

# NIDA International Program

Fiscal Year 2004



National Institute on Drug Abuse  
National Institutes of Health  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

## Part I – Executive Summary

The International Program of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) encourages rigorous collaborative and peer-reviewed international research, provides professional development opportunities for the international drug abuse research community, and disseminates NIDA’s research methods, findings, and tools to international scientists and organizations. The International Program accomplishes its mission by supporting grants, fellowships, scientific meetings, and communications activities. During Fiscal Year 2004, the International Program demonstrated its role as a vital, dynamic component within NIDA. Throughout the year, International Program alumni contributed to scientific advances through NIDA and National Institutes of Health’ research awards, scientific publications, and projects coordinated by organizations such as the World Health Organization and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. This mature International Program builds on more than a decade of incremental successes that created a network of scientists who function as full partners with their NIDA-supported U.S. peers to collaborate on drug abuse research nationally, regionally, and globally. Exhibit 1, *FY 2004 International Program Activities*, summarizes the activities the NIDA International Program supports to successfully contribute to the NIDA research mission.

<b>Exhibit 1 – FY 2004 International Program Activities</b>		
<b>Category</b>	<b>Number of Activities</b>	<b>Number of Countries</b>
<b>International Research Activities</b>		
• International Program Administrative Supplements	16	10
• Domestic Grants with Foreign Components	191	45
• Direct Foreign Grants	23	13
• Binational Agreements	4	4
• Southern Africa Initiative	1	14
• Grants Awarded by Interagency Funding Agreements	27	28
<b>Fellowships and Research Exchanges</b>		
• DISCA/USDISCA	4	4
• INVEST Fellowships	3	3
• NIDA Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowships	9	9
• WHO/NIDA/CPDD International Traveling Fellowships	2	2
<b>Scientific Exchange and Capacity Building</b>		
• International Program Meetings	3	50
• Symposia	3	6
• Travel Support		
○ NIDA Grantees	28	8
○ Foreign Researchers	48	3

## Drug Abuse and Addiction Require Global Cooperation

The World Health Organization reports that more than 15 million people have been diagnosed with drug use disorders, and that injection drug use is present in 136 nations. The United Nations' Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2004*, calls for a multilateral, coordinated response to illicit drug markets that "know no borders and [are] beyond the reach of any single government, rich or poor." NIDA was one of the first drug abuse research agencies to adopt that approach as the public health crises of drug abuse and addiction intensified during the late 20th Century. NIDA formally created the International Program in 1990 because the Institute recognized that multinational cooperation was urgently required to effectively address the pandemic. The science-based information generated by NIDA researchers and the International Program alumni contributes to international efforts to develop, adopt, and evaluate government policies, prevention programs, and treatment protocols that effectively address drug abuse and its consequences.

The International Program is a global ambassador for NIDA, and through this program's research support, training programs, and international meetings in FY 2004, NIDA worked directly with drug abuse researchers in 50 nations. The International Program continues to reach out to other nations through ongoing partnerships with international and regional organizations, including the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the Pan American World Health Organization, and the European Union.

## International Research Offers Opportunities, Delivers Results

NIDA research demonstrates that physiological, behavioral, and social context factors all play a role in both the development of addiction and recovery from addiction. While NIDA and the United States have an obligation to assist other countries, there is much we can learn from the new developments, re-emerging situations, and evolving research infrastructures in other parts of the world. International collaborations introduce NIDA grantees to new perspectives and differing attitudes about the most basic fundamentals of drug abuse research. Differing economic, cultural, political, and historical factors shape national perspectives and training opportunities in health care, substance abuse, and research that enable highly trained scientists from other nations to bring unique insights to the Institute's research efforts. National variations also provide NIDA grantees with opportunities to study aspects of drug abuse not available in the United States and to examine the effect of national differences in such areas as: policies, drug-using populations, abused drugs, patterns of abuse, special populations, prevention programs, and treatment protocols. Thus, NIDA supports rigorous international research in basic, clinical, and applied research on topics ranging from genetics and neurobiology to behavioral neuroscience. The broad range of study objectives proposed by international research collaborators demonstrates how these unique opportunities and varying perspectives are an integral part of NIDA's international research portfolio (see Exhibit 2, *FY 2004 International Program Administrative Supplement Objectives*).

## Exhibit 2 – FY 2004 International Program Administrative Supplements

Country	Project Title	U.S. Principal Investigator	Non-U.S. Principal Investigator
Australia	An Exploration of the Recovery Experience in Australia	Alexandre Laudet, Ph.D., National Development and Research Institutes	Gordon Storey, M.A., Self-help Addiction Resource Center, Melbourne
China	Drug Abuse, Substance P, and HIV Infection	Wenzhe Ho, M.D., Children's Hospital of Philadelphia	Dun-Jin Zhou, M.D., Wuhan Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
China	Viral & Host Factors on HIV Transmission/Pathogenesis	Xiao-Fang Yu, M.D., D.Sc., Johns Hopkins	Yiming Shao, M.D., (Beijing), Chinese Center for Disease Control, and Wei Liu (Guangxi)
China	Buprenorphine/Naloxone for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence	David Celentano, Sc.D., Johns Hopkins	Yiming Shao, M.D., (Beijing), Chinese Center for Disease Control, and Yuanzhi Zhang (Xinjiang)
China	Drug Use/Abuse and HIV Risks Among Chinese Male Migrants	Frank Wong, Ph.D., Georgetown University School of Nursing and Health Studies	Chuanliang Tong, M.D., M.P.H., Center for Reproductive Health, Technical Instruction and Training, Shanghai
China	PTSD and Substance Use/Abuse in Youth	Ping Wu, Ph.D., Columbia University	Prof. Yunyun Fang, Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, and Zhiqiang Guan, M.D., Chinese National Institute of Hospital Administration
France	Neuropsychopharmacology of MDMA: Monoaminergic Mechanisms	Kathryn Cunningham, Ph.D., University of Texas	Umberto Spampinato, M.D., Ph.D., University of Bordeaux
France	Buprenorphine in France: Lessons for the U.S.	Stanley Wallack, Ph.D., Brandeis University	Thomas D'Aunno, Ph.D., INSEAD
Georgia	Engaging Non-Treatment Seeking Drug Abusing Georgian Men	Hendree Jones, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins	David Otiaashvili, M.D., and Gela Lezhava, M.D., Ph.D., Georgian Research Institute on Addictions
Hungary	HIV Risk and Neighborhood Networks of New IDUs	Alan Neaigus, Ph.D., National Development and Research Institutes	Jozsef Racz, M.D., Ph.D., and Eszter Ujhelyi, Ph.D., Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Japan	Brain and Behavioral Alterations After Methamphetamine	William P. Melega, Ph.D., UCLA	Yoshito Kumagai, Ph.D., University of Tsukuba
Japan	Perinatal Hormones and Responses to Psychoactive Drugs	Victoria Luine, Ph.D., CUNY	Shinji Hayashi, Ph.D., Yokohama City University
New Zealand	Prenatal Methamphetamine Exposure and Child Development	Barry Lester, Ph.D., Brown University	Trecia Wouldes, Ph.D., University of Auckland
Russia	Voucher-Based Peer-Driven Intervention in Russia	Robert Broadhead, Ph.D., University of Connecticut	Valery L. Volkanevsky, M.D., Yaroslavl Provincial HIV Prevention Center
Scotland	Training Clinicians in Empirically-Based Family Therapy	Howard Little, Ed.D., University of Miami	Neil McKeganey, Ph.D., University of Glasgow
South Africa	Woman-Focused HIV Prevention in the Western Cape	Wendee Wechsburg, Ph.D., RTI International	Charles Parry, Ph.D., and Bronwyn Myers, M.SocSci., Medical Research Council of South Africa
Spain	Neurotoxic Amphetamines, Radicals and 5HT Neurons	Donald Kuhn, Ph.D., Wayne State University	Maria Isabel Colado Megia, Ph.D., Universidad Complutense, Madrid
Spain	Rapid Vaccination of Hard to Reach Populations	David Vlahov, Ph.D., New York Academy of Medicine	Juan Jose Miguel-Tobal Universidad Complutense, Madrid

## NIDA's International Research Mission

NIDA created the International Program to promote international drug abuse research in order to increase scientific knowledge about addiction and address its impact on public health. The International Program must integrate the Institute's research priorities with Federal scientific, economic, and foreign policy considerations as it fosters international collaborative research within NIDA, with other agencies of the U.S. Government, with foreign governments, with international and foreign regional organizations, and with nongovernmental organizations in other countries. By disseminating science-based information about drug abuse and creating research training and exchange opportunities, the International Program has developed a global network of highly trained drug abuse professionals who can collaborate with one another and with NIDA grantees. This expanding global community meets during the annual NIDA International Forum to assess drug abuse trends and issues, strengthen existing research collaborations, identify potential partners and new topics for cooperation, consult with NIDA officials and grantees, and discuss new research methodologies. Mutually beneficial formal agreements between the International Program and scientific institutions in Mexico, the Netherlands, Spain, and Russia provide innovative mechanisms to support binational research efforts.

## Measuring Success

Success in scientific endeavours is rarely a single stunning accomplishment, but more frequently a gradual accumulation of incremental advances in knowledge that combine to change our basic understanding of complex, interrelated subjects. Scientists do measure those small successes, usually by assessing a research team's contributions to peer-reviewed publications and scientific meetings, the nature and source of the team's financial support, and the frequency of their cooperation with international organizations such as the World Health Organization. As Exhibit 3, *Summary of NIDA International Program FY 2004 Accomplishments*, demonstrates, the NIDA International Program contributes to the scientific community in every area – through more than 50 peer-reviewed publications, presentations at more than a dozen major scientific meetings, NIDA and NIH research grant awards, and participation in major international initiatives. The NIDA International Program's accomplishments during fiscal year 2004 provide a road map for future activities.

## EXHIBIT 3 – SUMMARY OF NIDA INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM FY 2004 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### RESEARCH FUNDING

#### Administrative Supplements

- \$1.5 million to 16 binational research teams

#### R-21

- IV self-administration in drug-naïve mice – Russia



- U.S. – Netherlands: 7 active research projects
- New agreements signed with Spain and Mexico

### TRAINING AND EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES

#### DISCA Results

- 3-year grant awarded from U.S. – Japan Brain Research Cooperation Program plus additional support from Tokyo Institute of Psychiatry and the Japanese Society of Pharmacopoeia
- R01 grant application submitted
- Abstract submitted to SRNT; scientific article in preparation
- 5 data collection instruments translated; scientific article submitted

#### USDISCA Created

- Allows veteran NIDA grantees to work with foreign colleagues in the most suitable locale for their research

#### INVEST Fellows' Research Topics

- Genetic studies of nicotine dependence
- Role of endocannabinoids in the psychotomimetic effects of psychostimulants
- Molecular and genetic studies of stress- and drug-induced neuroadaptation



### SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE

#### International Organizations

- WHO
- UNAIDS
- UNODC
- Asian Harm Reduction Network

#### NIDA International Forum

- 219 Participants from 51 nations

#### IP-Sponsored Meetings

- Russia
- Spain

#### IP-Sponsored Symposia

- ASAM/ISAM
- Therapeutic Communities
- Drugged Driving

#### IP Travel Support

- 27 NIDA grantees participated in 7 scientific meetings in 7 nations
- 50 foreign researchers from 22 nations participated in 8 scientific meetings in 6 nations