

SUMMARY
NIH INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES MEETING
September 13, 2006

Dr. Roger Glass, Director, Fogarty International Center (FIC), welcomed the IC representatives to the FIC Conference Room. He also welcomed the new NHLBI Representative member of the Committee; Dr. Z.J. Zheng. He next introduced the first presenter at today's meeting, Rear Admiral (Ret.) R. Timothy Ziemer, Coordinator of the President's Malaria Initiative.

President's Initiative on Malaria (PMI): Admiral Ziemer noted that at least one million infants and children under five in sub-Saharan Africa die each year from malaria. The PMI is a \$1.2 billion, five-year initiative to control malaria in Africa announced by the president in June 2005. The initiative is led by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), in conjunction with the DHHS, the State Department and the White House. The goal of the PMI is to assist national malaria control programs to cut malaria-related deaths by 50 percent in 15 target countries in Africa by 2010. This goal will be achieved by reaching 85 percent of the most vulnerable groups – children under five years old and pregnant women – with proven and effective prevention and treatment control measures. PMI is using a comprehensive approach patterned on the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to prevent and treat malaria supporting four key areas: (1) indoor spraying of homes with insecticides; (2) insecticide-treated bed-nets; (3) anti-malarial drugs; and, (4) treatment to prevent malaria in pregnant women. In the target countries (originally three: Angola, Tanzania, Uganda), PMI will coordinate with national malaria control programs and international partners, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM), the World Bank malaria Booster Program, Roll Back Malaria Partnership, Nongovernmental Organizations and the private sector. Admiral Ziemer noted that Work Plans for 4 additional countries are being prepared for Senegal, Rwanda, Mozambique and Malawi and will be reviewed by the PMI Board for approval in the near future. He also noted that First Lady Laura Bush would be holding a meeting in approximately six week with private foundations and other private sector donors to leverage increased funds or in-kind services in support of the PMI. He noted that he looks forward to working with NIH and other HHS agencies in support of achieving PMI goals. More information on the PMI may be accessed through www.fightingmalaria.gov.

NIH Extramural Grant/Contract Foreign Tracking System: Mr. Bruce Butrum, FIC Grants Manager, and Mr. Kevin Bialy, Program Specialist in FIC/DIR, provided a presentation on the newly established NIH electronic extramural Grants/Contract "Foreign Tracking System" (FTS). They outlined the genesis of the development of this new novel system which was originally developed to expedite approval of NIH extramural grants/contracts made in foreign countries which are subject top review by the Department of State for foreign policy implications. The FTS has the dual purpose of

providing a tool for the NIH to effectively and efficiently track all foreign extramural collaborative activities and provide a simple web-based system to seek clearance/approval of NIH projects through U.S. Embassies abroad. The FTS offers a number of benefits, including the ability of ICs to submit projects directly to FIC; easy accessibility to a web-based system; track and report all NIH extramural collaborations by country (including funding levels by country) and research criteria and to easily identify foreign investigators and foreign research institutes. FIC is currently seeking to expand Embassy access to the system beyond the approximately 50 Embassies using or intending to use the FTS system. ICs will use the system through <https://fts.nhlbi.nih.gov/nihfts/login> using staff IMPAC initials and password. ICs are requested to contact FIC (Mr. Bialy and/or Butrum) if they have additional questions. FIC intends to organize further briefing sessions for IC users this Fall. (A copy of the FTS presentation is attached.)

Announcements: Dr. Glass will be traveling to India in late September to attend a Vaccine Action Program (VAP) meeting. He will be traveling to Thailand in December to attend a vaccine network meeting there. Dr. Ana Chepelinsky will be transitioning back to NEI this month as her 2-year detail to FIC/DIR has concluded.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 14, 2006, at 1 p.m. in the NIH Stone House.

Attendance:

Dr. Roger Glass, Chairperson; Mr. George Herrfurth, Executive Secretary; Ms. Julia Royall, NLM; Dr. Dushanka Kleinman, NIDCR; Ms. Dale Weiss, NIDA; Dr. Karen Babich, Dr. Willo Pequegnat, and Ms. Anna Beitin, NIMH; Mr. John Whitaker, NEI; Dr. John Haller, NIBIB; Dr. Karl Western, Dr. Michael Hollingdale, and Ms. Erika Olson, NIAID; Dr. Michael Chang, NCRP; Dr. Nell Armstrong, NINR; Dr. Lana Shekim, NIDCD; Ms. Deborah Cook and Mr. Phil Budashewitz, NCI; Ms. Stacey Chambers, NINDS, Dr. Z.J. Zheng and Ms. Helen Wegman, NHLBI; Dr. Jack Killen, NCCAM, Dr. Dan Raiten, NICHD; Dr. Dan Gerendasy, CSR; Mr. Sam Adeniyi-Jones, HHS/OS/OGHA. FIC staff: Dr. James Herrington, Mr. Kevin Bialy, Mr. Bruce Butrum; Ms. Tina Chung, Ms. E.A. Davis, Dr. Barbara Sina, Dr. Ana Chepelinsky, Dr. Joel Bremen