Dear AITRP trainees, alumni, and partners:

I am thrilled to announce that the Vanderbilt University-Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia AIDS International Training and Research Program (VU-CIDRZ AITRP), previously the Vanderbilt-UAB AITRP, is now in its 11th year of funding and has been renewed until May 2014! Our AITRP has trained 68 people in advanced degrees and we have helped train more than 2,000 health professionals through in-country courses. Eight trainees are currently in training and 9 will begin their journeys in the upcoming academic year. Please join me in wishing them well.

This quarterly newsletter will highlight the activities of current AITRP trainees, career and scientific highlights of AITRP alumni, and in-country training activities supported by the AITRP program. I send a special thanks to NIH, Fogarty International Center and all of our in-country colleagues and alumni for your commitment and success in advancing HIV/AIDS research. Our AITRP is only as strong as our partners! Keep up the amazing work!

Sincerely,
Dr. Sten H. Vermund

Leveraging human capital and capacity in HIV/AIDS research.
Celebrating 20 years of AITRP

The Fogarty International Center celebrated its 40th anniversary and the 20th birthday of AITRP in Mexico City at the International AIDS Conference in August 2008.

Dr. Moses Sinkala was nominated by FIC to serve on the panel at the 20th anniversary of AITRP meeting.

Dr. Sinkala is an OBGYN who received an MPH from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 1999.

Since completion of his MPH degree, Dr. Sinkala has published in over 20 papers in prestigious journals such as AIDS, JAMA, Lancet, and JAIDS and has served as PI and co-PI in implementing promising research interventions or clinical trials in the area of PMTCT, nutrition interventions and prevention of HIV transmission.

Dr. Sinkala was a major force in the development of the Center for Infectious Diseases Research in Zambia (CIDRZ), which has evolved into UAB's dominant force in Zambia and now provides a platform for a variety of research and treatment projects in areas such as pediatrics, public health, obstetrics and gynecology and AIDS.

Dr. Sinkala currently serves as the Country Director, Catholic Medical Mission Board, Zambia.

Bangladeshi trainees receive Biostatistical Methods Training at Vanderbilt

In May 2009, AITRP sponsored four Bangladeshi researchers from the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) for training in advanced data analysis techniques. Mr. Gorkey Gourab is a Medical Anthropologist; Dr. Nazmul Alam has a microbiology background and received his DrPH with AITRP sponsorship in 2008. Dr. Quamrun Nahar is a physician by training with advanced training in Public Health and Sociology; and Mr. Masud Reza is a statistician. ICDDR,B conducts research on a range of topics on HIV/AIDS, including the epidemiology of HIV infection, risk behaviors among different population groups, male sexuality, migration, barriers to condom use, etc. The trainees brought qualitative and quantitative data from these studies. They will continue to analyze the data in-country and publish results within the year.

China-Zambia Training in HIV-related malignancies

As part of an AITRP-sponsored ‘South-to-South’ training initiative, two obstetrician-gynecologists from Xinjiang province in China, Dr. Amanguli (Shihezi University) and Dr. Hong Li (People’s Hospital of Jiashi County) visited the University Teaching Hospital in Zambia in February 2009. They received hand-on clinical mentoring experience in "see and treat" cervical cancer screening and systems training in establishing a cervical cancer prevention program in a resource constrained environment. Certain minority groups such as the Uyghur women in Xinjiang province have high cervical cancer rates due to poor access to screening and treatment. This is also of concern as this coincides with high HIV rates in the same population, and HIV-infected women are at greater risk of incidence, progression and recurrence of HPV-induced cervical neoplasia. The Zambia Cervical Cancer Prevention Program, one of the first large-scale service implementation projects of cervical cancer screening in a PEPFAR-supported HIV/AIDS clinical care environment, is led by Drs. Groesbeck Parham and Mulindi Mwanahamuntu in Zambia, in collaboration with Drs. Vikrant Sahasrabuddhe and Sten Vermund at Vanderbilt.
Enhancing Research Capacity in Pakistan

AITRP recently cosponsored several workshops in Pakistan with our major partners at the Bridge Consultants Foundation. 1) In Feb 2009, our partners held a workshop on TB and HIV/AIDS Co-infection at the Institute of Nursing Dow University of Health Sciences (Ojha Campus). The workshop was attended by 90 health care providers. 2) A three-day training workshop on Ethical Issues and Protection of Human Research Subjects was held April 9-11, 2009 in Gawadar. Twenty participants attended from members of Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) Dow University of Health Sciences, Bridge Consultants Foundation and AIDS Control Program Aga Khan School of Nursing, & Sindh AIDS Control Program NGOs. Two upcoming workshops are slated this year, including a one-day intensive short course, entitled HIV/AIDS Prevention among Vulnerable Populations: Challenges and Opportunities. The other includes a training of NGOs, in qualitative research methods and Hijras and male sex workers on condom use and safe sex negotiation.

Workshop Held in Beijing, China, on Behavior Interventions with People at High Risk for AIDS

The National Center for AIDS/STD Control and Prevention (NCAIDS), within the China Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC), held a workshop on behavioral interventions, data analysis, and research publication in Beijing from April 22 to 28, 2009. The workshop was jointly supported by the VU-CIDRZ AITRP, the Gates Foundation, and the China Global Fund. A total of 132 people attended the workshop, including 14 international experts from Vanderbilt, UAB, and the San Francisco Department of Public Health; and staff members from various levels within the China CDC, the Global Fund, the Gates Foundation, China AIDS Roadmap Tactical Support Project, and other NGOs engaged in HIV/AIDS intervention work among high-risk populations.
**Vanderbilt-CIDRZ AITRP Trainee Publications**


Mwanahamuntu MH; Sahasrabuddhe V; Pfaendler KS; Mudenda V; Hicks ML; Vermund SH; Stringer J; Parham GP. Implementation of “see-and-treat” cervical cancer prevention services linked to HIV care in Zambia: Notes from the field. *AIDS* 2009; 23(6):N1-5.


