The Family Adolescent and Children’s Experiences at SUNY (FACES) Network of the Research Foundation of SUNY has been awarded $1,680,744 annually for the next five years as the lead agency in its Ryan White Title IV/Part D Coordinated Services for Women, Infants, Children and Youth Initiative to lead a network of providers of services for HIV-infected families, women, children and youth in Brooklyn. Under its previous name, the Brooklyn Pediatric AIDS Network, FACES has served people with HIV in Brooklyn since 1991.

The network’s administrative center and core clinical programs are located at SUNY Downstate Medical Center/University Hospital of Brooklyn under the leadership of Jeffrey M. Birnbaum, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics. The core clinical programs, the FACES and Health and Education Alternatives for Teens (HEAT) Programs, are recognized for their leadership in setting clinical standards of care for HIV-infected, affected and at risk women, infants, children, youth and families. FACES partners with other HIV programs serving HIV positive women, infants, children and youth at several other Brooklyn hospitals and community-based organizations. These partners are: 1) the Brooklyn Hospital Center PATH Program; 2) the Treatment for Life Center/Brookdale University Hospital & Medical Center; 3) the Paul Paroski, Jr. Family Center/Woodhull Medical & Mental Health Center; 4) St. Vincent’s Services for Children/Positive Caring Services; 5) the Primary Care Clinic/Interfaith Medical Center; 5) Long Island College Hospital’s HIV Services Program; 6) Life Force: Women Fighting AIDS, Inc.; and 7) Unity Fellowship Church/Breaking Ground.

The FACES Network clinical partner sites provide comprehensive medical, mental health, case management, treatment adherence, reproductive health, outreach, support services and access to clinical trials for pregnant women, children and adolescents across Brooklyn. In 2006, the FACES Network served 1,160 youth ages 13-24 years.

The network’s greatest challenge going forward into this new project period will be to meet the changing needs of the largest age group it serves, adolescents and young adults, ages 13-24 years who were infected with HIV perinatally. The network will focus on sexual and reproductive health, prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV, disclosure of HIV status and transition to adulthood.

According to Dr. Birnbaum, “this award will allow us to continue to serve Brooklyn’s families that have been disproportionately affected by HIV. We plan to improve our capacity to do so by expanding the FACES Network to new sites in high seroprevalence communities.”
IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE WORKSHOPS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

A symposium on "Implementation Science: from Research into Practice" was held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, on Wednesday, May 30, 2007, as an adjunct session to the Biomedical Center’s 16th International Conference "AIDS, Cancer and Public Health." This meeting represented a collaborative effort of St. Petersburg partners of the Fogarty International Center (FIC)-funded International Clinical Operational and Health Services Research and Training Award (ICOHRTA) program, and four Fogarty/AITRP programs (New York State, Yale, Emory, and Johns Hopkins). The 46 conference participants included representation from nine US institutions and nine institutions from Russia and the former Soviet Union. Andrei Kozlov, MD, Biomedical Center Director and conference organizer, said that the evaluations for this session were rated among the most favorable of the five day conference.

This symposium, co-chaired by Drs. Dale Morse and Jack DeHovitz, was convened to address emerging topics in HIV/TB-related research: the increased availability of antiretroviral (ARV) therapy, the research conclusions from several local HIV prevention initiatives, and increased interest in the surveillance and control of tuberculosis (TB) and hepatitis C virus (HCV). By emphasizing "implementation science," conference attendees had the opportunity to discuss operationalizing and evaluating HIV and TB surveillance and care programs and how successful HIV/TB/HCV prevention programs could be developed into public policy. The question and answer sessions promoted spirited debate and discussion on the next steps to take in these important research areas.

Two former Fogarty AITRP trainees (Anneli Uusküla, MD, MS, PhD, Estonia-NYS Training Program; Karine Markosyan, PhD, MPH, Armenia-Emory) shared their implementation science research as a model to potential Fogarty candidates in attendance. The US faculty also included Louise-Ann McNutt, PhD (Albany School of Public Health), Carlos Del Rio, MD (Emory University), Kenrad Nelson, MD (Johns Hopkins University), and Robert Heimer, PhD (Yale University).

The conference also provided an opportunity to meet and greet the first crop of graduates from the new MPH program at St. Petersburg University, another initiative in partnership with FIC. The day after the symposium, US faculty took a tour of the Botkin Hospital and the new St. Petersburg AIDS Center, where patients with HIV receive care and ARV treatment. Our Russian hosts at these institutions were enthusiastic about showing their facilities and explaining their HIV patient care systems to the US delegation.

JUNE 2 WORKSHOP IN ST. PETERSBURG, "METHODOLOGICAL AND ETHICAL ASPECTS OF HIV/AIDS RESEARCH"

Following the Biomedical Center conference (described above) was a workshop funded by U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation (CRDF), organized by former NYSITRP fellow Dmitri Lioznov, MD (St. Petersburg State Pavlov Medical University). This conference placed an emphasis on inviting young researchers and researchers from outside the St. Petersburg and Moscow urban centers, providing an opportunity for them to learn about research development from senior Russian and American researchers in the field of HIV.

We were excited to meet researchers from Vologda, Tver, Velikiy Novgorod, Kazan, Samara, Petrozavodsk, representing regional AIDS Centers, Centers of Preventive Medicine, Tuberculosis Services, and local and international NGOs. Among other participants were specialists in infectious diseases, narcologists, a specialist in tuberculosis, a psychiatrist, an epidemiologist, a sociologist, and medical students.

The conference was divided into three broad topic areas: research methodology examples, ethical issues in research, and grant writing and funding. Alexandre Laudet, PhD, a colleague from our NYSITRP partner National Development and Research Institutes (NDRI), gave an overview about ethical considerations in conducting research with substance users. Audience participation was lively, as attendees took advantage of the interactive format to ask questions and share experiences from their various regions. US faculty from NYSITRP also had a chance to promote our training programs with potential candidates. The conference concluded with a congenial reception, providing further time for networking and discussion.

ADOLESCENT EDUCATION PROGRAM (AEP)/TEENS HELPING EACH OTHER (THEO) TRIP TO PARIS

In May 2007, the Adolescent Education Program (AEP)/Teens Helping Each Other (THEO) went on an educational tour of Paris. The group, which consisted of 15 students and 4 chaperones, saw the Chateau Versailles, Eiffel Tower, and other sights.
The fundraising efforts of THEO students and their parents helped to pay for the trip. AEP/THEO staff would like to thank everyone that contributed to helping make this trip a success. The group is planning an educational tour of London in May 2008.

IAVI SIGNS 15-YEAR LEASE WITH NYC FOR HIV/AIDS VACCINE RESEARCH LAB IN BROOKLYN ARMY TERMINAL

The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), a global nonprofit company that hopes to speed the development of an HIV vaccine, signed a 15-year lease with NYC for space in the Brooklyn Army Terminal as part of a biotechnology project known as BioBat. IAVI plans to build a laboratory for vaccine research and development in the space, and the city is expected to spend $12.5 million to build the lab. IAVI likely will move into the space in early 2008.

AEP/THEO TRIP TO JAMAICA, WEST INDIES

Marian Searchwell, Program Coordinator of AEP/THEO’s Peer Education Project, participated in a medical mission to Jamaica, West Indies on July 24-August 5, 2007. The mission provided medical services to the Northern Clarendon, Chapleton and St. Mary regions of Jamaica. While there, Ms. Searchwell provided HIV counseling & testing to over 200 Jamaicans and provided HIV, STD & puberty workshops for 200 Jamaican youth. She was joined by Richardo Jackson from Project K.I.S.S. at NY Presbyterian Hospital and Oscar Lopez from GMHC. The team were the first to use OraQuick HIV test kits in Jamaica. They also helped people to overcome stigma by encouraging open discussion of HIV testing as a part of routine medical care. While the process of using OraQuick was unprecedent-ed, it went very smoothly. The team is looking forward to the 2008 trip and will consider taking along adolescent peer educators to conduct the much-needed educational workshops for adolescents.

Jeffrey M. Birnbaum, MD, MPH was a NY/NJ AETC Clinical Training Faculty Member and panelist on the “HIV Across the Lifespan” panel at the New York/New Jersey AIDS Education and Training Center’s “Primary Care and HIV in 2007: What Every Provider Needs to Know” conference, held on June 29, 2007 at New York University.

Jack A. DeHovitz, MD, MPH served as a reviewer on the CDC’s Dissertation Research (R36) peer review panel held in Atlanta, Georgia on July 25, 2007.

Yolene Gousse, MPH, coordinator of the SAMHSA-funded Minority Substance Abuse, HIV and Hepatitis Strategic Prevention Framework project, presented at SAMHSA’s HIV/AIDS Minority Initiative Grantee Technical Assistance Workshop on July 23, 2007 in Philadelphia. She also participated in a panel of local experts and grantees on “ Successes in Engaging Participatory Involvement.” This event was sponsored by SAMHSA’s Center for Substance Abuse Prevention’s Northeast Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies (CAPT).

Ather Mansoor, MD, MHA has begun a two-year research fellowship in cardiology sponsored by the NYS Empire Clinical Research Investigator Program (ECRIP). Dr. Mansoor will work with Drs. Jack DeHovitz and Jason Lazar to develop clinical research skills to study cardiovascular disease in the Women’s Interagency HIV Study (WIHS) cohort. He earned his medical degree at the Deccan College of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad, India, and a Master of Health Administration at Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky. He completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Pennsylvania State University.

Annastasia Ramcharan started at the HEAT Program as a Physician Assistant in August. She received her BS from Touro College in January 2007, and is a member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants.

Natasha Russell joined the STAR Program in June as Data Manager for the AIDS Institute Reporting System (AIRS), formally known as URS. Ms. Russell will oversee all data entry staff and help to implement and improve data entry systems and procedures. Prior to joining SUNY Downstate, she spent ten years as a Program Information Manager at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center.

August (Patrick) Wernst joined the Educating People at Risk (EPAR) Project, the STAR Program’s community-based rapid HIV testing (RHT) program, in June. Mr. Wernst drives the mobile van used for RHT and assists with education and outreach activities in the community.
All of the programs listed below are part of SUNY Downstate’s HIV Center for Women and Children. For more information about the services each program provides, please call the numbers listed or the HIV Center for Women and Children at: (718) 270-2301 or 4736 OR visit our website at: www.hivcenter.org

**Patient Care and Services**

**FOR ADULTS:**
- Out-Patient Care
  - STAR Health Center (SHC): (718) 270-3745
- Supportive Counseling Services of SUNY
  - SCSS: (718) 270-2758 or 4054
- Family-Centered Care Program (FCCP)
  - (718) 270-2758

**FOR ADOLESCENTS:**
- Family, Adolescent & Children’s Experience at SUNY (FACES)
  - (718) 270-3826
- Health & Education Alternatives For Teens (HEAT) Program
  - (718) 467-4446

**FOR CHILDREN:**
- Infant and Child Learning Center (ICLC)
  - (718) 270-2598
- Family Care Center (at KCHC)
  - (718) 245-2562
- Community and Medical Education
  - Prevention Services for Adolescent and Young Adults – SUNY Adolescent Education Program (AEP)
  - (718) 270-3203
- Educating People At Risk (EPAR)
  - (718) 270-3897
- HIV Clinical Education Initiative
  - (718) 270-4752
- Research:
  - Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trials
    - (718) 270-3185
  - Acute HIV Infection and Early Disease Research Program (AIEDRP)
    - (718) 270-4487
  - Women and Infants Transmission Study (WITS)
    - (718) 270-1690

**Publications**


**HIV link**

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**SAVE THE DATE**

New York HIV Research Centers Consortium Conference
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2007
Topic: “Living with HIV:” Issues in Prevention and Care