

**SUMMARY**  
**NIH INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES MEETING**  
**December 7, 2004**

Welcome and Perspectives from FIC: Dr. Sharon Hrynkow, Chair, and Acting Director, FIC, welcomed the IC representatives to the Stone House. She also welcomed NCCAM's Dr. Craig Carlson who will be now supporting Dr. Jack Killen with respect to NCCAM's international programs and activities. She also introduced Mr. John Makulowich, FIC's new Director of Communications who previously served as Dr. Zerhouni's speechwriter among a range of communications positions.

Dr. Hrynkow next reported on the successful Barmes Memorial Health Lecture given yesterday at NIH by Dr. J.W. Lee, Director-General of the World Health Organization. Dr. Lee's presentation focused on health research challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He discussed lessons learned on application of knowledge. His lecture is available at <http://www.who.int/dg/lee/speeches/2004/barmeslecture/en/>. FIC and NIDCR will be working together to identify a speaker for next year's Barmes Lecture and would welcome any suggestions that the IC representatives would suggest in this regard. The Global Health Research Forum and Summit on Global Health Research meetings were held in Mexico City in mid-November. Dr. Zerhouni represented Secretary Thompson at this latter event. It focused on how biomedical research could support efforts to reach the targets and timetables of the UN Millennium Development Goals. Dr. Zerhouni also gave a plenary presentation at this event on the NIH Roadmap and its multidisciplinary research focus as a means of addressing global health issues. Dr. Hrynkow distributed the Communiqué from the Summit and noted that outcomes for the meeting would next be addressed at the WHO Executive Board Meeting in January 2005. Several IC representatives also provided their insights on the Global Forum, with the view on how NIH ICs can join further Global Forum dialogues on North-South health research issues, especially with respect to developing future research partnerships.

Dr. Hrynkow reported on the latest Global Health Policy Core Group meeting chaired by HHS/OS Dr. Bill Steiger. At the meeting, Dr. Steiger made a presentation on HHS international priorities. The group also discussed the development of an HHS-WHO agreement aimed at governing interactions involved with extrabudgetary contributions to WHO programs, including grants and contracts. Dr. Hrynkow noted that this issue is still be reviewed by NIH with respect to its grantmaking activities.

FIC's George Herrfurth would be organizing a half-day session sometime in February or March as a tutorial on the Department of State and its role in international science and health issues. Approximately 10 slots would be available for the broader NIH community for this session. If anyone has any specific issues or interests that they want highlighted at the session, they should contact George soonest ([herrfurg@mail.nih.gov](mailto:herrfurg@mail.nih.gov)).

NIH Sub-Group on the NIH Roadmap International Issues: NIBIB's Dr. John Haller provided the group with a presentation on the pending Report of the Working Group on NIH Roadmap International Issues. Dr. Haller provided an overview of the genesis and membership of the Working Group, what it was tasked to review with respect to the NIH Roadmap as well as its recommendation upon completion of that review. Dr. Haller noted that the Report would shortly be transmitted to Dr. Hrynkow and Dr. Dushanka Kleinman, NIH Roadmap Coordinator for further review.

New Pilot Program for 1820 Clearances: Mr. Bruce Butrum, FIC Chief Grants Officer, gave a presentation on an NIH web-based foreign component tracking system for grants and contracts. This new system will utilize IMPAC II data. It has been designed to capture information that is normally required in order to seek State Department foreign policy clearance for a grant, contract or cooperative agreement. The new system, which is currently being used under a pilot program for 3 countries (Canada, UK and Italy), will allow IC staff to track the request from submission to approval. The system will also allow IC and State Department staff to enter comments into the system to improve communication and to expedite the clearance process. With the new System, ICs will have access to data that previously was only collected by FIC. Several IC representatives commended FIC and Mr. Butrum in particular for developing the new tracking system.

Global Forum on Bioethics in Research Update: Dr. Karen Hofman, Director of FIC's Division of Advanced Science and Policy Analysis, provided an overview of the Global Forum on Bioethics in Research (GFBR) process, including the results of the latest meeting of the Forum hosted by INSERM (the NIH equivalent in France) and held last spring in Paris. She noted that organizers and participants in Forum have been interested in helping to establish of a Secretariat for the GFBR in support of its activities to promote a North-South dialogue on bioethics issues. She provided the group with a proposal prepared by the Geneva-based Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED) to host such a Secretariat. Moreover, she noted that FIC would be contributing funds to establish the Secretariat and would welcome IC potential involvement in funding the endeavor. The next Forum will be held in Malawi on the topic of care following research participation.

Other Announcements: Dr. Yuan Liu provided the group with information on the NINDS F05 International Neuroscience Fellowship Program. The purpose of this fellowship program is to provide opportunities for foreign scientists in low and middle-income countries to enhance their knowledge and skills in the neurosciences. Applicants must have a doctoral or equivalent degree, have a permanent position in an institution in their home country upon completion of the program, have an endorsement from their home institution and Ministry of Health, be proficient in English and have a U.S. sponsor affiliated with an institution. Interested applicants should contact Ms. Stacey Chambers (chambers@ninds.nih.gov) in the NINDS Office of International Activities. NCCAM's representative, Dr. Jack Killen, noted that an Indian researcher working on a WHO paper on intellectual property rights would be visiting NCCAM the week of December 13 and that NCCAM would welcome other IC participation in this visit. NICHD's Dr. Danuta

Krotoski provided an update on the EPMC working group on foreign awards, including the formation of new sub-committees on various issues.

The next meeting of the IC International Representatives will be held Tuesday, January 11 at 1 p.m. in the Stone House. A copy of the 2005 Meeting Schedule for the IC Representatives meetings was distributed at the meeting. It will also be sent via electronic means to all IC Representatives.

Attendance:

Dr. Sharon Hrynkow, FIC Acting Director; Mr. George Herrfurth, Executive Secretary, FIC; Dr. Danuta Krotoski and Ms. Eva Sereghy, NICHHD; Dr. Martha Hare, NINR; Dr. Lois Cohen, NIDCR; Ms. Julia Royall, NLM; Dr. Michael Hollingdale, NIAID; Dr. Yuan Liu, NINDS; Dr. Dale Weiss, NIDA; Dr. Ruth Hegyeli and Ms. Helen Wegman, NHLBI; Dr. Jose Serrano, NIDDK; Dr. John Haller, NIBIB; Dr. Philip Chen, OD/OIR; Ms. Claudia Conti, NIH/OD/OAR; Dr. Luis Salicrup, NIH/OD/OTT; Drs. Jack Killen and Craig Carlson, NCCAM; Dr. William Watson, NCRR; Mr. Barmak Kusha, NIAID FIC staff: Mr. Bruce Butram, Dr. Karen Hofman, Ms. Judy Levin, Dr. Jean Flagg Newton, Mr. Kevin Bialy, Ms. Emmy Cauthen, Mr. John Makulowich, Ms. Lesley Magnusson, Mr. Rob Eiss, Dr. Ana Chepelinskey, Dr. Linda Kupfer.