



CONNECTION

The Newsletter for the New York State International Training and Research Program



NYS-ITRP Collaborative HIV Research Conference Convened in Kiev

From May 31 – June 6, 2010, the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine in collaboration with Fogarty NYS-ITRP, the World Health Organization, and the School of Public Health of Kiev-Mohyla Academy presented a week-long workshop entitled “Summer School on Epidemiology Studies.” Hosted in Kiev, the workshop offered an overview of basic epidemiology and biostatistics concepts and introduced HIV researchers, state epidemiologists, public health students, HIV-related NGO representatives and other relevant public health professionals to an update on HIV and infectious disease epidemiology in Ukraine. In addition, the workshop provided an opportunity to introduce Ukraine’s HIV research staff to US faculty and US-based training opportunities associated with the NIH Fogarty International Center.

Workshop presenters included Fogarty alumnus Dmitry Kissin, MD, MPH, who spoke about Russia’s experience in developing an HIV research agenda, as well as his work with street youth and HIV in Russia. Tatiana Andreeva, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of the School of Public Health of Kiev-Mohyla Academy presented on basic concepts, principles, and definitions in epidemiology and epidemiological research; she also reviewed some key Ukrainian research studies in HIV and infectious diseases. Bruce Coles, DO, from the the New York State Department of Health and Louise-Anne McNutt, PhD

from the School of Public Health in Albany presented on study design and research analysis. Jack DeHovitz, MD, MPH from SUNY Downstate provided an overview of research grant writing essentials and also introduced the participants to the training opportunities provided by NYS-ITRP. Robert Booth, PhD, from the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado, shared his expertise in HIV prevention in IDU populations and an overview of qualitative research. Dr. Booth has received many large-scale NIH-funded grants to support his research on HIV-related risk behaviors in Ukraine.

The HIV epidemic in Ukraine continues to grow at an alarming rate. Though it is a regional leader in HIV treatment and harm reduction with over 250 syringe exchange programs, research efforts must continue in this region to stem the tide of infection in the IDU population. As part of its successful grant renewal, NYS-ITRP expanded its training efforts to include applicants from Ukraine; this workshop marked the beginning of NYS-ITRP’s involvement in the country. We especially want to acknowledge Tetiana Saliuk of the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine for her expert organization of this meeting. Ms. Saliuk also facilitated discussion among conference participants on developing an HIV research agenda for Ukraine and served as host for the meeting. We look forward to a fruitful and vital collaboration with our partners in Ukraine.

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PROGRAM PARTNERS

State University of New York
Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn
School of Public Health, Albany

New York State Department of Health
Wadsworth Center, Albany
Division of Epidemiology, Albany

The New York State International Training & Research Program newsletter is a web-based (PDF) publication.

We’d love to hear from you!

Please email Dana Turner (dana.turner@downstate.edu) with updates on your work, such as new positions, grants awarded, conferences attended, honors & awards received, publications, and presentations, as well as important life events.

NYS-ITRP Initiates Activities in Kazakhstan

In October 2010, Jack DeHovitz, MD, MPH and David Odegaard, MPH traveled to Kazakhstan, one of our new target countries for NYS-ITRP, to assess their HIV research training needs. This trip was conducted in collaboration with Nabila El-Bassel, DSW, Professor of Social Work and Director of both the Social Intervention Group at Columbia University School of Social Work, as well as the Executive Director of the Global Health Research Center in Central Asia (GHRCCA), our key collaborative institution in Kazakhstan. GHRCCA's main office is at Columbia University in New York City, with a regional hub in Almaty, Kazakhstan, and additional offices in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Local direction for GHRCCA is provided by Assel Terlikbayeva, MD, MSW, a former trainee of Dr. El-Bassel.

During the visit, Dr. DeHovitz conducted a number of trainee interviews in Astana, capital city of Kazakhstan, as well as in Almaty, where he also visited representatives from the Ministry of Health Republican AIDS Center and faculty from the School of Public Health. He also visited the vast and lively Barakholka Market, the setting for GHRCCA's Silk Road Health Project, which will examine the influence of multilevel factors, such as ethnicity, migration patterns, gender roles and

expectations, on sexual HIV risk behaviors and incidences of HIV, chlamydia, syphilis, and gonorrhea among migrant male market vendors.

Initial linkages between GHRCCA and NYS-ITRP were formed in 2007, when Dr. DeHovitz was asked to serve on the newly formed GHRCCA Scientific Advisory Committee. Subsequently, Louise-Ann McNutt, PhD, key NYS-ITRP faculty member, provided training in a one week HIV research course in Almaty in June 2009, where she also conducted initial interviews with potential trainees. GHRCCA programs are also linked to Chris Beyrer, MD, MPH, whose AITRP program provides support in research and training activities. Additional partners with GHRCCA include the Kazakhstan Ministry of Health's (MOH) Republican AIDS Center and the MOH's School of Public Health.

The Republic of Kazakhstan has one of the fastest growing

HIV epidemics in the world, with an annual doubling of infection rates since 2000. Drug users account for more than 73% of HIV cases, but the HIV epidemic also impacts sex workers and prisoners. As with other countries, young sexually active people in Central Asia form a bridge population through which the epidemic spreads from IDUs to the general population, with 80% of people living with HIV/AIDS in Central Asia under the age of 30.

We look forward to our continued collaborations with Dr. El-Bassel and her knowledgeable and helpful GHRCCA staff who facilitated a productive trip for our team.



Fifth Annual Collaborative US-Georgia Workshop: Building Human Capacity for HIV, TB and Hepatitis Research

A two-day workshop focused on the capacity for HIV, TB, and hepatitis research was convened on July 27-28, 2010 in Tbilisi, Georgia. This event was sponsored by Fogarty training programs from SUNY Downstate Medical Center, the New York State Department of Health, Emory University, and Johns Hopkins University, in collaboration with various other US and Georgian academic and research institutions. This is the fifth conference in the region organized under the auspices of Fogarty training programs.

During the first day of the workshop, regional experts provided an update on current and future research initiatives within the area of infectious disease, specifically focused on TB, HIV, HCV, and HBV. Participants also discussed methods for developing research ethics capacity in Georgia. The day concluded with a discussion of possible avenues for leveraging Global Fund resources in Georgia and a review of the role of implementation science in translating research into practice and policy.

The second day of the workshop featured formal presentations on collaborative research projects conducted by Fogarty training program alumni. Each presentation was



followed by analysis and discussion by US faculty, including Dr. Dale Morse, who mentored Fogarty graduates in the development of new research proposals and publication manuscripts. The afternoon session featured a scientific and grant writing workshop conducted by Janet Gross, PhD, a professional grant writer from Emory University.

The conference was attended by more than 120 people, including researchers, physicians, and Georgian ministry officials, plus faculty and staff representing the various institutions that collaborate with Fogarty programs,

including the Infectious Disease, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center, the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, the Georgian Maternal and Child Care Union, the Tbilisi State Medical University School of Public Health, the National Center for TB and Lung Diseases, and the Georgian National TB Reference Laboratory. This annual conference continues to be a crucial platform to disseminate Georgian research initiatives, recruit new research trainees, mentor returned trainees, and foster new research collaborations in infectious disease.

“Letter from Vienna:” NYS-ITRP Alumni and Collaborators Dinner at the International AIDS Conference



The XVIII International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2010), the premier gathering for those working in the field of HIV, was convened in Vienna, Austria from July 18-23, 2010. This year, the conference brought together 19,300 policymakers, researchers, persons living with HIV, and other individuals committed to ending the pandemic. The selection of Vienna as the host city opened the door for an examination of the epidemic's impact in Eastern Europe. The July 9th issue of *Science*, which was distributed at the conference, featured articles on the HIV epidemic in Eastern Europe, including one article which highlights NYS-ITRP alumnus Dmitry Kissin, MD, MPH, who is featured in the NYS-ITRP Spotlight in this newsletter, for his work with homeless teenagers in Russia. Dr. Kissin's research has shed light on an underrepresented and underserved group, 37.4% of whom Kissin found to be HIV-positive. To view this article, click here: <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/reprint/329/5988/170.pdf>. The entire issue of *Science*, which also references research

being conducted by NYS-ITRP collaborators Andrei Kozlov, PhD, Robert Booth, PhD and Robert Heimer, PhD is available here: <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/vol329/issue5988/index.dtl>.

Highlights of the conference included presentations by former President Bill Clinton and by Microsoft co-founder and internationally-renowned philanthropist Bill Gates. In addition, Jean McDermott CNM, MPH, PhD, the Program Officer of the International Training and Research Programs at the Fogarty International Center, organized a satellite meeting for Fogarty-affiliated conference participants to discuss how the AITRP program can and will evolve to better serve existing and emerging global issues.

NYS-ITRP also hosted a networking event for all faculty, current fellows, alumni, and in-country collaborators who attended the Vienna meeting on Monday, July 31. With 31 attendees, the meeting provided a lively forum for alumni, incoming fellows, and affiliated faculty from many of NYS-ITRP's past and

present focus countries to converse about greater regional collaboration. NYS-ITRP Co-Director Jack DeHovitz thanked all those who had assembled for their continued support of the Fogarty training program.

Multiple NYS-ITRP alumni presented abstracts at the conference, including Anneli Uusküla, MD, PhD, MS, Peter Meylakhs, PhD, Maia Kajaia, MD, MS, Marina Topuridze, MD, MS, Maia Butashvili, MD, MS, Dmitri Kissin, MD, MPH, George Kamkamidze, MD, PhD, Dmitry Lioznov, MD, PhD, Anna Gymarthy, PhD, MS, MPH, Nikoloz Chkhartishvili, MD, MS, Nino Badridze, MD, MPH, Natia Dvali, MD, and Tengiz Tsertsvadze, MD, PhD. The presentation topics included research on HIV prevention techniques, HIV prevalence statistics, and the impact of co-occurring infections and STIs. The presentations spoke not only to the specific problems facing Central and Eastern European countries but they also provided notable insights for all HIV researchers and clinicians.

WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING FELLOWS!

Damir Bismukhametov, MD, PhD is a returning Fogarty Fellow from Department of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Kazan State Medical University in Russia. During this past summer, he conducted research on HIV risks among university students in Kazan. The major aim of Damir's work is to determine whether or not university students are, in fact, at higher risk for HIV infection and less likely to receive HIV testing and counseling than the general population. He is currently completing the second year of the MS in Epidemiology program at the SUNY-Albany School of Public Health.

Mamuka Khvedelidze, MD, PhD is a returning Fogarty Fellow from the Infectious Diseases, AIDS, and Clinical Immunology Research Center in Tbilisi, Georgia. Mamuka is currently conducting a study

of the characteristics of NKT cells in specimens of HIV-positive and HIV-negative blood as part of his advanced training with Dr. David Lawrence in the Immunology Laboratory at the New York State Department of Health in Albany, New York.

Anna Vinogradova, DDS, PhD joins us from St. Petersburg, Russia, where she has been working as the Dental Department Head and a co-investigator/clinical project manager in a EuroSIDA clinical trials cohort study at the St. Petersburg AIDS Center. Anna began the MS in Epidemiology program at the SUNY-Albany School of Public Health in August 2010.

Lia Gvinjilia, MD, PhD is an OB/GYN and the post-abortion care project manager at the JSI Research and Training Institute in Tbilisi, Georgia. Lia works specifically with the Healthy Women in Georgia Program. She began the MS in Epidemiology program at the SUNY-Albany School of Public Health in August 2010.

Baurzhan Zhussupov, MS joins us from Almaty, Kazakhstan, where he is Head of the Quality Management Unit of the AIDS Foundation East-West. Baurzhan began the MS in Epidemiology program at the SUNY-Albany School of Public Health in August 2010.

Telvi Tonsiver, BA is an MPH student at the University of Tartu in Estonia, concentrating on epidemiology. She also works as a financial expert for the Ministry of Finance. Telvi attended the Fall 2010 semester at the SUNY-Albany School of Public Health taking advanced epidemiology courses.

Kristi Ruutel, MD, PhD is an MPH student at the University of Tartu in Estonia. Kristi also serves an expert on HIV/AIDS for the National Institute for Health Development in Estonia. She participated in advanced epidemiology courses during the Fall 2010 semester at the SUNY-Albany School of Public Health.

Information and Technology Training Enhancement of NYS-ITRP

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funded an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) supplement to NYS-ITRP to create new distance learning materials aimed at increasing bilateral exchange of information for our Fogarty trainees, in-country contacts, and potential training candidates. Specifically, this supplement was used to produce a series of lectures on HIV research topics that will be accessible on the NYS-ITRP webpage.

Topics our trainees will be able to access will include: Implementation Science in HIV Research (presented by Wynne Norton, PhD, University of Alabama); Building Research Ethics Capacity in Central/Eastern Europe (presented by Sean Philpott, PhD, Union Graduate College); Injecting Drug Use and

Infectious Disease in Russia (presented by Robert Heimer, PhD, Yale University); Social Network HIV Prevention in Post-Soviet Countries (presented by Jeffrey Kelley, PhD, Medical College of Wisconsin); and STD and HIV Epidemiology in Estonia (presented by Anneli Uuskula, MD, MS, PhD, University of Tartu, Estonia).

In addition, our trainees will be able to view the entire conference, "Innovative Applications of Information and Communication Technologies in Addressing the HIV/AIDS Epidemic," presented at the New York HIV Research Centers Consortium Scientific Conference on Friday, March 19, 2010. Presentations focused on the application of information and communication technologies in behavioral and social science research, the

use of new state-of-the-art systems to enhance data collection, the implementation of electrical medical records and the subsequent ramifications on clinical decision-making, and the ethical and data security questions that these new technologies bring to bear. The speakers used examples from both domestic and international settings. Some key topics included: HIV/STI Prevention and the New Media; Web-based and Mobile HIV/STI Prevention Interventions; Using Electronic Medical Records to Personalize and Prioritize HIV Care: Future Research Directions; Health Information Technology to Support Patient Care and Research in HIV/AIDS; and E-Health and Research: Privacy and Its Limits.

Look for these exciting presentations on the NYS-ITRP website in early 2011!

National Fogarty Administrators Meeting Convened in New York City



In November 2010, NYS-ITRP hosted the annual national Fogarty Administrators Meeting in New York City. The attendees of this conference are for the most part administrators from institutions receiving funding from various Fogarty research training grants, including AIDS International Training and Research Programs, Framework Programs for Global Health, Global Infectious Disease Research Training Program, and others. The conference provides a platform for administrators to learn about the nitty-gritty of managing an international training program by facilitating discussions about issues such as visa

regulations, student healthcare, tracking student progress, and the fiscal and program monitoring of research training grants. NYS-ITRP staff were responsible for conference logistics, program planning, and meeting evaluation.

A regular feature of these conferences is a "culture shock" panel, during which trainees can recount their challenges in habituating themselves into US and academic culture. This year, several of our SUNY-Albany School of Public Health students participated in this panel: Telvi Tonsiver (Estonia), Lia Gvinjilia (Georgia), Anna Vinogradora (Russia), and

Baurzhan Zhussupov (Kazakhstan), providing conference participants with insights on trainee needs and common cultural barriers. The Fogarty International Center was represented by Program Officer Jeanne McDermott, PhD, CNM, MPH, and others who provided the administrators with guidance on program monitoring and insight regarding future directions for FIC-funded programs. Jack DeHovitz, MD, MPH, NYS-ITRP Director, and Vinayaka Prasad, PhD, PI for the Albert Einstein AITRP program, opened the two-day session with an overview of the organizational structure and trainee highlights of their respective training programs.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

The 6th International Aids Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment, and Prevention will be held on July 17-20, 2011 in Rome, Italy. The conference is a gathering of over 5,000 scientists, clinicians, public health experts and community leaders. Together, the participants discuss developments in HIV-related research and consider ways to easily and effectively translate this progress into prevention and intervention measures. Registration

begins in December. For more information, visit <http://www.ias2011.org/>.

The 19th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for Sexually Transmitted Diseases Research will be held from July 10-13, 2011 in Quebec City. This year's theme is "From research to intervention: successes and challenges." The deadline for abstract submission is February 21, 2011. The deadline for registration is June 9, 2011. For more information, visit <http://www.isstdrquebec2011.com/afficher.aspx?langue=en>.

The 18th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2011) will be convened on February 27-March 3, 2011 in Boston, Massachusetts. CROI is a scientifically focused meeting of the world's leading researchers working to understand, prevent, and treat HIV/AIDS and its complications. General Registration for researchers and clinicians opened December 1, 2010 and closes January 24, 2011. For more information, visit <http://retroconference.org/2011/>.



NYS-ITRP SPOTLIGHT

Dmitry Kissin, MD, MPH

Dr. Kissin is currently a Senior Service Fellow in the Women's Health and Fertility Branch of the Division of Reproductive Health at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia. From 1999-2001 he completed the MPH program at the SUNY Albany School of Public Health as a Fogarty Fellow.

1. What motivated you to pursue training through the Fogarty New York State International Training and Research Program?

The New York State International Training and Research Program gave me a unique opportunity to get excellent education that was unavailable in Russia. I started my medical career in St. Petersburg during the period of transition, so called "perestroika", when, once strong and powerful, the Public Health machine suddenly collapsed. As a recent Medical School graduate, I had a chance to contribute my knowledge toward building a new system. But the more I submerged myself into epidemiology and medical research, the more I realized that I lack many of the basic tools and skills in the field. My interest to become better qualified motivated me to apply to the Fogarty Program.

2. Can you tell us what you remember about your experience while training?

It was a wonderful time! Most of all, I remember the people: both my classmates and professors. From the academic viewpoint, the teaching methods in the U.S., which include interactive classes and self study, are quite different from those in Russia, where it is mostly based on lectures and exams. It was challenging to adjust to a new learning style, but its benefits eventually became very clear. One of my first shocks was related to learning SAS statistical program. I thought that learning computer language was the programmers' job...But all the nights spent on understanding the "PROCs" were worthwhile, as I've been using SAS ever since.

3. What is the focus of your current work? How did the Fogarty New York State International Training and Research Program prepare you for what you are doing now?

Currently, I am working on a number of projects, mostly related to HIV prevention and family planning in Russia. In a prospective study supported by The CDC and USAID/Moscow, we are evaluating safety and effectiveness of contraception among HIV-infected women in St. Petersburg. We recently completed assessments of HIV seroprevalence

among street youth in four Russian and Ukrainian cities. These were the first systematic assessments to demonstrate extraordinary high rates of HIV in this vulnerable population, which lead to the development of focused prevention programs. I've been fortunate to stay connected with NYS-ITRP: last year, we collaborated with the program on the project related to infant HIV diagnosis in Russia. During my tenure in the NYS-ITRP program I not only received knowledge of epidemiologic methods, but also many important practical skills: I designed and conducted my first scientific study, performed my first independent data analysis, wrote my first manuscript for an international peer-reviewed journal, and for the first time gave an oral presentation at an international conference. All of these skills are crucial for my current work.

4. Have you received awards or grants since completing your training? If so, please tell us about them.

Since completing my training, I worked on multiple projects in the area of maternal and child health and HIV prevention in Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. This work was nominated for several awards, including Charles C. Shepard Science Award, the highest science award at CDC which "recognizes excellence in science achievement". In 2008, I received The Global Health Achievement Award for "exceptional work and dedication to improving the global health of HIV-infected and at-risk street youth in Russia through clinical research".

5. What was the hardest part about living in the US? In Russia?

In the US, it was challenging to be far from family and friends, but it was really touching how everyone tried to make us feel at home, making adjustments easier. In Russia, one of the challenges was to find a job in Public Health. It was clear that rebuilding Public Health system would require a lot of human resources, but very few positions were available.

6. What are some of your future plans?

I plan to continue my work in the field of maternal and child health and HIV prevention.

Our team is working on establishing sustainable family planning services for HIV-infected women in Russia. We are also planning to work with HealthRight International on the follow-up assessment of HIV seroprevalence among street youth in St. Petersburg. My writing projects will include a chapter on HIV/AIDS Surveillance in Russia for the second edition of the book "Infectious Disease Surveillance." I'd like to stay in-touch with NYS-ITRP and help mentor the next generation of fellows. I am also very excited that NYS-ITRP recently started working in Ukraine, and I'd like to be involved in developing the research agenda in that country.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New York State International Training and Research Program (NYS-ITRP) Renewal is a Success

Good news! We are pleased to announce that NYS-ITRP has been refunded for another five years, allowing us to provide training to a new generation of public health leaders and scientific investigators. Our grant will continue activities in Russia and Georgia and expand into Kazakhstan and Ukraine. In addition to our usual HIV research training options, we also plan to develop a nurse research curriculum for our partners in Russia and Georgia, and develop stronger collaborative initiatives with in-country schools of public health. We want to send our gratitude to all of our US and foreign collaborators for their efforts in helping us put together our application.

NYS-ITRP Website Update

We invite you to view our NYS-ITRP website at <http://www.downstate.edu/nysitrp/>. Visit us frequently to keep up with program developments, download present and past newsletters, and view a list of relevant funding opportunities. Prospective Fogarty applicants can also download our brochure and find detailed information about the Fogarty NYS-ITRP application process. Our revised website will launch in early 2011 with opportunities for you to view webinars on important HIV and infectious disease research training topics. (See section in our newsletter on 'Information and Technology Training Enhancement to NYS-ITRP'.)

Also... Join us on Facebook! To all our NYS-ITRP alumni and friends: if you have not already done so, please join our **Fogarty New York State International Training & Research Program (NYS-ITRP) Facebook group** so that you can update each other on your careers, grant awards, and academic activities. Please email Dana Turner (dana.turner@downstate.edu) if you have any problems joining the group.

Reminder: Mandatory PubMed Requirement for all Fogarty-Sponsored Publications

On April 7, 2008, it became mandatory for publications whose investigators have received funding through the Fogarty program (AITRP/ICOHRTA, etc.) to be submitted to PubMed Central upon acceptance for publication. If you have any questions about this process, you can visit <http://www.nihms.nih.gov/help/faq.shtml>. Alternatively, you can send an electronic version of the final manuscript (the version accepted for publication) to Dana Turner (dana.turner@downstate.edu) and she will upload it for you. **We also want to remind you to cite FIC, any FIC partners, and the grant number in any publication related to Fogarty funded grants.**

NYS-ITRP Fellows Visit SUNY Downstate for HIV Research Seminar

From 14-15 January 2010, SUNY Downstate hosted a group of Georgian, Polish, and Russian public health professionals as part of the New York State AIDS International Training and Research Program (NYS-ITRP). The seminar included presentations by Downstate faculty and staff on issues relevant to HIV research, and a special guest lecture on

bioethics given by Dr. Sean Philpott of Union Graduate College's Fogarty Bioethics Program. Seminar attendees also participated in observation sessions at the HIV ambulatory clinic at the STAR Health Center and the Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Clinic at Kings County Hospital Center.

The seminar was attended by two Fogarty

Fellows studying at the University at Albany School of Public Health, Dr. Michal Czerwinski (Poland), and Dr. Damir Bikmukhametov (Russia) and two Fogarty Fellows from the Wadsworth Center at the New York State Department of Health, Mariam Zakalashvili (Georgia), and Dr. Mamuka Khvedelidze (Georgia).

Nurse Research Training Initiative Unveiled

NYS-ITRP has launched a Nurse Research Training Initiative in Russia and Georgia. By using our existing collaborations in these countries, we hope to instruct and mentor nursing school faculty in the conduct of HIV related research. These activities will strengthen the capacity of nurses to integrate the principles of evidence-based practice into HIV care and will provide a foundation for the conduct of nursing-led HIV research efforts. As part of this new program, Susan Holman, RN, MS, STAR Program Research Director from SUNY Downstate Medical Center, and Ann Kurth, PhD, CNM, RN, Associate Professor, NYU School of Nursing traveled to Tbilisi, Georgia and St. Petersburg, Russia in April to meet with nursing school faculty and other representatives, researchers, and nurses to further assess the needs of these countries and to begin to develop nurse research curricula. During these visits Ms. Holman and Dr. Kurth were able to have extensive dialogue with key stakeholders in the nursing faculty and establish a timeline for the development of a research curriculum.

In Georgia, our activities are in collaboration with Emory University, which is working with Chavchavadze University, Partners for International Development and Block Georgia with funding from USAID to upgrade the nursing sector of Georgia through the provision of continuing education for practicing nurses and the establishment of the country's first baccalaureate degree nursing program. Our goal is to integrate a nurse research component within the nursing training curriculum that Emory faculty will establish with Chavchavadze University. The curricula trainings developed for both Georgia and Russia will similar structure and content, developed through SUNY-DMC and NYU faculty collaboration, but tailored to the local environment. In the global epidemic, the capacity of nurses has evolved to play a key role in HIV/AIDS research; with this initiative we hope to establish an infrastructure for the on-going training and support of nurses in HIV research in Eastern Europe.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The **Global Health Research Initiative Program for New Foreign Investigators (GRIP)** promotes productive re-entry of NIH-trained foreign investigators into their home countries as part of a broader program to enhance the scientific research infrastructure in developing countries, to stimulate research on a wide variety of high priority health-related issues in these countries, and to advance NIH efforts to address health issues of global import. See http://www.fic.nih.gov/programs/research_grants/grip/index.htm for more information. Non-AIDS Application Due Dates: January 10, 2011, January 10, 2012, January 10, 2013; AIDS Application Due Dates: March 10, 2011, March 9, 2012, March 8, 2013.

The **Fogarty International Research Collaboration Award (FIRCA)** provides funds (\$150,000 over three years) to foster international research partnerships between NIH-supported US scientists and their collaborators in countries of the developing world. The FIRCA program aims to benefit the research interests of both the US and foreign collaborators while increasing research capacity at the foreign site. All areas of biomedical and behavioral research supported by the NIH are eligible FIRCA research topics, except for HIV/AIDS. For more information, visit http://www.fic.nih.gov/programs/research_grants/firca/. Application due dates for both announcements: January 10, 2011, January 10, 2012, January 10, 2013.

As part of its effort to encourage rigorous collaborative international research, the NIDA International Program is soliciting proposals for **International Research Collaboration on Drug Abuse and Addiction Research**. NIDA hopes to support projects that are conducted in whole or in part outside the United States by investigators at U.S. institutions in partnership with investigators from other countries, that take advantage of a unique set of resources or subject populations that would otherwise be difficult to access domestically, and that address NIDA's scientific priority areas, which currently include linkages between HIV/AIDS and drug abuse, methamphetamine abuse, inhalant abuse, smoking during pregnancy, and drugs and driving. The broad call for innovative research is designed to encourage applications in all areas of drug addiction science, including but not limited to prevention, basic science, epidemiology, treatment, and health services. Specific application requirements and deadlines

differ for the three grant mechanisms. Visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-10-099.html> for more information.

With the support of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the International AIDS Society (IAS) has established the **IAS/NIDA HIV and Drug Use Fellowship** program focusing on HIV and drug use, with the goal of contributing to advances in the scientific understanding of drug use and HIV, while fostering multinational research on HIV and drug use. This fellowship program provides an 8-month professional development fellowship for a well-established HIV scientist not currently active in the drug abuse field. Submission deadline: February 10, 2011. For more information (including eligibility requirements), see <http://www.iasociety.org/Default.aspx?pagelid=288>.

Through the **NIH Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health (R03) Funding Opportunity Announcement**, investigators are encouraged to submit research grant applications that will identify, develop, and refine effective and efficient methods, structures, and strategies to disseminate and implement research-tested health behavior change interventions and evidence-based prevention, early detection, diagnostic, treatment, and quality of life improvement services into public health and clinical practice settings. Budgets for direct costs of up to \$50,000 per year and a project duration of up to two years may be requested for a maximum of \$100,000 direct costs over a two-year project period. For more information, see <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-10-039.html>. Non-AIDS Application Due Dates: February 16, 2011, June 16, 2011, October 16, 2011; February 16, 2012, June 16, 2012, October 16, 2012. AIDS Application Due Dates: May 7, 2011, September 7, 2011, January 7, 2012; May 7, 2012, September 7, 2012, January 7, 2013.

As with all funding opportunities, let us know your plans for submission so that we can offer our support and review your application.

NYS-ITRP Co-Director Dale Morse Retires from the New York State Department of Health

In September 2010, Dale Morse, MD, MS, Co-Director of NYS-ITRP, announced his retirement from the New York State Department of Health. For the past 15 years, Dr. Morse has been one of the key architects of NYS-ITRP: director, mentor, lecturer, organizer, and above all, a visionary with a passion for infectious disease research training for our students.



Dr. Morse is Professor at the SUNY Albany School of Public Health, and taught courses in infectious disease epidemiology as well as serving as a guest lecturer for many other courses. As Assistant Commissioner, Office of Science, in the New York State Department of Health, he coordinated a number of scientific activities between the Department's epidemiology, laboratory and environmental units, including serving as PI on CDC, NIH, Robert Wood Johnson grants. He has directed key

epidemiologic activities on the investigation of communicable disease outbreaks, trends and control measures. His wide-ranging research interests include AIDS, tuberculosis, foodborne diseases, hepatitis, Lyme disease, smoking and environmental health problems, immunization, emerging infections, and public health preparedness. Our Fogarty Fellows have tremendously benefitted from Dr. Morse's diverse research interests, his expertise in epidemiology, and boundless enthusiasm for research training.

Dr. Morse served 12 years as the State Epidemiologist and is a past President of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists from whom he received their "Pump Handle Award" for outstanding achievement in the field of applied epidemiology as well as former Chair of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Most important to our program, he served as Principal Investigator of a series of Fogarty funded training grants

including those focused on emerging infections, tuberculosis and hepatitis. He has supervised Epidemiology Intelligence Service (EIS) officers, preventive medicine residents, PhD, DrPH, MS and MPH students including foreign students from China, as well as many of our graduates from Central and Eastern Europe. In addition to co-authoring a number of publications from the region, he also served as co-investigator on several NIH and CRDF funded grants.

Dr. Morse has also served as a warm and genial advisor to our trainees, often hosting parties for our students at his home with his gracious wife, Ilka. He has a keen sense of humor and delights in hearing our trainees' accounts of their various cultural "adjustments" as they begin their US-based studies.

We will miss his immense contributions to this program as Co-Director. However, we look forward to continuing our collaboration with Dr. Morse as a consultant and research mentor with NYS-ITRP.

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