

AITRP CONNECTIONS

The newsletter of the UIC AIDS International Training & Research Program

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

Fall 2007

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, Mark Dworkin, 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

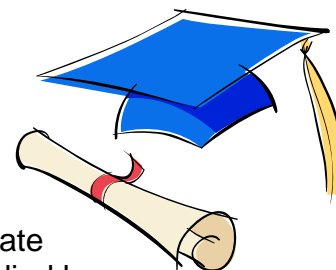
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Saima Chaudhry
Norman Altman

TRAINING ADVISORY

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

Congratulations to I Made Setiawan!



We are pleased to announce that I. Made Setiawan successfully defended his doctoral dissertation this summer and will graduate this December with his PhD. Dr. Setiawan studied how social relationships among boat crews plying the South East Asian archipelago promote and reinforce high risk sex and drug-use behavior at brothels and bars upon reaching shore after weeks at sea. Because Balinese fisherman engage in high-risk behavior in camaraderie with their peers from Thailand and other parts of South East Asia, the results have implications far beyond one country. In this regard, Made already has been interviewed by the Associated Press and his findings have been cited in the International Herald. The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations also is very interested in the study and intends to publish his methods section in its journal.

Dr. Setiawan began teaching this fall in the School of Public Health at Udayana University in Bali where he also is currently preparing his results for publication. With the completion of his degree, he finds himself inundated with requests from international organizations, NGOs, and researchers to partner in AIDS and other research around a wide range of topics. For a summary of Made's dissertation study, see page 6 of this issue.

The UIC-AITRP Joins the NIDA Family

A recent update from the Fogarty International Center (FIC) on support for the UIC-AITRP carried the exciting news that the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) will co-fund UIC-AITRP over the next four years. NIDA supported part of the AITRP's activities during its last 5-year funding cycle, and we are very pleased to be included once again as part of the NIDA family. In addition to FIC and NIDA, the UIC-AITRP also is sponsored by the National Institute of Nursing Research. It's an honor to be affiliated with two such important and active institutes.

The UIC-AITRP is supported through funding from the NIH John E. Fogarty International Center and
Co-funding from

The National Institute for Nursing Research and the National Institute on Drug Abuse

Director: Judith A. Levy, PhD

Co-Director: Beverly McElmurry, EdD, RN, FAAN



Mark your Calendars for the XV11 International AIDS Conference in Mexico August 3 - 8, 2008.

Registration will open on November 1 and scholarship application forms will be available on the website in December at (www.aids2008.org). Dates for submitting abstracts should be posted soon. Check the website at <http://www.aids2008.org/start.aspx> for deadlines and information.

Congratulations to UIC CON!

The UIC College of Nursing has been re-designated as a PAHO/WHO Collaborating Center for International Nursing Development in Primary Health Care! The College's designation was renewed in 1992, 1996, and 2003. The designation was in recognition of the College's commitment to international nursing development and the expansion of its program of international activities. **Dr. Beverly McElmurry** will remain Head of the Center. This designation by the [Pan American Health Organization \(PAHO\)](http://www.paho.org) and the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](http://www.who.int) will be effective from 2007-2011.

Hoorah for Ellen Mbweza!

Successfully completing a dissertation study marks an important transition from doctoral candidate to young professional. For Ellen Mbweza, the next career phase will include building on her doctoral research through an NIH Global Research Investigators' Award (GRIP) for the study "Testing Culturally Tailored Peer Groups for HIV Prevention for Couples in Malawi." Ellen joins **Lilian Ferrar** and **Rosina Cianelli** as AITRP scholars who have received GRIP awards upon graduating with their PhDs. Special thanks go to **Kathy Norr** who coached all 3 scholars through the grant writing process.

And an award for Clara Chipeta

The poster, "Barriers and facilitators to condom use: Evidence from focus groups in Malawi" presented by Clara Chipeta received the Best Podium Award at the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) 52nd Annual Meeting held here in Chicago in June 2007. Congratulations Clara!



Alan Landay, who chairs our AITRP Training Advisory Group, reports that the International AIDS Society Meeting in Sydney this summer was a great success. Alan co-chaired the Basic Sciences Committee. **Dr. Lin Li**, who was a UIC-AITRP post-doc as part of our affiliation with the Great Lakes Center for AIDS Research presented the paper, "APOBEC3G-UBA2 fusion as a potential strategy for stable expression of APOBEC3G and inhibition of HIV-1 replication."

Congratulations to our AITRP colleagues in Indonesia who were members of the countrys steering committee that successfully competed against five other Asian countries to host the **International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP) in Bali in September 2009**. Organizers plan to encourage Pacific countries such as Fiji and Papua New Guinea that have not previously participated to assume an active part in the five-day international meeting. The UIC-AITRP also expects to have an active and facilitating presence at the meeting, so mark your calendars now.

Meet Agung, our new AITRP doctoral trainee from Jakarta



We are pleased to introduce that Agung Waluyo has joined the AITRP family as our new doctoral scholar in the College of Nursing. Agung comes to us from the School of Nursing at the University of Indonesia. His educational background includes having completed a M.S. in 2000 in Health Care Practice (Nursing) from Liverpool John Moores University in England. He also served as a national consultant in Human Resource for Health (Nursing & Midwifery) for the World Health Organization, Indonesia. His research interests include stigma and also symptom management for HIV/AIDS patients. He currently is on a leave of absence from his academic position at U.I. to pursue his PhD.



An Update on our Current Cohort of AITRP PhD Scholars ...

As the first generation of the UIC-AITRP's long-term trainees have completed their studies and returned home with their degrees, a second cohort of scholars have begun or are about to finish their PhD programs. Here's an overview to their progress:

Alejandra Araya (Chile) has finished her first year of course work at CON. Alejandra kept a busy schedule commuting between Chicago and Rochester where her husband is completing his MS in clinical research. This summer she attended the AIDS Summer Institute at the University of Washington and the Ethics of Research Workshop at Yale. The latter proved especially useful in July when she participated as a central part of the work group that prepared an application for Chile.

Clara Chipeta (Malawi) currently is analyzing and writing up the results of her study, "Perceptions and Intentions Regarding HIV Testing and Partner Disclosure Among Pregnant Women in Malawi." Ms. Chipeta is expected to meet all doctoral requirements and to have successfully defended her dissertation for graduation in May 2008.

Wei Liu (China) will begin data collection this fall at a methadone clinic in Ruili City in Yunnan. This area has one of the highest rates of HIV in the country, and most cases occur among IDUs. Methadone treatment holds enormous promise for China in curbing both illicit drug use and also HIV transmission providing that it's accepted and successfully delivered within a supportive context. Mr. Liu's study, "KAB and Family Support for HIV Risk Reduction Among IDUs Attending a Methadone Clinic in Kunming, China," will explore those factors, including family support, that facilitate or hinder successful treatment and HIV/AIDS risk-reduction.

Ignatius "Gambit" Praptoraharjo (Indonesia) will finish his course work in SPH this fall, followed by sitting for his PhD preliminary exams this spring. His dissertation interest's focus on HIV-risk behavior among female IDUs – a topic about which little currently is known in Indonesia.

"Iko" Safika (Indonesia) recently returned from the island of Lombok, Indonesia where she collected her data for the study, "Sex Work Venues and their Influence on HIV Risk Behavior among Female Sex Workers in Senggigi-Indonesia." The study identifies and compares types, customers, and frequencies of risky sexual behavior under four types of commercial sex work arrangements: (1) street-based, (2) brothel, (3) massage parlor, and (4) bar/Karaoke entertainment establishments. The results will fill a gap in current understandings of how best to tailor successful prevention efforts for women engaged in commercial sex.

Summer Fellows ...

This past summer, the AITRP was pleased to provide travel scholarships for:

- **Margarita Bernales** (CHILE) to attend the 15th Annual Course on Principles of STD and HIV Research at the University of Washington;
- **Tianxin Chu** (CHINA) to attend the 15th Annual Course on Principles of STD and HIV Research at the University of Washington;
- **Lisette Irrarrazabal** (CHILE) to attend the NIH NIAID Grants Management Training in Lima, Peru.



From our Alumni ...

Lilian Ferrer has had a busy career since returning with her doctorate to the School of Nursing at Pontificia Catholic University in Chile. She writes that her NIH-funded study of “Bringing Men into HIV Prevention in Chile” is going well. She also is in charge of the Office of International Affairs as well as serving as Research Director for the School. Other duties include having served on the review panel for grant applications for the Ministry of Health and as an editorial member of two journals (one published by her university and the other by a medical association). Lily also served as a member of the scientific committee of the first Chilean Congress in Public Health. Currently, she is being reviewed for promotion to “Professor Adjunto,” which is the final step before becoming a full professor. Other accomplishments include having been honored with a “Young Researcher Award” bestowed by the President of the University. Lily writes that “professional life is really exciting and of course I know this started because I was a UIC-AITRP trainee.”

Kudos to AITRP MS graduate **Keke Lin** and co-authors **Beverly McElmurry** and **Carol Christiansen** on publication of “Women and HIV/AIDS in China: Gender and Vulnerability” that appears in *Women and Health Care for Women International*, 28:680–699, 2007.

Malawi Happenings:

Kamuzu College of Nursing of the University of Malawi hosted the Seventh Annual Conference of the Tau Lambda-at-Large Chapter this July at the Sunbird Capital Hotel in Lilongwe Malawi.

Abigail Kazembe presented the analysis from her dissertation, “Factors that influenced sexual decisions of female adolescents of Lilongwe rural west community secondary schools in Malawi.”

Ellen Mbweza and **Chrissie Kaponda** were among the KCN faculty serving on the scientific committee to review the abstracts.

Chaired by **Mrs. C. Chihana**, the National Advisory Committee of the Mzake ndi Mzake intervention study (**K. Norr**, P.I.) met in June to review the study’s findings prior to being presented at the National AIDS Commission’s 2007 Research and Best Practices Dissemination Conference. The Committee made helpful suggestions regarding the presentation and also strongly agreed on the need to disseminate the program to all the central and district level hospitals in Malawi. Various funding sources that might support this effort were discussed.



AITRP Faculty Corner

Kathleen Norr was nominated and accepted as an honorary member of the Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International. As an honorary member, Dr. Norr will be recognized at the 39th Biennial Convention on Saturday, November 3, 2007, at the University of Maryland in Baltimore, Maryland. Congratulations Kathy on receiving this well deserved recognition of your work and commitment to global health.



Wow, there's a film maker among us! **Jesus Ramirez-Valles** produced the film, *Tal Como Somos (Just the Way We Are)* that addresses the stigmatization of gender non-conformity and HIV/AIDS in the Latino community. The content is based on his research regarding stigma, HIV-related sexual risk, and community involvement with Latino gay and bisexual men and transgender individuals conducted in Chicago and San Francisco from 2000-2005. This feature-length documentary candidly examines the lives of six Latino men, one transgender woman, and the ties that bind them: their families and friends, their culture, religion, education/upbringing, and their experiences as adults. It *shares* the realities of living within a culture where daily life means being torn between love as son, brother, father, friend and stigma, or even exclusion, for being different. The film showcases their ordinariness and uniqueness while revealing their humanness as individuals who live and love, wanting to live and be loved for who they are. The film was featured at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. To view a trailer, go to: www.juneteenthproductions.com.

Barbara Dancy is to be congratulated on receiving five years continuation of the training grant, *Reducing Disparities in Undeserved Populations* from National Institute of Nursing Research.

Michele Issel spent her summer vacation teaching a bilingual course in "Program Planning and Evaluation" at Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile, School of Nursing. She reports learning much about the cultural dimension to education. For example, the School of Nursing served cookies and coffee every mid-morning and mid-afternoon. The students were dismayed to learn that U.S. faculty would have to buy the goodies. The students' biggest cultural challenge was the course requirement to do volunteer work to gain real-life experience with developing and evaluating health programs. Teaming volunteerism and independent student work was a novel concept in the school and to some degree in the culture. But in the end, students perceived the value of seeing their national programs through the eyes of an "evaluation consultant."

Marie Telashek was cited in the August 7, 2007 edition of the *Malawi Nation* daily news for her research findings from a study that she and her UIC and University of Malawi colleagues conducted in Malawi on health care workers' role in promoting HIV prevention. The news article notes that the study team found that a lack of adequate hospital supplies, overcrowding of hospital wards/clinics, inadequate training, and staff shortages limit health workers ability to do what is needed to help prevent the spread of HIV.



Richard Sowell retired this year after 13 years of editing the *Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care*. His last editorial in JANAC carried a special thank you to **Patrick Robinson** whom he writes that he watched "grow from a new nurse to an experienced leader who has continued to promote the best interests of JANAC as author, reviewer, board member and confident ANAC president." What a fine and well-deserved tribute Patrick!

Social Risk Networks and HIV/AIDS Among Fishing Boat Crews in Benoa Port, Bali

Doctoral Dissertation: I Made Setiawan, PhD

Committee: Drs. Judith Levy (Chair), Michael Lieber, Larry Ouellet, Wayne Wiebel, Dewa Wirawan



Indonesia is the world's largest archipelago with approximately 17,500 islands spread across 3977 miles, of which 6000 are estimated to be inhabited. The island chain has 2,061 domestic ports (fishing and non-fishing) to facilitate trade and travel among the islands and overseas. Fishing forms an important source of national income. Benoa Port on Bali is one of Indonesia's top five major fishing ports and the main one for the island province. It has at least 800 long-line fishing boats that employ between 8 and 50 crewmembers each. More than 10,000 fishermen work from the Benoa Port.

The major goal of the study was to determine if the social networks of Benoa fishermen who crew together correlate with their knowledge and attitudes toward HIV/AIDS and the type of risk-taking behavior in which they engage. Twenty-nine fishermen from three boats operated by two different fishing companies were sampled. Respondents were interviewed individually using a semi-structured questionnaire, and additional data were obtained through participant observation of the crew members' shore behavior including buying sex. Information was collected concerning the crewmembers socio-demographic characteristics, their relationships with other crew members including shared drug and sexual activities, and their HIV/AIDS/STDs knowledge, perceptions, and risk-taking practices.

Most of the fishermen at Benoa Port are from Java, Bali's island neighbor to the west, and have left their families, and sometimes wives and children, back home. Social isolation among these sojourners encourages the formation of cliques on board and on shore. Fishermen who crew on boats operated by religious captains and surrounded by religious peers tend to operate within their home value-system based on Islam that endorses regular praying and abstinence from drinking alcohol and buying sex. Those crewing for a non-religious captain or surrounded on board by more senior crew members who buy sex or drugs are the more vulnerable to succumbing to sex, alcohol, and other drug temptations over time.

Network analysis shows that fishermen rarely buy sex alone, but do so socially in groups to reward themselves with collective entertainment after their tiring and stressful work at sea. Sex workers of various price-levels are readily accessible in the port, and ship board discussions among sex-buying clichés over the many days at sea provide a mechanism for transmitting information about where to go and what favors can be purchased. "Medical networks" develop that fishermen turn to advice in diagnosing and treating STDs.

Almost all the fishermen interviewed perceived their risk of acquiring HIV to be negligible. Avoiding sex workers with foreign clients, maintaining a high level of personal physical fitness, and hiring only those sex workers who are perceived to be "high-class" and/or who have regular medical check-ups are strategies believed to reduce the risk for HIV. But under it all, Bali fishermen are largely fatalist in believing that contracting HIV is a matter of luck or fate -- if someone is destined to get it, there is no way to prevent it.

Overall, the study's findings indicate that fishermen at Benoa Port are subject to many of the same factors affecting vulnerability to HIV infection among other mobile populations throughout the world where the circular migration of a predominantly male population occurs. Intervention programming for Bali fishermen must take into account the social and risk networks that facilitate or mitigate again risk behavior if it is to be effective in preventing HIV transmission.