



CAB Members at the Full Group Meeting



JHU CAB member Hamilton Richardson and Soweto educator Matilda Mogale confer.



Mark Hubbard (Birmingham) is attentive during the GCAB meeting, while Nicola Stanley (Durban) and Mzwandile Panziso (Cape Town) take notes in the background.



Chuen-Yen Lau, the new Medical Officer and DAIDS representative to the GCAB, listens to New Yorker Edd Lee during the EWG meeting.

Photos by Theron Scott

Regional Discussions

At the Full Group Meeting, CAB members, educators and recruiters spent a two hour session in regional groups (defined as Latin America and the Caribbean, the U.S., and Africa). Each group identified key issues for discussion, with varying topics covered. The Latin America/Caribbean group worked on communications issues, the African group spent significant time on issues of recruitment and retention of both trial participants and CAB members, and the U.S. addressed “issues that could be easily resolved.” The ensuing conversations are summarized below and on page 3.

Africa and the U.S. discussions on page 3

Latin America and the Caribbean Discussion

By Luz Guiselly Flores

Improving communication amongst CABs was seen as a central goal, and the group developed the following recommendations toward that end. There should be an hour-long monthly regional call. Leaders should be identified – two per site – who can work with the Community Educators to establish conference call agendas with clear priorities. Sites need to identify a person who can serve as translator for the calls, if necessary. Since conference calls are not seen as sufficient to support regional communication, an internet-based forum should be established. This would complement conference calls, strengthening communication. Below are further details of the discussion.

How to communicate as a group:

The group agreed to use Spanish for the session, as there were people within the group who could translate for Caribbean French, English and Portuguese speakers.

What do we have in common?

All of the represented countries are in

Latin America continued on page 2

In this issue

This issue focuses on topics from the October 2004 HVTN Full Group Meeting. From communications to upcoming protocols, the articles will give you an idea of what is going on in the Network now. And find our greetings for the holidays on the last page!

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Better to light one small candle than to curse the darkness.

— Chinese proverb

Discusión regional de Latinoamérica y al Caribe

By Luz Guiselly Flores

Mejorando la comunicación entre los CACs fue vista como una meta central, y el grupo desarrolló las recomendaciones siguientes hacia ese extremo. Debe haber una llamada regional cada mes, durando una hora. Los “sites” tienen que identificar a los líderes, dos a nivel de región, que trabajarán con los educadores comunitarios para establecer una agenda con prioridades claras. Los “sites” tienen que identificar a una persona para servir de intérprete en las teleconferencias, si es necesario. Puesto que las teleconferencias no son suficientes para apoyar comunicación a nivel regional, se debería establecer un foro Internet. El foro Internet complementará a las teleconferencias, fortaleciendo la comunicación. Abajo hay más detalles de la discusión.

Discusión regionales continuado en p. 2

different stages of development. Everyone represents these communities.

What difficulties do we encounter?

We use different languages. Chances for communication and meetings are limited. Teleconferences are not the ideal way to support the CABs. Information does not always arrive in time. Finally, timing is not always good – for instance, the scheduling of the conference calls is not always practical.

How can we work together to deal with these difficulties?

The group discussed responses to the following topics:

Languages: By identifying an interpreter to serve on conference calls, sites can bridge the language gap.

Communication: Regional conference calls will be improved with the following structure. The alias list should have the following from each site: two CAB members, a representative from the Recruiters, and the Community Educator. Agendas should be prepared before the calls, or on the previous call, so that all participants will be able to see the agenda ahead of time. The leaders will be responsible to work with each other and with the Community Educators in order to follow up on tasks and present back to the group as work is completed.

Information: Communications could be improved with an Internet forum, a more usable network for the sharing of information, in which all CAB members could participate and discuss important issues. This would also address the issue of problems with communications between sites and CABs.

Translation: Participants who speak other languages request that Spanish speakers speak more slowly, bearing in mind that someone is interpreting their words into Portuguese and English.

Urgent Issues: We need to address the challenges that we encounter as CAB members. What lies ahead and how do we prepare for the future? There is a continued interest in developing diverse CABs and in covering ethical issues. Jamaica asks for help and advice, as they have the newest CAB. The first regional call will focus on supporting them.

Time: When regional calls are set up, it won't always be possible for everyone to attend. Work to find the best time for everyone. ☘

Photo by Lisa Brill



CAB members (left to right) Sulima Chapiama Ruíz (Lima), Luz Guiselly Flores (Lima), Rogelio Lugo (Puerto Rico), and Gustav Wiese (Santo Domingo) at the Spanish-language discussion table during the GCAB meeting. Luz Guiselly, author of the accompanying article, works with women who are HIV-positive and women indigenous to the Amazonian jungle.

Discusiones regionales continuado de p.1

Como comunicar como un grupo:

Se decidió que la mejor idioma para utilizar sería el español, dado que había gente en el grupo que podía traducir para aquellos países del Caribe inglés, Caribe francés y el portugués.

Qué tenemos en común?

Todos los países representados vivimos en distintos niveles de desarrollo. Hay representantes de las diferentes comunidades.

Cuales son las dificultades que se enfrentan a nosotros como un grupo?

Usamos idiomas distintas. Comunicación, se encuentra limitada. Tele-conferencias no son una manera ideal para facilitar colaboración entre los CAC. Muchas veces, la información no llega a tiempo. Finalmente, es muy difícil conseguir que el grupo entero coincide para una llamada.

Cómo trabajar juntos a partir de las dificultades?

El grupo discutió respuestas a las temas siguientes.

Idiomas: En el “site” podríamos identificar una persona que nos sirva de interprete en los tele-conferencias, por eso permitiendo que todos participarán en las discusiones.

Comunicación: Teleconferencias regionales se podrían mejorar con la estructura siguiente. El grupo de email debería incluir los siguientes representantes de cada “site”: dos miembros del CAC, un representante de los reclutadores, y el educador comunitario. La agenda se preparará antes de las llamadas (o en la llamada pre-

via) para que todos los participantes puedan conocer antes esta agenda. Los líderes, junto al co-chair y el educador comunitario, serán responsables para resolver las tareas y presentar al grupo cuando se cumple el trabajo.

Información: Comunicación sería mejor con un foro Internet, una red mas funcional para compartir información donde todos los miembros del CAC pueden participar y discutir temas importantes. Esto también ayudará el problema con comunicaciones entre los “sites” y los “CAC”.

Traducción: Participantes que hablan otras lenguas solicitan a los hispano hablantes que hablen mas lento. Tenga en cuenta que alguien esta traduciendo sus palabras en portugués e inglés.

Temas de Urgencia: Tenemos que hablar de los desafíos que encontramos como miembros del CAC. Como podemos preparar para el futuro? Nos interesa conseguir que los “sites” sean mas diversos. También hablar de temas éticas es fundamental. Jamaica solicita apoyo, como ellos tienen el CAC mas joven. La primera llamada debería enfocarse en el apoyo de ellos.

Tiempo: Cuando se realicen llamadas regionales, no será siempre posible que todos asistan. Tenemos que trabajar para encontrar la hora mas adecuada para todos. ☘

African regional discussion group

The African group began by brainstorming issues that affect education and outreach at their sites, and developed their conversation around these issues.

The group discussed barriers to recruitment and retention at length. Key topics included insufficient education staff relative to the challenge and the need to educate the entire community to be effective.

Developing CABs and maintaining their diversity is a constant struggle. The group would like to see more site-to-site communication among African HVTUs.

The difference between African countries needs to be respected — any situation in which there is one representative for the whole group is a problem.

The group would like to work on ways to enable African CAB members to more comfortably participate at the Network level, and also to work on identifying the most productive level of scientific education to provide CAB members.

US regional discussion group

This group focused on items from their previously developed agenda that could be quickly resolved.

The group proposed four regional meetings per year, two at the Full Group Meeting and two distributed through the rest of the year, held in place of GCAB/CER calls.

Sites need to ensure that information flows from GCAB meetings to local CABs.

The group wants to utilize existing resources to increase communication.

Increase the ability for CABs to communicate directly with Core. Also, increase mechanisms for CAB members to communicate with others.

GCAB co-chairs could be invited to join the CER call to give a brief GCAB report, and vice-versa, with the CER co-chairs reporting to the GCAB.

Any ideas for website improvement can be sent to Kim Louis (206.667.5761 or klouis@fhcrc.org), the community representative on the Website Review Committee. ❁

You must be the change you wish to see in the world.
— Mahatma Gandhi

Translation Makes a Difference!

by Denise Cordeiro da Silveiro

Sessions at the Full Group Meeting had subjects that were of general interest to all CAB members, and they were well managed. The English-to-Portuguese translation contributed a lot, although some American CAB members forgot that they were at an international conference and were speaking rapidly, and this made comprehension more difficult for people like myself. As some of us are still learning English, our listening skills are not perfected, and frequently we hear words that we do not know well. The sessions with translators helped significantly. In the smaller sessions (which were of equal importance to the larger ones) we did not have professional translators, relying instead on a few CAB and staff members who translated from English to Spanish (Andrew Lambert from Core, Homero da Silva from Brazil, and Jeff Stanton from the HPTN). With their help it was perfectly possible to understand.



Denise Cordeiro da Silveiro is a CAB member from Rio de Janeiro. She writes of herself: "I am a lively and outgoing person, always interested in meeting new friends. Where there is hope, there is life!"

I believe that understanding the language at the Full Group Meeting is important. There will always be new participants, some of whom have never heard anything in regard to the topics discussed, some already working with these themes, and others who can communicate with everyone at the meeting. CAB members have differing levels of participation, and those without fluent English absorb the information differently than those who speak English easily. The capacity of each international CAB member depends in large part on their understanding of the language.

Sometimes, we would think to question or discuss a topic in depth, but this was difficult, since we always depended on other people to translate these questions and answers, and we don't always have time in the CAB meetings for this manner of discussion. However, it was very gratifying to be able to participate actively in the Full

Group Meeting, considering that we were given a lot of information and learned more about the presented topics through the translations. In summary: translation makes a difference!

Tradução faz a diferença!

Para Denise Cordeiro da Silveiro

O FGM em Seattle, as sessões foram bem direcionadas, e os assuntos de interesse geral de todos os CABs. A tradução do inglês para o português, contribuiu muito, pois alguns membros de CABs americanos esquecem que estão em uma Conferência Internacional, falam rapidamente e isso impede o bom entendimento de pessoas como eu. Pois estamos aprendendo a falar inglês, e nossa escuta ainda não é frequente e muitas palavras ainda não são conhecidas. As sessões com tradutores ajudaram muito. Nas sessões menores (de igual importância), não tivemos tradutores contratados, contamos com alguns membros de CABs que traduziram do inglês para o castelhano (Andrew Lambert, Homero da Silva de Brasil e Jeff Stanton del HPTN) e com a ajuda deles foi perfeitamente possível entender. Creio que o entendimento da língua no FGM seja algo importante, pois sempre haverá novos participantes, e alguns ainda não ouviram nada a respeito dos temas discutidos, outros já estão trabalhando nesses temas, e outros membros de CABs podem contribuir partilhando suas experiências com cada pessoa participante do FGM. Os membros dos CABs tem uma participação diferenciada, absorvendo as informações de forma diferenciada para aqueles que entendem bem o inglês. A capacitação de cada membro de CABs internacionais, depende essencialmente do entendimento da língua.

Em alguns momentos, pensamos em perguntar e discutir algum assunto em pauta, mas, fica difícil, pois sempre dependemos de outras pessoas para traduzir a pergunta e a resposta, e nem sempre temos esse tempo disponível nos encontros de CABs. Foi muito gratificante poder participar ativamente do FGM, considerando que fomos mais informados e aprendemos mais sobre os temas apresentados, através da tradução. Resumindo: Tradução faz a diferença! ❁

HIV Vaccine Research Collaborations

In the past year several new collaborations have been formed in an attempt to build a coordinated global vaccine research effort. While this is good for the efficiency of the science, it is confusing for those on the ground. Below is an update on some of the recent collaborations.

PAVE: Partners for AIDS Vaccine Evaluation is a collaboration of researchers within the U.S. Government, including the HVTN, the Vaccine Research Center (VRC), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the Department of Defense (DoD). PAVE will initially focus on preparing for Phase III trials. The group's goals include developing common immunologic, virologic, safety, and other laboratory capabilities worldwide; strengthening clinical trial site capacity in developing countries, including parallel training curriculae; and developing shared protocols that allow for comparison. The plan is to develop central medical centers that will focus on different aspects of key issues. In all likelihood, the first product to be tested will be a VRC product. PAVE will also work to strengthen available health care delivery networks for the participating communities as it develops research capacity.

THE HIV VACCINE ENTERPRISE: The Enterprise is an alliance of independent HIV vaccine researchers throughout the world who are working to advance vaccine research more effectively. Together, the partners in The Enterprise will coordinate their planning, resource distribution, and collaborations. The goal is to make HIV vaccine research as efficient as possible, and allow comparable work between networks. The Enterprise is currently developing its plans, with The Gates Foundation serving as the coordinating body for the group.

CHAVI: The new Center for HIV/AIDS Vaccine Immunology will be funded by the NIH (National Institute of Health) to develop a highly collaborative team that is formed within one or more already-existing institutions. The idea for CHAVI comes from the Enterprise discussions. CHAVI will be focused on understanding immune responses in animal studies that show protection and in people who seem immune to HIV; studying virus mutations; and setting up direct comparisons of vaccine approaches. Funds for CHAVI will not compete with existing research funds. ❀



Photo by Theron Scott

EWG co-chair Leonard Jackson, from Baltimore, greets Rowena Bernard, a Durban CAB member at her first Full Group Meeting.

Ethics Working Group Goals for 2004-2005

- Create an Ethics Working Group handbook to enable new members to quickly catch up on the work the EWG does.
- Create talking points to help CAB members speak with their communities about the benefits of trials of products that do not advance to further trials or licensure.
- Continue and develop discussions of international ethics issues.
- Work to further develop the community ethics page on the HVTN website.
- Recruit new members for the EWG, and try to get representation from each site, or at a minimum establish a link to ensure that each CAB is aware of what the EWG is working on.
- Respond to the ethics training survey given out at the Full Group Meeting as is seen to be appropriate once the results are known. ❀

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Photo by Theron Scott

At the Recap Session, CAB members and educators and recruiters worked together to identify key ideas from the various sessions and plenary talks. Each table discussed a different session, and their key ideas were shared at the end. These discussions are meant to help the CAB representatives and educators as they bring back information to their local CABs. Pictured here are, clockwise from the left: Rupert Hambira, Evonne Nwankwo, Rowena Bernard, George Kukhlala, Phineas Malahlela, Jenny Kwang, and Nthabi Phaladze.

More on the Proof of Concept, or “Step” study

We are nearing the start of the proof of concept trial. There has been a change in the name of the trial. Previously, the Network referred to it as HVTN 502. This is its name within the HVTN naming convention, but Merck has a different title for the trial. To avoid confusion, the Network began to refer to it as the proof of concept trial. As we get to the point at which community educators and recruiters take the trial out into the community, however, the trial needs a catchier name that indicates that the trial is one step in the process — so the HVTN 502 proof of concept trial is now known as the Step study.

EXPECTED PARTICIPANT ALLOCATION PER SITE IN THE STEP STUDY (HVTN 502)
(Non-HVTN sites are in Toronto, Canada, Sydney, Australia, and in the US at NYU in New York, Denver, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Miami, and Houston.)

SITE	MEN	WOMEN
BOSTON	50	
CHICAGO		50
NEW YORK	25	25
PHILADELPHIA		75
SAINT LOUIS	50	
SAN FRANCISCO	50	
SEATTLE	50	
SAN JUAN	25	25
IQUITOS	100	
LIMA	100	
PORT-AU-PRINCE	25	300
SANTO DOMINGO	10	40
TOTAL AT HVTN SITES	500	500



Photo by Lisa Bull

Welcome to the new Philadelphia and Chicago sites!

Both of these sites have an excellent history working with high-risk participants, particularly women, and they will both be participating in the Step study recruiting women only. Pictured here are community educator Joy St. Louis and CAB member Lora Pearson from the Philadelphia site, proudly holding up a favorite trial T-shirt (a gift from the San Francisco site). Many of you also had the chance to meet Yolanda Newman, Chicago educator, at the meeting. We will get pictures of our new friends from Chicago soon — so far they have managed to elude the camera!

Proof of Concept Trials

Pros

- Lower resource cost for exploring vaccines with unclear potential
- Provides critical information to understand which study vaccines to move into Phase III trials and how to best design these trials
- Allows the Network to evaluate more study vaccines

Cons

- The data about efficacy is less precise
- May delay time to licensure for moderately-to-highly effective study vaccines

Phase III Trials

Pros

- Vaccine efficacy can be estimated with precision, and subgroup data is meaningful
- Immunological and virological data are increased
- More chance of catching rare vaccine-related complications
- Less time to licensure (for the most effective study vaccines)
- Standard, commonly used trial design

Cons

- The cost is high both in resources and in future study opportunities
- It is a complicated design when there are significant uncertainties in the science and operational aspects of the trial

In September, the HVTN met with the External Advisory Committee to look at plans for large scale trials. The EAC is a group of leading scientists and policy makers who help advise the Network on scientific pursuits. The EAC recommended that the proof of concept trials are most appropriate for the initial evaluation of the CTL (cellular) based study vaccines currently being considered. Using proof of concept trials will help identify the most promising candidates to pursue in efficacy trials. ☘

Overview of the Full Group Meeting Communications Plenary

By Val Ramcharan, CAB member, Trinidad and Tobago

HVTN Communications Goals

For the first time, communications issues were the subject of the final plenary session of a Full Group Meeting. Sarah Alexander, Associate Director for Communications, began by discussing the development of a communications strategy. She defined the HVTN's principal communications goals, saying that we need to condition the environment to support vaccine trial volunteer recruitment and retention; we need to establish the HVTN brand as a key global HIV player; and we need to facilitate seamless functioning of the Network through enhanced core/site and site/site communications.

THREE MAIN GOALS

- Condition the environment
- Establish the HVTN brand
- Enhance Core-site and site-site communications

In this context Sarah discussed strategies that would initially build on the broad DAIDS communications landscape and also take advantage of existing communications programs at US and international sites. Specific objectives identified include:

- * Providing generic prototype material for sites (focusing on areas of commonality while recognizing the tremendous diversity across HVTUs).
- * Enhancing communications capacity at site level through training and other interventions.
- * Supporting HVTN brand development at sites by promoting interface with key opinion leaders.
- * Encouraging site partnerships with other organizations to broaden reach.
- * Continuing website development as the critical forum for Network information sharing.
- * Supporting and developing communications skills at each site.
- * Creating and implementing trial-specific communications plans.

Guest Speakers

Lynn Parker, of Parker LaPla, a branding and public relations consulting firm, stood in on short notice for a speaker who could not attend due to an emergency. Admitting that she was unable to tailor her comments to the specific needs of the HVTN, Ms. Parker nonetheless made some significant points about developing a brand. Creating a brand allows an organization to evoke a specific response in the market; it is, in effect, an organization's promise to its audience. Divergence between "talk and walk" — dissonance between an organization's stated policy and its actions — will undermine a brand's credibility. It is necessary to clearly define target audiences. Finally, a brand language should include both visual and verbal elements.

Betsy Creedon, from the Law & Public Policy division of General Motors, shared her perspectives on "Working in partnership with corporations." She stressed the importance of identifying corporate partners that are compatible in values and philosophy. She advocated exploring and exploiting untraditional and creative opportunities for collaboration that can lead to positive outcomes for all partners. Networking and individual contacts, she emphasized, are essential to building partnerships. She also outlined how the relationship was built between GM and the production company of *A Closer Walk*.

Discussion

The brief but robust discussion session, which concluded the plenary, questioned whether branding should be limited to the HVTN or embrace all HIV vaccine trials globally. There was also discussion about generic prototype communications materials, with a caution that cultural differences require all messages to be tailored to the expectations of the audience. It may be impossible to develop templates that can be successfully implemented across the Network.



Photo by Theron Scott

HVTN Principal Investigator Larry Corey and Betsy Creedon from General Motors after Ms. Creedon's presentation about working with corporations to get out the word about HIV vaccines. General Motors is a financial supporter of the movie *A Closer Walk* and has entered into a partnership with *Worldwide Documentaries*, makers of the film, to create a global HIV/AIDS awareness program structured around the film.

Commentary

While the Communications Plenary clearly added value to the Full Group Meeting, presentations tended to speak around the subjects of critical importance rather than confront them directly. While this approach may have had merit in a forum in which there was more time, in the plenary context it appeared to be too little.

The communications initiative facilitated by Judy Wasserheit and Steve Wakefield at the May 2004 Bethesda Full Group Meeting was pregnant with promise. Six months later, I think not enough has changed. Many of the critical issues identified for action appear to remain in abeyance, and the concrete actions reported in October are too sparse. HVTUs are still struggling, inefficiently, to develop communications capacity in isolation — individually reinventing the wheel — in the absence of sufficient, meaningful and solution-oriented support from HVTN Core Operations Center.

Val Ramcharan's passion is to catalyze change in society by working with diverse voluntary non-governmental organizations. Convener of the Port-of Spain CAB, he is a visual communications consultant who also teaches communications design. ☘

Upcoming HVTN Protocols

THE COMPETING RENEWAL UPDATE

The HVTN was originally funded for a 5-year cycle, which was extended by an additional year. Currently DAIDS, the department within the US government that sponsors the HVTN, is reworking the manner in which AIDS-related networks will interact. This reworking is meant to make research more efficient and less complicated for sites. DAIDS (the Division of AIDS, a part of the NIH, or National Institutes of Health) refers to this process as the Competing Renewal, or the Competition.

DAIDS has released the Request for Applications (RFA) and posted it at <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/daids/rfa/network06/>. This RFA specifies DAIDS' outline for the structure of a future AIDS research network. The HVTN will work on its competition application over the next six months. This application will outline the structure and intent of the HVTN over a seven year period to begin no sooner than March, 2006. As the application is developed, community groups will be able to weigh in on how they think the HVTN should plan its future community involvement for the application. Stay tuned for more information! ☘

The secret of health for both mind and body is not to mourn for the past, not to worry about the future, or not to anticipate troubles, but to live in the present moment wisely and earnestly.
— Buddha

In the picture to the right, George Kuhlala, CAB member from Blantyre, Malawi, leads the GCAB in a discussion of “Where we are and where we are going.” The HVTN continues to grow, and there are a number of upcoming trials. Below is a summary of the four that are planned to open in the next couple of months. All but one are Phase I safety trials. Our proof of concept trial, known as the Step trial, is discussed on page 5.



Photo by Theron Scott

HVTN 059

Product: Alphavirus VEE replicon
Developer: AlphaVax
Phase I
Clade C
Sites: US (48), South Africa (48)
Status: opened Oct. 12, 2004
Community Protocol Representatives: Rose McCullough (CAVE CAB — Washington, D.C.) and Nicola Stanley (Durban)

This trial looks at the same product as was tested in HVTN 040, but at differing dosages.

HVTN 057 (HVTN 052 rollover)

Product: prime is multiclade DNA; boost is recombinant Adenovirus
Developer: Vaccine Research Center (VRC)
Phase I
Prime — Clade B
Boost — Clades A/B/C
Sites: US only (180)
Status: open by mid-November
Community Protocol Representatives: Rolf Christiansen (Seattle) and Samuel Toba (San Francisco)

This trial is a rollover for HVTN 052, meaning that the product in this trial is being given as a boost for a DNA product given in 052.

HVTN 502 — Step study

Product: recombinant Adenovirus 5
Developer: Merck
Phase IIB Proof of Concept trial
Clade B
Sites: US, Haiti, Peru, Dominican Republic (see pg. 5 for more information)
Objectives: Safety; reduction in infection rate or viral load; favorable effect on disease progression; immune correlates of protection
Status: open end of 2004
Community Protocol Representatives: Derrick Mapp & Jennifer Sarché (San Francisco) and Paula Frew (Atlanta)

HVTN 054

Product: recombinant Adenovirus 5
Developer: VRC
Phase I
Clade A/B/C
Sites: US only (48)
Status: open by the end of 2004 or early in 2005
Community Protocol Representatives: Darnell Durio (San Francisco)

This trial is specifically intended to look at the adenovirus construct in people who have no previous immunity to adenovirus 5, a very common virus that causes flu-like symptoms. ☘

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO OUR HVTN FAMILY!



Photo by Theron Scott

Peace and war begin at home. If we truly want peace in the world, let us begin by loving one another in our own families. If we want to spread joy, we need for every family to have joy.

—Mother Teresa

We are entering a season of holidays and celebrations, and new years for many of us. Here in the Community Education Unit, we will be looking to the holidays to remind us that love is sustaining, and that hope and joy can give us the strength to continue to push for change. There is much in the world now that is grim and painful, but, throughout our cultures, the new year brings light, celebration, and the reminder that change is always possible.

So our holiday wish to you is that this season will be a time of friendship, family, celebration, love, kindness, faith and hope, and that you will begin the new year with a strong heart, strengthened by the glow of joy.

Many joyful wishes from the CEU team! —
Andrew, Gail, Steve and Lisa

Upcoming Conferences

International AIDS Society (IAS) Conference: Well before effective treatments were available in Brazil, community leaders there made HIV vaccine issues part of their mandate and AIDS organizations took the lead in building public support for Brazil's involvement in the global effort. Two of the people involved in this effort have also provided leadership to the HVTN community engagement agenda: Octavio Valente Jr. (CAB member) and Monica Barbosa (Community Educator). In recognition of their leadership they have been asked to provide leadership for community issues at the upcoming IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment. Monica will be a representative of the Community Scholarship Program, and Octavio will be the community representative on the Scientific Committee. Octavio will also be responsible for the community wrap-up sessions. If you have any thoughts that you would like Monica or Octavio to take into account, please email them at octavio@pelavidda.org.br (Octavio Valente Jr.) or monica@ponze.ufjf.br (Monica Barbosa).



Calendar of Events



CAB Protocol Working Group Conference Call:

Friday, January 7th, 2005, 11 a.m. E.T./ 8 a.m. P.T.
Friday, February 4th, 2005, 11 a.m. E.T./ 8 a.m. P.T.

Global GCAB Conference Call:

Thurs., January 13th, 2005, 11 a.m. E.T./ 8 a.m. P.T.
Thursday, February 10th, 2005, 11 a.m. E.T./ 8 a.m. P.T.

Global Ethics Working Group Call:

Thursday, January 20th, 2005, 12 p.m. ET/ 9 a.m. P.T.
Thursday, February 17th, 2005, 12 p.m. ET/ 9 a.m. P.T.

Community Education/Recruitment Coordination Call:

Tuesday, December 21, 2004, 12 p.m. E.T./ 9 a.m. P.T.
Tuesday, January 18, 2005, 12 p.m. E.T./ 9 a.m. P.T.

The next Full Group Meeting will be held May 9th-11th, 2005 in Washington, D.C. As usual, there may be community meetings held the Sunday before or on the Wednesday afternoon after the official meeting time.

Community Advisory Boards (CABs) are one way that the HVTN involves community in the research process. CABs consist of volunteers from diverse backgrounds who work with local research units and advise the site from a community perspective. Community input has been invaluable to the broad community education efforts, as well as the development of this bulletin.

Send suggestions, questions, and article submissions to:
Lisabeth Bull, editor
HVTN/FHCRC, 1100 Fairview Avenue North, J3-100
P.O. Box 19024
Seattle, WA 98109-1024
lbull@hvtn.org