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# HIV VACCINES AND THE COMMUNITY

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The Community Advisory Board Bulletin

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MAY 18, 2001

4<sup>th</sup> Annual

## HIV VACCINE AWARENESS DAY

On May 18, 1997, President Bill Clinton declared that “only a truly effective, preventive HIV vaccine will limit and eventually eliminate the threat of AIDS. If the 21st Century is to be the era of biology, let an AIDS vaccine be its first triumph.”



Dear Community Advisory Board Members,

I would like to take this opportunity, as we celebrate HIV Vaccine Awareness Day and the one-year anniversary of the existence of the network, to acknowledge you in all the work that you do for the HIV Vaccine Trials Network.

As we move along the road to an HIV vaccine, much of the success of the network will be due to your invaluable work helping to educate your communities on the importance of our research and helping to educate our scientific teams on the needs of your communities.

Your commitment to and involvement in the scientific committees, the protocol and development teams, the Global Community Advisory Board, and your local Community Advisory Boards are essential to the life of the network.

On behalf of all the investigators, clinic staff, and administrators of the HVTN, I would like to thank you for all the work that you do to make HIV vaccine research appropriate and ethical.

The time and effort that you voluntarily give to the HVTN is appreciated by all.

Yours gratefully,

Dr. Larry Corey  
Principal Investigator, HVTN





## Ça Bouge en Haïti!

Par le Docteur Mireille Peck- Coordinatrice du CAB

Depuis août dernier, le Conseil Consultatif Communautaire (CAB) d'Haïti s'engage avec vigueur dans les activités communautaires de lutte contre le SIDA et de sensibilisation sur les essais cliniques des vaccins contre le VIH qui se font au Centre GHESKIO.

Un petit résumé de leurs activités peut vous donner une idée de leur énergie dans la bataille de réduire le nombre de cas de VIH en Haïti.

### Août 2000

- Trois séances de formation pour les membres et les enseignants de la FONEP, Fondation Haïtienne des Ecoles Privées, une association du secteur éducatif.

### Novembre 2000

- Élaboration des documents, des dépliants et des flyers éducatifs.

### Décembre 2000

- Participation au colloque de l'Association Médicale Haïtienne pour la commémoration du jour Mondial du SIDA.
- Conférence sur les vaccins et la mission du CAB avec les universitaires (Faculté de Médecine--Université d'Etat d'Haïti).
- Participation au Théâtre National à une foire medico-sociale

### Février 2001

- Réalisation d'une enquête sur les connaissances des élèves de Delmas sur le HIV/MST et les vaccins.
- Conférence au Collège Excelsior pour les élèves du niveau secondaire

### Mars 2001

- Participation au colloque des femmes de l'organisation *Konesans Fanmi*, une institution de lutte contre le Sida et de promotion de la femme, colloque réalisé dans le cadre de la commémoration de la journée internationale de la femme.
- Echange entre le CAB et des jeunes de 16 à 25 ans dans une église Protestante.

### 27 mars 2001

- Jour mémorable pour le CAB/Gheskio. Le site Haïti a vacciné ses deux premiers volontaires. Evènement d'une grande ampleur. Les hauts responsables de la santé en Haïti étaient présents. Les membres du CAB ont assuré l'accueil à ce grand évènement.

### Avril 2001

- Présentation au Congrès Annuel de l'Association Médicale Haïtienne sur l'essai vaccinal du VIH en Haïti et la participation communautaire à travers le CAB.

### Mai 2001

- Activités de sensibilisation avec le secteur vaudou.
- Le 18 mai, HIV Vaccine Day sera commémoré avec les volontaires qui en manifestent le désir. Un dîner est prévu. ☘



# Things are Shaking in Haiti!

By Doctor Mireille Peck, CAB Coordinator

Since last August, the Community Advisory Board (CAB) of Haiti has been vigorously engaged in community activities centered around AIDS awareness and education regarding the HIV vaccine trial currently underway at the GHESKIO Center.

This brief summary of their activities will give you an idea of the energy that they put into the struggle to reduce the number people infected with HIV in Haiti.

## August 2000

- Three educational sessions for the members and teachers at FONEP, the Haitian Foundation for Private Schools, an association of the educational sector.

## November 2000

- Development of educational documents, brochures and flyers.

## December 2000

- Participation in a colloquium of the Medical Association of Haiti to commemorate World AIDS Day.
- Conference on vaccines and the mission of the CAB with university students (School of Medicine, State University of Haiti).
- Participation in the National Theatre at a socio-medical fair.

## February 2001

- Design and distribution of a questionnaire for students at Delmas to assess their knowledge STDs, AIDS, and vaccines.
- Conference for highschool students at Excelsior School.

## March 2001

- Participation at a women's colloquium of the organization "Konesans Fanmi"—an institution for the promotion of women and the fight against AIDS. The colloquium was put on for International Women's Day.

## March 27, 2001

- A memorable day the CAB and GHESKIO—the site vaccinated Haiti's first two volunteers. A big event with Haitian government health officials present. The members of the CAB helped with the welcoming celebrations.

## April 2001

- Presentation at the Annual Congress of the Medical Association of Haiti on the HIV vaccine trials and community participation.

## May 2001

- Awareness activities with the voodoo sector.
- The 18<sup>th</sup> of May, HIV Vaccine Day will be commemorated with trial volunteers who wish to join the activities. A dinner is planned. ☘



## Numbers of Success

As we look back over the first year of operations for the HIV Vaccine Trials Network, we see an important trend—that of increasing community involvement in all aspects of HIV vaccine trials development. Community members from around the world play an active role in HVTN governance and operations. A quick look at some of the numbers can give one an idea of the level of commitment of the community to the HVTN work.

Each science committee, working group, protocol team, and any special task force or committee includes community representation. There are two CAB representatives on both the Phase I/II (Carole Stock and Hamilton Richardson) and Phase III (Jim Thomas and Darnel Durio) Trials Committees. CAB representatives also sit on the Lab Sciences Committee (Rose McCullough) and the Scientific Steering Committee (Bill Snow). To date, every active protocol team in the network includes at least one CAB member. There are 13 protocol and protocol development teams that have had a meeting within the last couple of months. The CAB Protocol Working Group, which brings together CAB protocol team representatives to help each other understand the science and identify cross-cutting issues, has 22 members.

The network has 16 Community Advisory Boards in the US, South Africa, Brazil, Haiti, and Trinidad. New sites in Peru, India, China and Thailand are in the process of developing local CABs. The Global Community Advisory Board is made up of representatives from each HVTU's CAB. The mission of the Global CAB is to ensure community participation in all aspects of the network in support of HIV vaccine development. There are 30 members on the Global CAB, including a few at-large members who are involved in other committees and working groups in the network.

Smaller sub-groups that meet periodically include the Protocol Working Group and a CAB Retreat Group. The Global CAB is in the process of developing special sub-groups to work on specific international and ethical issues.

As the network continues to grow, so will the number of community members involved in the various operational groups of the HVTN.

One more number...this is CAB Bulletin #10! ☘

# Our Hero: The Trial Participant

The following is an interview with a current trial participant in Protocol 203. Genah is 30 years old and does quality control at a legal copy firm. She has recently applied to go back to college to study physical therapy, accounting, or computers.

**HVTN:** *How did you hear about the vaccine trial?*

**GG:** From the *Stranger*, a local weekly publication. I was looking through it a few months ago and saw the ad asking for volunteers.

**HVTN:** *What was your reaction when you saw the ad?*

**GG:** It sounded like a cool thing to do. I'm always interested in finding some sort of volunteer work and anything in HIV interests me because I had two friends die of AIDS. There are a lot of volunteer things that I can't do because I don't have the time. Weekends are the only days really that I have with my son. Since this only required a couple of hours after work a couple times a month, I thought that this would work out well. This is my way of making up for when I was bad when I was young (laughter).

**HVTN:** *Had you heard about HIV vaccines before you saw the ad?*

**GG:** A little bit. In newspapers and on the news.

**HVTN:** *Why do you think a preventive HIV vaccine is important?*

**GG:** So that no one else dies from the disease. That's pretty much it.

**HVTN:** *What do you see as your role in the fight against AIDS?*

**GG:** As a trial participant, I feel that maybe I can do something. I talked to some people about it and just hearing that I was participating, they were like "Oh, you know you might catch something." People need to realize that you can't, and that it's safe. So maybe my role is also to help people see that it's not a big deal to be in a vaccine trial.

**HVTN:** *Have you participated in other research trials?*

**GG:** I participated in a smoking cessation trial when I was younger, but nothing like this.

**HVTN:** *How well was the information about the trial presented to you when you visited the site and before you received your first injection?*

**GG:** They went over it really well. By the time I got out of the first visit, I knew more than I thought I needed to know. They went over everything on the phone and then the nurse sat down with me and talked about it in even greater detail. They're always giving me pamphlets and I always come home with a big book of stuff to read through.

**HVTN:** *Any parting words of wisdom to let the world know about what it is to be an HIV vaccine trial participant?*

**GG:** I guess I would just like to let people know that this is an easy way to get involved and help do something to someday stop AIDS.

**HVTN:** *Thank you, Genah.* ☘

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CAB PROTOCOL WORKING GROUP CONFERENCE CALL:



Saturday, June 2, 2001, 12 p.m. EST, 9 a.m. PST.

GLOBAL CAB CONFERENCE CALL:



Thursday, June 14, 2001, 7 p.m. EST, 4 p.m. PST

COMMUNITY EDUCATION/RECRUITMENT COORDINATION CALL:



Tuesday, June 19, 2001, 12:00 noon EST, 9:00 a.m. PST

CAB RETREAT, SEATTLE, WA

August 16-18, 2001



## WWW.HVTN.ORG

The HVTN website has a new look and lots more information for the general public. Take some time to view the new pages. If you don't already have it, check with your site for the members only password. ☘



## CORRECTION

The map published in the April CAB Bulletin accidentally left off our beloved HIV Vaccine Trials Unit in St. Louis, MO. The St. Louis University School of Medicine has been an important part of our network since day one. We apologize for the error. ☘

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*Please send suggestion, questions and article submissions to:*  
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HIV VACCINE  
TRIALS NETWORK