwar, Commander of Pakistan's Institute of Pathology, to NIH. General Anwar met with NIH staff and staff from NHLBI, NCI and NCCAM to discuss possible research coordination on topics ranging from transfusion medicine and lymphomas as well as alternative medicines.

From September 6 through 16, Dr. Bengali conducted Grantsmanship Workshops in five cities in India. These workshops were organized by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology. Over 500 Indian research scientists attended these workshops throughout India.

Program Notes

From September 19-21, Dr. Mark Miller, Director, FIC Division of International Epidemiology and Population Studies (EPS), participated in the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Global Health Diagnostics Forum in Seattle, Washington.

On October 7, Dr. Karen Hofman, Director, FIC Division of Advanced Studies and Policy Analysis (DASPA), participated in an informal meeting on Challenges to Effective Award Administration and Monitoring in Developing Countries: Federal Agency Perspectives, held at the NIH.

From October 18-22, 2004, Dr. Karen Hofman attended, as an organizer and speaker, Public Health and Medical Reporting: A Workshop for Journalists of the Americas II in Panama City, Panama. Ms. Emmy Cauthen attended this workshop also and provided administrative support at it. In addition, Dr. Chris Schonwalder, FIC/DITR Program Officer, also participated in and led a discussion session at the Workshop.

From October 24 to 25, Dr. Mark Miller participated in the Sabin Vaccine Institute meeting on "Pandemic Disease Threats: Can We Develop a Global Policy" in Lexington, Kentucky.

On October 26, 2004, Dr. Karen Hofman attended the International Medical Education Day commemoration in Philadelphia. The topic was "Medical Migration: Toward Equitable Medical Expertise Across the World."

From September 30 to October 1, Dr. Joel Breman, Senior Scientist in FIC/EPS, attended the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) 42nd Annual Meeting in Boston.

On October 13-15, Dr. Jeanne McDermott, Program Director, FIC Division of International Training and Research (DITR), attended a Full Group Meeting of the HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN) in Seattle, Washington.

Drs. Flora Katz and Joshua Rosenthal from FIC/DITR participated in a October 12-13 workshop "International Cooperative Biodiversity Groups" (ICBG) Program: Screening and Preclinical Development of Antimalarials", sponsored by the Malaria Research and Reference Reagent Resource Center (MR4), to bring malaria researchers from each of the 12 ICBG Groups to Bethesda to discuss anti-malarial screening and development strategies. The ICBG is a natural products drug discovery and biodiversity conservation program managed by FIC on behalf of co-sponsors from NIH, NSF, and USDA. An ICBG network meeting attended by 70 scientists from the U.S. and 9 developing countries on October 14-15 followed the two-day workshop.

Dr. Linda Kupfer, FIC/DASPA Program Officer, attended the American Evaluation Association's annual conference, Evaluation 2004: Fundamental Issues, held November 3-6, 2004, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Ellis McKenzie, FIC/EPS Senior Scientist, together with FIC/EPS scientists, Drs. David Smith and Wendy Prudhomme, attended the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene's 53rd Annual Meeting in Miami, Florida from November 7 to 11. Dr. McKenzie also participated in the DHHS/DHS Material Threat Assessment Meeting at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories in Oakland, California, on Nov. 18-19.

From October 24 to 30, Dr. Aron Primack, FIC/DITR, Program Director, participated in meetings in Japan organized by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). Dr. Primack presented at meetings for the JSPS faculty in Tokyo, and for faculties and students at the Universities of Tokyo, Kyoto, and Kyushu, on NIH and FIC systems of application review and program direction.

Dr. Chris Schonwalder, FIC/DITR Program Officer, presented a course in grant application writing to health researchers in Hanoi organized by FIC/DITR, the U.S. Embassy, and the University of Washington. Attendees included faculty an/or students from Vietnam's National Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health, the School of Public Health, the Medical School, Bach Mai Hospital, as well as staff from Vietnam's Ministry of Health.

Recent FIC Seminars and Talks

- September 1 – Mr. Brian Zuckerman, Abt Associates, presented on "Portfolio Evaluations of FIC Programs" together with Bhavya Lal, Abt Associates, who presented on "The AITRP Evaluation – Results of Phase I, Plans for Phase II".

- November 1 – Dr. Elaine Wolfson, Global Alliance for Women’s Health, gave a talk on “Advances and Challenges in Global Women’s Health: Perspectives from Beijing +10 and the Millennium Development Goals”.
- November 5 – Ms. Annemarie terVeen, London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, presented a talk on “What Happened to Malaria in the USA? A Tale of Mozzies, Men and a Parasite”.

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

GLOBAL - At the initiative of the Acting Director, the NHLBI is developing a Strategic Plan to provide blood transfusion safety programs to countries struggling with limited resources. The Institute hosted an Advisory think tank on Global Blood Safety on May 28 to identify needs, potential collaborative organizations, target countries, and realistic interventions to achieve a safer blood supply.

WHO - The NHLBI has been re-designated a WHO/PAHO Collaborating Center for Research and Training in Cardiovascular Diseases in recognition of the Institute's past achievements in prevention and control of cardiovascular diseases and training of international scientists, and NHLBI's plans for continued collaboration with WHO and PAHO.

NHLBI has accepted the WHO invitation to become a liaison member of the Global Alliance for Respiratory Diseases (GARD). This initiative is being developed to further international activities for the prevention and control of chronic respiratory diseases. Further information is anticipated in conjunction with the May 2005 World Health Assembly.

PAHO - The NHLBI and the Pan American Health Organization held a joint workshop October 13-15, 2004 on "Charting New Directions for Cardiovascular Disease Prevention and Control in the Americas." The meeting focused on the overall prevention of cardiovascular disease, and was preceded by site visits that included the Acting Director, NHLBI and Institute staff to study sites in Chile and Costa Rica, and reciprocal visits by Latin American health professionals to NHLBI centers focusing on prevention and control of cardiovascular disease.

INDIA - A six-month visit by an Indian scientist to Nobel Laureate Nirenberg's laboratory is underway. It focuses on innovative research in molecular biology. The Chief of the Hematology Branch visited India in October to explore opportunities for joint research in hepatitis virus infections and post-hepatitis aplastic anemia as well as in viral hemorrhagic fevers, e.g. dengue.

ITALY - In September an Italian scientist from the Department of Pharmacological Sciences, University of Milan collaborated with colleagues at the Department of Pathology, Harborview Medical Center, Seattle, in research on vascular smooth cell remodeling, focusing on the re-expression of a glycoprotein involved in the regulation of matrix metalloproteinase activity.

In August, Department of Pharmacological and Biological Sciences, Uni Parma conducted joint research with a scientist from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia on the pharmacological control of cellular cholesterol metabolism, including the effects of

dihydropyridine calcium antagonist on intercellular migration of cholesterol, on extracellular acceptors, and induced cell cytotoxicity.

RUSSIA - Two Russian exchange visits in the area of basic research in cardiovascular disease began in September and will continue for 4-5 months. Host institutions are the University of Rochester, the Indiana Center for Vascular Biology and Medicine.

National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) International Highlights

NINR and the Fogarty International Center hosted a delegation of academic leaders from the Sun Yat-sen University School of Nursing in Guangzhou, China, on August 5 and 6. The group's visit marked the final leg of a 5-year journey to develop a doctoral program at the University's School of Nursing. The program is expected to accept applicants this year.

One goal of the visit was to learn about research grants – their development, administration, and the responsibilities of grant recipients. Another goal was to observe how nursing research is taught within doctoral programs in the United States. The program will also allow China to benefit from research and advanced-practice nurses. The visitors hope to apply what they learned to the new doctoral program at Sun Yet-sen University.

NIH Office of Dietary Supplements
International Risk Assessment of Nutrients and Related Substances

The Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS), through an Interagency Agreement with the National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), has amended an NIEHS' cooperative agreement with the World Health Organization's International Programme on Chemical Safety (WHO/IPCS). The purpose of this collaboration is to develop an internationally relevant, scientific framework for nutrient risk assessment. A similar international process for setting reference intakes for nutrient adequacy has been conducted for many years. The results of the risk assessment project will provide sound scientific information for policy makers at the international and national levels as well as identify research needs for future risk assessment evaluations.

On November 1, the WHO, in partnership with the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), posted a Web notice announcing their intention to begin project activities (<http://www.who.int/ipcs/highlights/nutrientproject/en/>). Included in this notice was a background paper that served as an informal 'conceptual exercise' to assist the WHO/FAO in identifying key considerations and questions. The nutrient risk assessment approach borrows heavily from general approaches that have been used for food additives and contaminants, but also recognizes the unique characteristics of nutrients within the risk assessment process. Additionally, the background paper proposes an approach for enhancing international harmonization in developing nutrient upper limits. To better inform the discussion, the background paper provides examples from three nutrient risk assessment approaches that have been requested or funded by governments: The IOM's Upper Limits that were included in their DRI evaluations, the United Kingdom's Expert Group on Vitamins and Minerals, and the European Commission's Scientific Committee for Food. Although all three reports used similar conceptual frameworks and the same databases, their approaches and resultant recommendations were often quite different. This underscores the need for an internationally relevant approach.

Initial planning and financial/scientific support for the WHO/FAO project includes a number of nations and scientific organizations (US, UK, South Africa, Korea, Canada, Australia, European Commission, Denmark, Brazil) as well as scientific liaison support from the U.N. University and the European Food Safety Agency.

In their November 1 notice, WHO/FAO initiated a request for information and comment on several key issues from all interested parties. In December, WHO/FAO plan to post a call for experts who will participate in a technical workshop in 2005. As background for the workshop, discussion papers will be commissioned. The report of the workshop will be made available in draft form with the opportunity for public comment before the report is finalized and distributed. We encourage interested persons to submit comments on this project. If more information is desired, please contact Dr. Beth Yetley at ODS (301-435-2920).

**NIH Office of Technology Transfer (OTT)
Report of International Activities**

The NIH Office of Technology Transfer (OTT) is working with institutions in developing countries was able to identify some of the public health needs and opportunities for transfer of NIH technologies related to:

- HIV/AIDS
- Tuberculosis
- Malaria
- Dengue
- Diarrhea Diseases (Rotavirus)
- Meningitis
- Cancer (including HPV)
- Diabetes

OTT has already transferred technologies to, or has negotiations in process with public and private institutions in Lesser Developed Countries (LDCs):

- Brazil
- China
- Korea
- India
- Indonesia
- Mexico
- Argentina
- Chile
- Egypt
- Tunisia
- South Africa
- Other Sub-Saharan African Countries

Summary of some of License Agreements implemented in FY04:

- ddI** - PROTEIN, S.A. de C.V., Mexico
- Conjugated Meningococcal Vaccine** - PATH and WHO, produced in India for distribution in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, Caribbean, Middle East, Eastern Europe and Asia
- Biological materials for conjugated vaccine** against typhoid fever to an International Vaccine Institute based in Korea and to be produced in partnership with a public institution and a private entity in for distribution in Southeast Asia
- Licensing by Geographic Region:** Human-Bovine Rotavirus Vaccine proposed multi-licensing approach (7 institutions in India, China, Brazil, and the US)

Strategic Alliances:

As part of NIH's mission to reduce the burden of disease worldwide during FY 04 OTT enhanced its collaborations with relevant international organizations by:

- Providing expertise advice
- Sharing Information
- Joint publications in peer review journals
- Participating in key international meetings, and
- Participating in TT/IPM workshops in the field
- Examples of institutions that OTT/NIH is currently working include: MIHR, DCVM, PATH, WHO, PAHO, IDB, DNDi, MSF, Rockefeller Foundation

Meetings:

- Dr. Mark L. Rohrbaugh was part of the U.S. delegation at the meeting of WHO's Commission on Intellectual Property Rights October 4-5 in Bethesda, MD
- Dr. Mark L. Rohrbaugh represented NIH at the meeting of WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) of WHO's Division of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals, Geneva, Switzerland October 27-29
- Dr. Bonny Harbinger represented NIH and the State Department at a meeting organized by Italian Patent and Trademark Office with the U.S. Embassy in Rome, October 2-6 Venice, Italy
- Mr. Steve Ferguson represented OTT at Workshop: "Sino-US Medical and Drug Sectors Cooperation Activities" organized by the Dalian High Tech Developing Zone, June 24-July 3
- Mr. J.P. Kim, represented OTT at "The First Forum on Intellectual Property of Chinese Universities and Colleges" (Conference sponsored by Science and Technology Development, Ministry of Education, PRC and Peking University, Tsinghua University, and the Beijing Institute of Intellectual Property Strategy
- Dr. Brain Stanton represented NIH at OECD's Expert Working Group on the Licensing of Genetic Inventions, October 2-6 in Vienna, Austria
- Dr. Luis A. Salicrup represented NIH in the Meeting of the Developing Countries Vaccine Manufacturing Network (DCVMN) in Cairo, Egypt Sept 04
- Dr. Luis A. Salicrup represented NIH at the XII International Biotechnology Symposium in Santiago, Chile October 17-22
- Dr. Rohrbaugh and Dr. Salicrup met with representatives from the European Union to discuss the U.S. technology transfer model-September 29
- Dr. Rohrbaugh and Dr. Salicrup met on October 13 with representatives from Doctors without Borders to discuss the model use by NIH to enhance the transfer of technologies related to neglected diseases in developing countries
- Dr. Mark L. Rohrbaugh will represent NIH in the Annual Meeting of Enterprise Ireland November 8-10

- Dr. Luis A. Salicrup will represent OTT at the meeting of the Global Forum on Health Research to be held in November 16-19 in Mexico City. OTT will participate in two sessions pertaining to intellectual property management, capacity building, and public-private partnerships

Training-Related Activities:

During FY 04 OTT provided TT Expertise Training to several institutions in developing and industrialized countries. We also started working in two major training activities:

- Participation in regional and international workshops
- Internship Program targeted to scientists and technology managers from developing countries.

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)
International Highlights

NIDCR Associate Director for International Health attended a meeting of the Organization for Safety and Asepsis Procedures, held in Miami, June 10-13. The mission of this organization is to promote infection control and related science-based health and safety policies and practices, by providing quality education and information dissemination to dental workers and the public. Dr. Cohen presented at a symposium on developing and promoting an international research agenda in dental clinical infection control and safety.

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 August 2.

Dr. Lois K. Cohen, as the NIH liaison, participated in her first official Advisory Board meeting for the Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis (IMHA), Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR), August 25-26, in St. Johns, Newfoundland. Oral health research and research training fall within the purview of that Institute, which covers tissue injury, repair and replacement; physical activity, mobility and health; and pain, disability and chronic diseases. Topics covered at this meeting included: the evaluation framework for all CIHR Institutes and common assessment indicators; opinions and concerns from the Researcher Round Table meeting held at Memorial University, Health Science Center in St. Johns; issues in peer review of RFAs; Strategic Initiatives budget planning; December 2004 RFA launch; IMHA workshops and their outcomes and the succession planning for IMHA and other CIHR Institute Science Directors and staff support.

The International Health Officer represented NIDCR at the Joint Meeting of the Continental European, Scandinavian and Israeli Divisions of IADR, held in Istanbul, Turkey, August 25-28. He staffed an NIDCR table in the exhibit area, and provided information on NIDCR's scientific program areas and funding mechanisms. In addition, Dr. Hardwick gave a presentation on NIDCR's role in building international research collaborations, and showed the film, "Science Knows No Country."

The Associate Director for International Health traveled to Israel to participate in a meeting of the planning committee for the Executive Leadership Program for Women in Academic Medicine and Dentistry. The meeting was held September 5-6. The President of Hadassah College subsequently visited the NIH and met with staff of the NIDCR, FIC and the ORWH to discuss the planned development for this effort in the Mediterranean region.

The Associate Director for International Health attended the FDI Annual World Dental Congress, held in New Delhi, India, September 10-13. She participated in meetings of

the FDI Public Health Section, and contributed in business meetings of other FDI Committees and Commissions, including the Science Commission and the World Dental Development Committee. One of NIDCR's international collaborative research planning grants was included in the scientific program of the World Dental Congress. The grant, based at the University of Washington, addresses common diagnostic criteria for temporomandibular disorders. Dr. Cohen also contributed to the programs that focused on women's careers in dental science. Plans were discussed for the 3rd International Women's Leadership Conference in Dental Education, Research & Service, scheduled for August 28-30th, 2005 in Montreal, Canada, as the NIDCR is a co-sponsor of the activity with American Dental Education Association (ADEA) and other organizations globally.

Following the FDI meeting, the Associate Director for International Health traveled to Manipal and Mangalore, India, to visit the College of Dental Surgery, Manipal Academy of Higher Education. She presented to faculty of the dental, medical, pharmacy and nursing schools on the subject of Scientific Opportunities for International Collaborative Research and met personally with faculty and students to discuss specific international collaborative oral health research opportunities and potential mechanisms of support.

The Associate Director for International Health also visited the College of Dentistry, University of Southern California during mid-October and met with faculty and students who are currently involved in global health research activities to explore potential new initiatives related to the NIDCR global health research mission.

The Associate Director for International Health will participate in a session of the Oral Health Research Special Interest Group at the Global Forum for Health Research in Mexico City on November 18. The topic of the session will be the development of a global oral health research agenda. Other speakers include the Director of the WHO Global Oral Health Programme, the Regional Advisor for Oral Health from PAHO, the Executive Director of the International Association for Dental Research and researchers from Mexico and the US.

Dr. Lee Jong-wook, Director General of the World Health Organization will be the 2004 David Barmes Global Health Lecturer. Dr. Lee will discuss " Health Challenges for Research in the 21st Century." This annual lecture, which is co-sponsored by the Fogarty International Center and the NIDCR, will be given at 3:30 pm on December 6, on campus in the Masur Auditorium. A reception will follow, and all NIH staff are invited.

**National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
International Activities Highlights
July-November 2004**

Meeting on Challenges to Effective Award Administration and Monitoring in Developing Countries. On Thursday, October 7, 2004, an informal meeting was held at NIH that brought together program staff and grants administrators from twelve NIH Institutes, Centers and Offices and from other Federal agencies to discuss issues, challenges, and best practices related to administration and monitoring of awards in developing countries. This meeting was a follow-up to the December 16, 2003 NIH Roundtable Discussion on the Management and Monitoring of Grants in the Developing World. As co-chairs of a recently established NIH Extramural Program Management Committee steering group on international grant awards, Dr. Paula Strickland, Acting Director, Office of International Extramural Activities, NIAID, and Dr. Danuta Krotoski, Acting Associate Director, Office of Prevention Research and International Programs (OPRIP), NICHD, together with a working group of representatives from FIC, NCI, NCCAM, NIMH and NHLBI, convened the meeting, which included participants from the NIH as well as the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development, Health Resources and Services Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Science Foundation, and the HHS Office of Human Research Protection.

SCINR Meeting on Capacity Building in Developing Countries to Address Nutrition Issues. The October 12, 2004 meeting of the NIH Nutrition Coordinating Committee's Sub-Committee on International Nutrition Research (SCINR) featured two speakers who focused on capacity building in developing countries to address nutrition issues. Dr. Ricardo Uauy, Professor of Public Nutrition, INTA, University of Chile, spoke about childhood obesity in Latin America. The second speaker, Dr. Venkatesh Iyengar, discussed capacity-building programs in nutrition research that he developed while at IAEA, from which he recently retired. Dr. Daniel Raiten, Health Scientist Administrator, OPRIP and Endocrinology, Nutrition, and Growth Branch (ENGB), Center for Research for Mothers and Children (CRMC), and Dr. Rachel Nugent, FIC, serve as co-chairs of the SCINR.

Meeting to Discuss NICHD draft RFA for an International Extramural Associates Program. The NICHD invited NIH IC international representatives to attend a meeting on October 12, 2004 to review and provide feedback on the International Extramural Associates Program (IEAP) RFA. The solicitation is designed to provide training opportunities and support for individuals from foreign institutions to develop their capacity for effective monitoring and administration of grants. Participants provided recommendations for revision of the draft RFA. The IEAP is modeled after the domestic Extramural Associates Program coordinated by the NICHD.

Meeting with HHS Health Attaché for Vietnam, and Deputy Director of the HHS Global AIDS Program in Thailand. Dr. Marie Haring Sweeney, DHHS Health Attaché in Hanoi, Vietnam, and Mr. Bruce Ross, Deputy Director of the DHHS Global AIDS Program in Bangkok, Thailand, will visit the NIH on November 16, 2004. FIC is arranging meetings for ICs interested in an opportunity to update Dr. Sweeney and Mr. Ross on ongoing or planned activities in their countries and to be updated by them on current issues in each country. NICHD staff that oversee research projects in Vietnam and Thailand plan to meet with Dr. Sweeney and Mr. Ross.

World Health Organization (WHO) Guidelines on Treatment of Pregnant Women and Prevention of Mother to Child HIV transmission. Dr. Lynne Mofenson, Chief, Pediatric, Adolescent, and Maternal AIDS Branch (PAMA), CRMC, NICHD, was consultant and coauthor for the new WHO guidelines on “Antiretroviral drugs for treating pregnant women and preventing HIV infection in infants: guidelines on care, treatment and support for women with HIV/AIDS and their children in resource-constrained settings.” The guidelines were presented and distributed at the XV International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, in July 2004.

WHO/UNAIDS Meeting on Adolescent Enrollment into HIV Vaccine Trials, Lausanne, Switzerland. Dr. Audrey Rogers, Epidemiologist, PAMA Branch, CRMC, NICHD, was invited by WHO/UNAIDS to present and discuss the program effort in the NICHD-sponsored Adolescent Trials Network to prepare communities for accepting adolescent participation in HIV prevention vaccine trials in the United States at a meeting held in Lausanne, Switzerland, August 26-28, 2004. The WHO/UNAIDS meeting on HIV Vaccine Trials brought together for the first time 40 experts from around the world to address the issues of gender, age, and race in HIV vaccine-related research and clinical trials. This invitation-only, consultation meeting was attended by U.S. government scientists from the NIH, CDC, and DOD as well as scientists and vaccine advocates from around the world. The experts concluded that obstacles to greater participation of women and adolescents need to be overcome to allow these populations to participate in future HIV vaccine clinical trials, as women and young people are particularly vulnerable to HIV infection and would be major beneficiaries of a future HIV vaccine.

Planning for WHO/NICHD Consultation on Long Term Cohort Studies Meeting in Mexico. Dr. Danuta Krotoski, Acting Associate Director, OPRIP, NICHD, met with Dr. Jenny Pronczuk, Medical Officer, WHO International Programme on Chemical Safety and Protection of the Human Environment, at the World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, October 18-20, 2004. The purpose of the meeting was to finalize plans for the Third Informal Consultation on Long Term Cohort Studies on the Impact of the Environment on Children’s Health to be held in Cuernavaca, Mexico, November 20-24, 2004. Drs. Pronczuk and Krotoski serve as co-chairs of the International Interest Group (IIG) of the U.S. National Children’s Study. They are also organizing two parallel sessions on “Children and the Environment” at the meeting of the Global Forum on Health Research in Mexico City, November 16-20, 2004.

WHO Meeting on Pediatric Antiretroviral Drug Formulations and on Pediatric HIV Staging, Geneva, Switzerland. Dr. Lynne Mofenson, Chief PAMA Branch, CRMC, NICHD, was invited as an expert consultant to attend two back-to-back WHO meetings held in Geneva, Switzerland. The first meeting on November 3-4, 2004 involved a Technical Consultation on Improving Access to Appropriate Pediatric Antiretroviral Formulations. The participants reviewed the current availability and use of antiretroviral drugs in HIV-infected infants and young children, with the specific intention of identifying immediate steps to increase access to appropriate antiretroviral formulations. The second meeting on November 5, 2004 focused on a finalization and technical review of a new WHO pediatric HIV staging system and recommendations for pediatric HIV diagnosis and treatment (Dr. Mofenson is a member of the group that met to discuss and revise the staging system earlier this year).

WHO Technical Advisory Group on Nutrition and AIDS Meetings. Dr. Daniel Raiten, HSA, OPRIP/ENGB, NICHD, participated in two meetings sponsored by the WHO and held in Washington, D.C., November 8-11, 2004. Dr. Raiten is a member of the WHO Technical Advisory Group on Nutrition and HIV (TAG) that met on November 8-10 to discuss its development of a *Technical Report on Nutrition and HIV* and to refine plans for a WHO consultation on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS scheduled for April 11-13, 2005 in Durban, South Africa. He also attended the WHO/UNICEF technical consultation on the status of multiple micronutrient supplementation for people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide, held on November 11 at the Pan American Health Organization.

AFRICA

International Consultation on Community Preparation for HIV Vaccine Studies in Adolescents. On October 11-12, 2004, Dr. Audrey Rogers, PAMA Branch, CRMC, NICHD, coordinated an invitational workshop on Community Preparation for Adolescent Participation in HIV Vaccine Research. Attending were representatives from the South African AIDS Vaccine Initiative (SAAVI), Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trials Group (PACTG), and the NICHD-funded Adolescent Medicine Trials Network for HIV/AIDS Interventions (ATN). This ATN-sponsored meeting was organized in response to SAAVI's request for assistance in initiating adolescent HIV vaccine trials. The purpose of the meeting was to provide SAAVI representatives with overviews of two different approaches to adolescent vaccine preparedness studies: the ATN's Connect-2-Protect (C2P) Program and the PACTG's Family Mapping Project (FMP). At the conclusion of the two-day workshop, participants discussed considerations for implementing adolescent vaccine preparedness studies in South African sites and began developing an action plan for the early stages of this project.

NICHD/CDC "Kesho Bora" HIV/AIDS Study, Kenya. Dr. Jennifer Read, Medical Officer, PAMA Branch, NICHD, went on a site visit to Nairobi, Kenya, October 27-29, 2004, to review final preparations for implementation of the NICHD/CDC funded Kesho-Bora Study at the University of Nairobi. The WHO is organizing this study, which will be implemented at six clinical sites in sub-Saharan Africa. It includes a prospective cohort study of HIV-infected women and the children, as well as a nested, randomized

clinical trial. During the prospective cohort study, HIV-infected women will be offered antiretroviral therapy according to WHO guidelines. Children born on study and determined to be HIV-infected will be offered antiretroviral therapy. HIV-infected women who do not meet criteria for initiation of antiretroviral therapy during pregnancy, with CD4+ counts between 200 and 500, will be offered enrollment into a randomized clinical trial evaluating the efficacy of triple-drug antiretroviral prophylaxis during the latter part of pregnancy and continuing for approximately six months while breastfeeding compared to a short-course prophylactic regimen of zidovudine to the mother, one dose of nevirapine to the mother, and one dose of nevirapine to the newborn. The protocol is completed and approved by Institutional Review Boards in the Kenya, Switzerland, and the United States. Enrollment will begin either in December 2004 or January 2005.

ASIA

Indo-U.S. Joint Working Group Activities on Maternal and Child Health and Human Development and on Reproductive Health Research. The Indo-U.S. Program on Maternal and Child Health and Human Development Research (MCHDR) sponsored a workshop in New Delhi, India, on September 27-28, 2004, entitled "Risk Factors for Maternal Morbidity and Mortality in India." Senior and midlevel members of the Indian academic and clinical communities, as well as several high-ranking members of the government of India, attended the workshop, which focused on the prevalence of adverse outcomes related to pregnancy and childbirth in India. Participants also worked to develop programmatic recommendations and a targeted research agenda to address specific areas of scientific interest and need.

On September 29-30, the Joint Working Group (JWG) responsible for scientific and administrative oversight of the MCHDR program held its third business meeting. In addition to productive discussions about the focus and future of the program, the JWG reviewed 14 full applications covering a range of topics of high relevance to both India and the U.S. Dr. Yvonne Maddox, Deputy Director, NICHD, and U.S. co-chair of the JWG MCHDR, and Dr. Daniel Raiten, HSA, OPRIP/ENGB, attended both the workshop and the JWG MCHDR business meeting.

The Indo-U.S. JWG on Contraception and Reproductive Health Research (CRHR) sponsored a weeklong workshop on the methods and materials of social science research for junior researchers in India. Dr. Susan Newcomer, Statistician, Demographic and Behavioral Sciences Branch (DBSB), NICHD, convened and conducted the JWG CRHR workshop in Mumbai, India, October 23-29, 2004. Following the workshop, Dr. Newcomer conducted a site visit to a research project in Bangalore, India.

Visit to NIH by Deputy Minister of Health, Afghanistan. On October 21, 2004, Dr. Duane Alexander, Director, NICHD, joined NIH Director Dr. Elias Zerhouni in a meeting at NIH, organized by FIC, with Dr. Sherzai, Deputy Minister of Health, Afghanistan. Dr. Sherzai provided an update on the rebuilding of the health and medical infrastructure in his country, including progress on DHHS-supported efforts related to improving hospitals serving mothers and children.

EUROPE

Dyslexia Foundation Symposium, Como, Italy. Dr. Peggy McCardle, Ph.D., MPH, Associate Chief, Child Development and Behavior Branch, NICHD, attended and served as session moderator for a special symposium on dyslexia and the brain, held by The Dyslexia Foundation (TDF) in Como, Italy. The symposium, which took place on June 15-18, 2004, involved a multidisciplinary group of researchers including geneticists, neuropsychologists, experimental and developmental psychologists, language researchers, physicians, linguistics and education researchers, and others. The Dyslexia Foundation will publish the proceedings within the next year.

Meeting on Viennese Capacity-Building for Medical Bioscience Research in Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. Dr. Danuta Krotoski, Acting Associate Director, OPRIP, NICHD, attended a seminar on "Vienna: A Hub for Capacity Building in Medicine and Bioscience Research in Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa," held on September 29, 2004 at the Embassy of Austria in Washington, D.C. The meeting was organized by the Embassy's Office of Science and Technology to provide participants opportunity to learn more about Vienna's expertise and activities in the field of medical bioscience research in the target countries. By providing excellent training and educational research facilities, Vienna has emerged as a hub for international exchange and capacity building in medicine and bioscience research especially for Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa. The Vienna School of Clinical Research, the American Austrian Foundation, and the Medical University of Vienna have taken the lead in promoting this exchange and knowledge transfer.

Russian Delegation Visit to the NIH. Dr. Danuta Krotoski, OPRIP, Dr. Lynne Mofenson, PAMA Branch, CRMC, and Dr. Valerie Maholmes, Child Development and Behavior Branch, CRMC, NICHD, participated in a FIC-coordinated meeting at NIH on October 8, 2004 with Dr. Voronin, Pediatric AIDS Center, and Dr. Rakhmanova, Center for HIV Positive Pregnant Women, Federal AIDS Center at the Republican Hospital of Infectious Diseases in St. Petersburg, Russia. Although the HIV+ orphan population is not large in absolute figures, it is one of the most rapidly growing challenges of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Russia. The delegation was primarily interested in NIH-supported research related to testing and diagnosis of HIV-exposed infants/children; pediatric HIV treatment; prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV; and nutritional aspects of HIV positive children, particularly in low resource settings. Dr. Phil Budashewitz, Director of the Office of Europe and Eurasia at OGHA, joined the delegation during its NIH visit. In addition to Drs. Voronin and Rakhmanova, the delegation include Dr. Olga Kim, Chief Physician of Children's Home #10, St. Petersburg; Dr. Elena Gurchich, Senior HIV/Child Welfare Advisor at USAID/Russia; Chris Cavanaugh, Director, International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX) in the Russian Federation, and Chief of Party for the Assistance to Russian Orphans (USAID) Project; and Dr. Andrey Bayanov, Senior HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator at the Assistance to Russian Orphans Program (ARO/IREX) in the Russian Federation.

Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) Meeting for joint U.S.-Europe PACTG 390/PENPACT 1. On October 15, 2004, Dr. Mofenson, PAMA, NICHD attended the DSMB meeting in London, United Kingdom, for PACTG 390, also called PENPACT1, which is an open-label, randomized trial comparing different strategic approaches to combination antiretroviral therapy in antiretroviral-naïve HIV-infected children, which include both initial and subsequent regimens. The initial regimen includes two nucleoside analogue drugs plus either a non-nucleoside analogue (NNRTI) drug or a protease inhibitor (PI). Approximately 260 children will be randomized to open-label treatment with either an NNRTI or a PI, and will be randomly allocated in a factorial design to switch to second line therapy with the other class of drugs at a viral rebound of either 1,000 or 30,000 copies/mL. The primary outcome measure is change in plasma HIV RNA levels between baseline and 4 years, for the comparison of an NNRTI vs. a PI-based regimen and for the comparison of two different viral load criteria for switching from first to second line therapy. This study is a joint study of US (PACTG) and European (PENTA) pediatric investigators; the protocol was written jointly and the Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) is composed of members from both the U.S. and Europe. Because it is a multi-country study, it was agreed that the DSMB will meet alternatively in the US and in London, UK. The DSMB reviewed accrual data, antiretroviral therapy and toxicity data, and available data on switching. As of September 10, 2004, 170 patients have enrolled into the study (63 from the PACTG and 107 from PENTA). The DSMB felt there were no safety concerns, commended the team on a well-run study, and recommended that the study continue enrollment.

Bridges in the Life Sciences Meeting on HIV/AIDS, Bucharest, Romania. Dr. Krotoski, Acting Associate Director, PRIP, participated in the Third Bridges in the Life Sciences: U.S. - CEE Research Networking meeting on HIV/AIDS and Related Conditions that was held October 15-16, 2004, in Bucharest, Romania. The goal of the meeting was to identify the trends in HIV/AIDS infections in CEE, U.S., and European Union-supported activities in the region, current cooperative research activities between U.S. and CEE investigators, and new high priority areas for future research. Investigators from Byelorussia, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Serbia, and the U.S. were present.

Meeting with Representative of the Konrad-Adenauer Foundation, Germany. On October 21, 2004, Dr. Andrea Schneider, an economist and economic policy advisor with the Konrad-Adenauer Foundation, visited the NIH and met with Dr. Barnett Kramer, Director, NIH Office of Disease Prevention (ODP), Dr. Barry Portnoy, Senior Advisor, NIH ODP, Dr. Gilman Grave, Chief, Endocrinology, Nutrition and Growth Branch, NICHD, as well as with NICHD OPRIP staff, Dr. Danuta Krotoski, Dr. Daniel Raiten, and Ms. Eva Sereghy. Dr. Schneider was particularly interested in learning more about the evidence for effective prevention on a wide range of health-related topics, including obesity prevention.

International Union Against TB and Lung Diseases (IUATLD) World Conference, Paris, France. Dr. Leslie Serchuck, Medical Officer, PAMA, CRMC, attended the International Union Against Tuberculosis (TB) and Lung Diseases (IUATLD), held in Paris, France, October 28-31, 2004. Dr. Serchuck serves as the NIH representative on the

Global STOP TB Partnership, DOTS Expansion Working Group, Subgroup on Childhood Tuberculosis. The Working Group held a one-day workshop to finalize the Guidelines for the Management of Tuberculosis in Children by National TB Programmes. The workshop was held in conjunction with the IUATLD meeting that held many sessions on Pediatric TB and TB/HIV co-infection.

Workshop on Global Health Care Disparity: Managed Care for Patients with Chronic Stroke Conditions, Pisa, Italy. The NIH and the Istituto Superiore Di Sanita, Italy, under the auspices of the Italian Ministry of Health, jointly organized and convened an international workshop on “Global Health Care Disparity: Managed Care for Patients with Chronic Stroke Conditions” in Pisa, Italy, November 7-8, 2004. The major objectives of the meeting including sharing of information and expertise, identifying and documenting evidence, and developing a future international medical rehabilitation research agenda related to patients with chronic stroke conditions. Dr. Michael Weinrich, Director, National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research, NICHD, served as the NIH coordinator for the workshop.

14th World Congress of the International Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy, Vienna, Austria. Dr. Richard Levine, Epidemiology Branch, Division of Epidemiology, Statistics, and Prevention Research, NICHD, will chair the workshop and free communications sessions on vascular factors and angiogenesis at the 14th World Congress of the International Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy to be held November 14-17, 2004, in Vienna, Austria.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

NICHD International Site Development Initiative (NISDI). Drs. Leslie Serchuck and Jennifer Read, Medical Officers, PAMA Branch, CRMC, NICHD chaired the second Investigators’ Meeting of the NICHD International Site Development Initiative (NISDI), held in Mexico City, Mexico, on September 21-22, 2004. Enrollment into the perinatal and pediatric protocols that compose NISDI began in the autumn of 2002, and currently over 750 pregnant women and 1080 HIV-exposed or -infected children and adolescents, respectively, are enrolled at sites in Argentina, the Bahamas, Brazil, and Mexico. Investigators involved in both protocols presented concept sheets and initial analyses of data from these two studies. Investigators from participating clinical sites presented several analyses, including: the relationship between receipt of different antiretroviral regimens during pregnancy and adverse maternal and infant outcomes; development of resistance among HIV-1-infected women exposed to antiretroviral drugs during pregnancy; mode of delivery and postpartum complications; infectious disease morbidity and mortality among HIV-exposed infants; virologic response and drug resistance among HIV-1-infected children; characteristics of adolescents with perinatally-acquired HIV-1 infection; and progression of disease among HIV-1-infected children. In addition, investigators had the opportunity to visit the perinatal and pediatric clinical sites in Mexico City. The meeting was extremely well received by the investigators, gave them the first view of initial analyses of the data they have generated, and yielded many ideas for future development of the NICHD International Site Development Initiative.

Meeting with Interamerican College of Physicians and Surgeons (ICPS) Staff. On October 26, Dr. Krotoski, Acting Associate Director, OPRIP, Dr. Charlotte Catz, Special Advisor to the Director, NICHD, and Dr. Florence Haseltine, Director, Center for Population Research, NICHD, met with Dr. Zolia Del Rosario, Program Administrator, Interamerican College of Physicians and Surgeons (ICPS). The ICPS is the oldest and largest national Hispanic medical society in the U.S. It conducts numerous programs to improve the educational and leadership opportunities for Hispanic physicians and improve the health of the Hispanic community here and abroad. Dr. Del Rosario and her colleague briefed NICHD staff about several upcoming ICPS programs of potential interest to the Institute.

MIDDLE EAST

Healthy Egyptians: Children Ready to Learn Workshop, Cairo, Egypt. The DHHS Office of Global Health Affairs (OGHA) and Egypt's Ministry of Health, in collaboration with NICHD, planned and co-sponsored a workshop in Cairo, September 12-13, 2004, titled "Healthy Egyptians: Children Ready to Learn." Ms. Jane Coury, Program Officer for the Middle East, DHHS/OS/OGHA coordinated the workshop, which included Egyptian researchers, physicians, and Ministry of Health staff, as well as representatives from the World Health Organization, the World Bank and others. The following NICHD staff participated as presenters: Dr. Danuta Krotoski, Acting Associate Director, OPRIP; Dr. Lisa Freund, HSA, Child Development and Behavior Branch, CRMC; Dr. Tonse Raju, HSA, Pregnancy and Perinatology Branch, Center for Developmental Biology and Perinatal Medicine (CDBPM); and Dr. Daniel Raiten, HSA in both the PRIP Office and the Endocrinology, Nutrition, and Growth Branch, CRMC.

In addition to the conference, the NICHD delegation was able to meet with a number of key members of the Egyptian healthcare community to explore opportunities for cooperation. Prior to the workshop, the NICHD representatives received a briefing on Healthy Egyptians 2010 from Dr. Hanem Zaher, Head of the Technical Support Unit for Healthy Egyptians 2010; Dr. Fatem Ghazy, Program Director of Healthy Egyptians 2010; and Dr. Ahmed Shelbaya, Technical Coordination for Health Reform Activities Research and Egyptian Ministry of Health Liaison for USAID programs. After the workshop, they met with Dr. Ibrahim El-Nekhily Associate Executive Director of the Healthy Mother/Healthy Child Project and Dr. Randa Kamal A. Raouf, a Pediatric Consultant for the program. Drs. Ibrahim and Randa presented the activities of their office that included the development of neonatal care, national newborn screening programs, disease surveillance as well as an instrument to follow children's health, social, and intellectual development.

Director of National Institute of Hygiene, Morocco, Visit to NIH. The Director of the National Institute of Hygiene, Morocco, Professor Rajae Berrada El Aouad, visited the NIH on November 4, 2004 and met with scientific staff at NIAID, NHGRI, FIC, NICHD, and with NIH Director Dr. Zerhouni. The NICHD group, which met separately with Professor El Aouad, included Dr. Danuta Krotoski, Acting Associate Director, OPRIP;

Dr. Nancy Moss, HSA, CRMC; Dr. John Robbins, Chief, Laboratory of Developmental and Molecular Immunity (LDMI); Dr. Rachel Schneerson, Head, LDMI Section on Bacterial Disease, Pathogenesis, and Immunity; and Dr. Rose Higgins, Physician Scientist, Pregnancy and Perinatology Branch, CDBPM.

NORTH AMERICA

Cochrane Neonatal Review Group (CNRG) Update. The latest Cochrane Library Volume (VI, 2004) contains 188 completed reviews and 55 ongoing reviews. The NICHD has funded the contract with CNRG since 1995 to provide systematic reviews of randomized controlled trials in neonatal medicine. The reviews are posted on the NICHD website, <http://www/nichd.nih.gov/cochrane/cochrane.htm>. Four international editors identify the experts who conduct all the reviews. The CNRG ranks second in the total number of reviews produced for the prestigious Cochrane Collaboration. The Neonatal Cochrane Reviews have played an important role in developing policies of professional academic societies.

MULTI-COUNTRY/MULTI -REGION

National Cooperative Program on Female Health and Egg Quality Meeting. The National Cooperative Program on Female Health and Egg Quality held a recent meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada on August 4-6, 2004. Dr. Richard Tasca, Reproductive Sciences Branch, Center for Population Research, NICHD, serves as Research Coordinator for the group and hosted the meeting. This international collaboration includes partners from Adelaide and Melbourne, Australia and from Nottingham and Southampton, England. The three U.S. partners are from St. Louis, Philadelphia and Rochester, Minnesota. The purpose of this collaboration is to study the impact of pre- and peri-conceptual maternal nutrition and assisted reproductive technologies on the quality of human eggs and preimplantation embryos. It is now thought that poor quality eggs or preimplantation embryos can lead to low birth weight, high blood pressure, cardiac defects, behavioral defects, diabetes, altered organ weight to body weight ratios and other defects that occur in the offspring derived from those eggs or embryos. The St. Louis laboratory reported that diabetic female mice are prone to produce significantly smaller oocytes than normal and oocyte nuclear maturation is delayed. The Southampton laboratory reported at this meeting that a low protein diet for only days 1 to 4 after fertilization, before implantation occurs, in rats and mice causes several of the above defects. It appears that this diet and other hypomethylation diets lead to altered amino acid profiles in the maternal blood serum, the uterine fluid and also in blastocyst staged embryos. This is of major significance because it may provide the link for work done by others in the group who are studying amino acid metabolism and its key role in genomic imprinting and DNA methylation defects. Preimplantation defects of this type have already been linked to behavioral abnormalities in adult mice derived from these embryos.

International Meeting on Future of Male Contraception. On September 29-October 2, 2004, the NICHD sponsored an international meeting on the Future of Male

Contraception with support from CONRAD and the World Health Organization. Over 150 scientists from around the world attended the meeting, held in Seattle, Washington. The goal of the meeting was to bring investigators in basic science together with clinicians who conduct male contraceptive research as well as scientists from pharmaceutical companies with an interest in developing contraceptive products for men. Contraceptive regimens using hormonal approaches to control sperm production are the methods that are furthest along in development. The leading clinical investigators in the field provided updates on the methods currently being evaluated. Additionally, there were reports describing a variety of possible approaches to male contraception involving specific targets in the epididymus or the testis. Drugs directed at these novel targets could alter either sperm production or sperm function. Ample opportunity for interaction between investigators was provided throughout the meeting, resulting in establishment of new collaborations.

Update on The Global Network for Women's and Children's Health Research

Workshop on the Neonatal Resuscitation Protocol. The Global Network convened a one-day workshop on August 30, 2004, in Rockville, MD, to discuss the neonatal resuscitation common protocol to be implemented in nine countries in 2005. Groups represented included the WHO, American Academy of Pediatrics, International Pediatric Association, March of Dimes, PAHO, USAID, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. NINDS also sent representatives. Dr. Waldemar Carlos, University of Birmingham, Alabama, lead investigator on the common protocol chaired the meeting. Breakout groups discussed community acceptance, implementation, sustainability, and capacity building. A full report from the meeting is available.

Training Workshop on Neonatal Resuscitation Protocol. In September 2004, Dr. Linda Wright, Director of the Global Network, and investigators from the University of Alabama, Birmingham and RTI International, trained 29 nurse midwives at the University Teaching Hospital in Zambia. This weeklong meeting was in preparation for the protocol, which will evaluate the relative impact of WHO basic newborn care, and the American Academy of Pediatrics Neonatal Resuscitation Protocol on neonatal mortality. During the meeting, participants were certified in study data collection and clinical evaluations, including Apgar scoring, gestational age dating using the Ballard exam, and neurological examinations.

Global Network Co-Sponsors Planning Meeting. On October 28, 2004, the Global Network for Women's and Children's Health Research met with NIH collaborating centers and institutes including NIAID, FIC, ODS/OD, NHLBI, NCI, NCCAM, NCRR, OAR, NINDS, and NIMH to present an update on current Network protocols, and to discuss future directions and methods for strengthening collaborative efforts. Regular meetings will be held every one to two months so that centers and institutes can continue to communicate openly and share lessons and challenges regarding international work.

National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM)

“Bi-Monthly” Update of International Activities

July - October, 2004

For IC International Representatives and Partners Meeting, Nov. 9, 2004

Country-Specific Activities:

China

Jack Killen, MD and Qi-Ying Liu, MD of NCCAM visited China July 15-29 to explore opportunities and priorities for research on traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) with investigators and government officials in the Peoples’ Republic of China. They met with numerous representatives of PRC government agencies (including SATCM, CATCM and others) that oversee or are involved with TCM, and visited TCM teaching hospitals and centers.

Dr. Jack Killen and Mr. Craig Carlson met with Dr. Yan Gao, MD, who is a private consultant that has been enlisted by the Chinese government to help facilitate the visit of 15 Chinese TCM physicians to the U.S. These physicians are affiliated with the Government’s State Administration of TCM (SATCM). They will be making several stops in the U.S. including Washington, DC. When in Washington they hope to arrange visits with HHS, NIH/NCCAM, the FDA, as well as politicians and groups representing TCM practitioners. NCCAM will coordinate with OGHA and FIC for this visit. More recently, Dr. Gao reported these visitors are expecting to visit sometime during December.

Chinese Professor Ke-Ji Chen, a well-known researcher and practitioner of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) visited NCCAM, met with Drs. Stephen Straus, Margaret Chesney and Jack Killen, and made a presentation to NCCAM staff. He was accompanied by Professor Song, also a professor of TCM. Professor Chen is a Professor of Medicine at Xiyuan Hospital as well as the Institute of Gerontology, at the China Academy of TCM. He also serves as an advisor to the WHO’s Traditional Medicine section. Dr. Chen is well known for his efforts with the Chinese government to support and develop the integration of TCM and western medicine. These visitors also met with representatives of the NLM to discuss the process involved with getting a Chinese peer-reviewed journal, the Chinese Journal of Integrative Medicine, indexed for Medline.

The Directors and select staff of NIAAA and NCCAM met in September to discuss collaborative support of a research initiative to investigate the use of electrical acupuncture for the prevention of drug relapse, and to provide insights into the mechanism of action. The P.I. for this study, Ji-Sheng Han, MD, of China, would travel from China to McLean, VA where the research that would be conducted.

Cote d'Ivoire

Dr. Jack Killen met on August 20th with Dr. N'cho Assande, a researcher at the University of Cocody in the Cote d'Ivoire who was visiting NCCAM and the NIH. They discussed his research in HIV/AIDS, and the NIH grant application and peer review processes.

India

Jack Killen, MD attended and spoke at a meeting held at the Embassy of India in Washington D.C. at which Indo-U.S. collaboration in Ayurveda medical training was discussed.

Jack Killen, MD and Craig Carlson of NCCAM met with Dr. Hameed Khan, MD of NICHD, and Pradeep Deviah and Yogesh Srinivasan of PDA Trade fairs of India, regarding the latter group's interest in promoting a trade expo and seminar in the U.S. that would showcase Indian therapeutic health systems (e.g. Ayurveda and others) that originate in India.

Pakistan

Linda Engel met on August 10th with Major General Masood Anwar of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (Pakistan). They were joined by Dr. Zakir Bengali of the Fogarty International Center and Colonel Khalid Mahmood, the Assistant Military Attaché to the Embassy of Pakistan, and discussed NCCAM's support of international research and the scientific collaborations that it has funded in South Asia.

Other International Activities:

International Clinical Epidemiology Network (INCLIN): Jack Killen, MD participated in a meeting of the INCLIN, organized by the Fogarty International Center to discuss collaboration on CAM research. Representing INCLIN at the meeting was Professor Ranjit Roy Chaudhury, MD and Tina Heiler.

Eighth International Congress of Behavioral Medicine: Dr. Margaret Chesney, Deputy Director NCCAM, participated in the Eighth International Congress of Behavioral Medicine in Mainz, Germany, August 25 - 28, 2004. The conference was organized by the International Society of Behavioral Medicine and the German Society of Behavioral Medicine and Behavior Modification. Dr. Chesney participated in a symposium on the effects of Positive Meaning, Coherence, and Spirituality on Health and delivered a presentation entitled "Positive Well Being, Spirituality and Health: Mechanisms and Interventions."

Review and Comment for WHO: At WHO's request, NCCAM reviewed and provided comments on several draft documents:

- Draft WHO guidelines in chiropractic.

- WHO Medicines Strategy for 2004-07. This was done in response to a request from the HHS Office of Global Health Affairs (OGHA), conveyed by FIC. A section of the strategy deals with Traditional Medicine and Complementary and Alternative Medicine that may benefit from NIH review and comment.
- A chapter for a WHO publication being drafted by Dr. Bhushan Patwardhan of India that dealt with alternative medicine. This was done at the request of Dr. Altaf Lal, Health Attache and HHS Liaison based at the U.S. State Dept. in India.

EPMC Steering Committee: Dr. Jack Killen and Craig Carlson participated in several activities of this group including the day-long meeting on Oct. 7 on the topic of “Challenges to Effective Award Administration and Monitoring in Developing Countries: Federal Agency Perspectives.”

Commission on Intellectual Property Rights, Innovation and Public Health (CIPIH): Jack Killen, MD participated in a meeting of the CIPIH, held October 4 and 5 on the NIH campus. This Commission was established by the World Health Assembly in 2003... “to collect data and proposals from the different actors involved and produce an analysis of intellectual property rights, innovation, and public health, including the question of appropriate funding and incentive mechanisms for the creation of new medicines and other products against diseases that disproportionately affect developing countries.”