

# AITRP CONNECTIONS

The newsletter of the UIC AIDS International Training & Research Program

<http://www.uic.edu/sph/AITRP>

Fall 2006

## Hooray! Another Five Years For the UIC-AITRP



### ABOUT THE UIC-AITRP

Awarded in 2000, the UIC-AITRP is funded by the John E. Fogarty International Center (FIC). Additional support is provided by the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR). The program's goal is to build long-term scientific capacities through training and research that help to address the AIDS epidemic in [Chile](#), [China](#), [Indonesia](#), and [Malawi](#).

### PROGRAM FACULTY

**SPH** - Robert Bailey, Carol Ciesielski, Paul Goldstein, Ronald Hershow, Lena Hatchett, Michele Issel, Judith Levy, Susan Levy, Edward Mensah, Claudia Morrissey, Lawrence Ouellet, Nadine Peacock, Thomas Prohaska, Jesus Ramirez-Valles, Wayne Wiebel, Chyvette Williams

**CON** - Barbara Berger, Carol Christiansen, Barbara Dancy, Marquis Foreman, Tonda Hughes, Gwen Brumbaugh Keeney, Linda McCreary, Beverly McElmurry, Arlene Miller, Kathleen Norr, Patrick Robinson, Marie Talashek, Diana Wilkie

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Saima Chaudhry,  
Norman Altman

### TRAINING ADVISORY GROUP

Alan L. Landay (chair), Don Des Jarlais, William L. Holzemer, Seth C. Kalichman, Stephen Moses

We are pleased to announce that the UIC-AITRP's application to NIH for competitive renewal has been successful, and we will continue for another five years (06/01/2006 - 05/31/2011) to address the AIDS epidemic globally by helping to train the next generation of AIDS researchers from our four partnering countries and by facilitating AIDS research at our host institutions. The John E. Fogarty Center (FIC) will provide half of our program funding; the National Institute for Nursing Research (NINR) will contribute the other half.

Examination of UIC-AITRP accomplishments during its first five years of funding as a new program reveals great success in training a cadre of international MS and PhD fellows – all of whom conducted studies in their home countries. In addition, we have maintained an active post-doctoral and short-term training component, while also conducting over 44 AIDS in-country workshops. We also leveraged our basic NIH award by successfully competing for funding from other sources.

Our next five years will be exciting in terms of continued mentoring as our first cohort of AITRP fellows return home with their degrees to begin their research careers. Also, a next generation of scholars will start their programs as traineeships become available. A new Training Advisory Group (see pg. 2) has agreed to provide advisory oversight and its composition represents the AITRP's growing interest in facilitating research that cuts across disciplinary boundaries.

Thank you to everyone for your support in making the renewal possible. And welcome to the UIC-AITRP for another 5 years!

## Meet the Members of Our New TAG

The Training Advisory Group (TAG) for the AITRP's next five years is composed of nationally recognized experts in AIDS research who are external to the UIC- AITRP and its mentoring and on-going operations. They have been selected to represent a range of substantive areas in public health, nursing, medicine and clinical practice of importance to AIDS research training and capacity building. The TAG assists in trainee selection, scientific review of trainee projects, and evaluation of trainee and training program progress.



**Alan L. Landay, Ph.D.**, (Chair), Professor Associate Chairman and Professor of Medicine for the Department of Immunology & Microbiology at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center. A member of the NIH Vaccine Study Section, his research involves immunopathogenic and immune reconstitution studies in HIV disease. His international research in Australia and Indonesia is funded by the Doris Duke Foundation and focuses on studies moving HIV monitoring tools in resource poor settings.

**Don Des Jarlais, Ph.D.**, Director of Research and Professor of Epidemiology and Population Medicine at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. Considered by many to be the leading expert on AIDS interventions for substance abusers, Dr. Des Jarlais' research examines the relationship between drug use and AIDS prevention and treatment domestically and internationally.

**William L. Holzemer, Ph.D., RN, FAAN**, is Professor and Associate Dean for International Programs at the UCSF School of Nursing. Director of two major academic and research Nursing networks, his NIH-funded research across multiple countries focuses on concepts related to living well with HIV/AIDS, including adherence, stigma, symptom management, and quality of life.

**Seth C. Kalichman, Ph.D.**, is Professor in the Psychology Department at the University of Connecticut. An expert in AIDS social interventions, Dr. Kaichman is PI for an NIH funded study of HIV treatment adherence and also a gender and theory-based behavioral risk reduction intervention for men at risk in Cape Town, South Africa. Dr. Kalichman edits the *Journal of AIDS and Behavior*.

**Stephen Moses, MD, MPH**, Professor in the Departments of Community Health Sciences, Medicine and Medical Microbiology at the University of Manitoba. Dr. Moses is the PI for a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) study and co-investigator for a NIH-funded project to assess the effectiveness of male circumcision in reducing HIV incidence in Kisumu, Kenya, and co-investigator for a Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation supported study to reduce the transmission of HIV and STIs in the Indian state of Karnataka.

## Our Fantastic Fellows .....

### Current AITRP Scholars Present in Toronto

In August, **Abigail Kazembe** delivered a plenary address using results from her dissertation at the 2nd International Conference on Nursing Science & HIV/AIDS in Toronto. Her presentation examined, *“The Social Construction of HIV/AIDS Risk Among Adolescents From Selected Secondary Schools In Malawi.”* Using data from her dissertation on couples and HIV, **Ellen Mbweza** presented a poster a few days later at the XVI International World AIDS Conference in Toronto on *“An Ethical Strategy for Informed Consent Among Married Couples Involved in HIV Research in Rural Malawi.”* **Wei Liu** also presented a poster there on *“Intervention studies on drug abuse and HIV/AIDS in China.”*



### Congratulations to Keke Lin and Wei Liu!



A special spotlight highlights the accomplishment of **Keke Lin** who earned her masters degree in Nursing in May 2006 as an AITRP scholar. While at UIC, Keke received the 2006 Student Merit Award from the Alpha Lambda Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau and the Cardew-Mullane Award in Clinical Excellence and Leadership from the UIC College of Nursing Alumni Board. She also presented, “A Concept Analysis of Disgrace: Its Relationship to HIV/AIDS Health Education for Chinese People,” at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Nursing Research Society Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Having finished her studies, Keke has rejoined the faculty of the School of Nursing at Peking University Health Sciences Center.



The National Institute on Drug Abuse chose **Wei Liu** to receive a travel grant to present a poster at the 2006 NIDA International Forum and to attend The College on Problems of Drug Dependence Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona this June. The NIDA award is highly competitive, and we are very proud that Wei was selected.

### Hot off the Press .....



Ngalande Rebecca C., Levy, Judith A., Kaponda, Chrissie P.N., and Robert Bailey, “Acceptability of Male Circumcision for Prevention of HIV Infection in Malawi,” *AIDS and Behavior*, 10:377-385, 2006.



## Welcome Gambit!

If you spot a new face among the AITRP trainees, please welcome **Ignatius (Gambit) Praptoraharjo** from Indonesia as our newest UIC AITRP trainee. Gambit served as a Harm Reduction Specialist with Family Health International in Jakarta before entering the doctoral program in HPA/SPH. Welcome Gambit!

## Country Happenings

**Visiting UIC:** August and September proved enjoyable months at UIC hosting AITRP-affiliated faculty from three of its partnering countries. The UIC-AITRP was very pleased to welcome **Diana Jere, Siti Kachingwe, Chrissie Kaponda,** and **Mary Mbeba** from Malawi who stopped for a few days in Chicago in August for a research-working meeting at UIC prior to attending the XIV AIDS Conference in Toronto. Former AITRP PhD scholars **Rosina Cianelli** and **Lilian Ferrer** along with **Lisette Irarazabel, Margarita Bernales,** and **Alejandra Araya** from Catholic University in Santiago followed a similar Chicago to Toronto itinerary. In September, **Dr. Shunzhen Xiao,** who is Professor of Nursing at Peking University Health Sciences Center and also our AITRP country coordinator for China, met with AITRP faculty about plans for the AITRP's activities under the renewal. Professor Xiao is one of China's earliest researchers in the study of AIDS, and she currently mentors a community education project being conducted in Beijing by former CON AITRP MS fellow **Keke Lin.**

### Chile

The John E. Fogarty Center at NIH has notified Dr. **Lilian Ferrer** that her application to the *Global Research International Program (GRIP)* for the study "Bringing men into HIV prevention in Chile" has been funded. Lilian earned her PhD at UIC as an UIC-AITRP scholar before returning to the faculty of the School of Nursing at Catholic University in Chile. A mentored RO1 award (1R01TW007674-01) that includes advisory consultation by UIC-AITRP faculty, the study is scheduled to begin in Santiago this Fall.

### Indonesia

NIH has contracted ABT Associates to evaluate the research training impact of the John E. Fogarty International Center's *AIDS International Training and Research Program (AITRP)* that funds 25 university AITRPs including ours. The evaluation involves a sampling of several AITRP served countries. Our AITRP took the lead in coordinating the ABT team's site visit to Indonesia and its interviews with former fellows from the 3 universities (UIC, Hopkins, UCLA) AITRPs that are active there. We look forward to hearing the results of the evaluation when they become available.

## Malawi

In 2001, the UIC AITRP successfully competed for funding from the NIH National Center for Alternative and Complementary Medicine to establish an AIDS Research Program at Kamuzu College of Nursing (KCN). **Drs. Chrissie Kaponda** (Malawi) and **Judith Levy** (UIC) serve as the P.I.s for this cross-national collaboration. The project pairs experienced AIDS researchers from UIC and KCN with junior faculty from each institution for research training through hands-on experience. Thirteen AITRP faculty members from UIC Nursing and Public Health participate on the project and approximately an equal number of KCN faculty. In addition to support for training and infrastructure research capacity-building at KCN, the award carried sufficient funding for 3 pilot studies. The 1<sup>st</sup> (**Robert Bailey**, P.I.), which was completed in 2005, examined the acceptability of adopting Male circumcision in Malawi as an HIV prevention strategy. The 2<sup>nd</sup> (**Lena Hatchett**, P.I.) investigates the feasibility of using a peer-support model to assist women in Malawi caring for a family member with AIDS. This study has completed one pilot testing of the peer model in a rural community and a second testing will occur this fall with an urban sample. The 3<sup>rd</sup> pilot (**Gwen Brumbaugh Keeney**, P.I.), which explores the use of traditional birth attendants in HIV prevention, will begin data collection in November. An application for competitive renewal of the project is being prepared for a December submission.

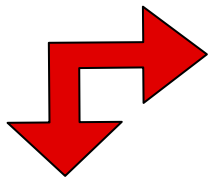
## China

### 2006 China Workshops

In collaboration with Fudan University, School of Public Health in Shanghai and also with our AITRP training partner Peking University Health Sciences Center in Beijing, the UIC AITRP presented a workshop on “Community-Based Approaches to Confronting HIV/AIDS” in both cities in April 2006. The audiences for each offering consisted of about 100 scientists, academicians, health care workers, and government officials. **Drs. Ronald Hershow, Susan Levy, Judith Levy, Susan Scrimshaw, and Wayne Wiebel** joined with Chinese experts to present the curriculum. As a coordinated event, Susan Scrimshaw partnered with **Professor Qian Xu**, Deputy Dean of the School of Public Health at Fudan U., to present a special intensive 1-day workshop for 25 faculty and scientists on “The Use of Rapid Assessment Procedures.”



The AITRP will hold an AIDS workshop in the Kunming and Xinjiang (Inner Mongolia) provinces this October 2006. Located geographically near the drug-trafficking regions of the Golden and Crescent Triangles, both areas confront an AIDS epidemic fueled largely by injection drug use. In line with this, the workshops will focus heavily on drug-related HIV prevention and treatment.



## AITRP FACULTY CORNER

### A Big Welcome back .....

After living for 8 years in Jakarta, **Dr. Wayne Wiebel** has returned to the faculty of Epi-Bio in SPH. Wayne's sojourn in Indonesia was undertaken as an extended leave from SPH to work as a special consultant on HIV/AIDS to Family Health International - Indonesia. Dr. Wiebel will teach Global Health studies for SPH this fall and continue as the UIC-AITRP U.S. coordinator for Indonesia.



We also welcome **Dr. Chyvette Williams** back to Chicago. Dr. Williams has accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Health Policy and Administration Division in SPH. Chevy earned her MPH at UIC before going on for a doctorate at Johns Hopkins University and then becoming a senior fellow in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health and Society Scholars Program. While studying at UIC, Chevy was a UIC-AITRP Summer Scholar to Malawi in 2001.

**Dr. Michele Issel** reports that she had a very enjoyable and productive visit this July building bridges between UIC and China. Among her travels, Michelle met with Professor Qian from the School of Public Health at Fudan University in Shanghai to discuss mutual scientific interests in community rural health. Professor Qian organized the HIV Rapid Assessment Workshop that the AITRP sponsored in Shanghai last spring. While at Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Michelle also met with the Dean of the Academic Department of Health and Social Science and the Dean and two faculty of the School of Nursing to explore possible future collaborations.



To **Dr. Patrick Robinson** who received the 2006 Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Indiana University School of Nursing Alumni Association.

### New AITRP Faculty

**Claudia Morrissey, MD**, adds mentoring AITRP fellows to her role as Deputy Director for the Center for Research on Women and Gender. Dr. Morrissey, who teaches the SPH course on Global Health Successes, joins **Dr. Chyvette Williams** as the AITRP's two newest faculty members.