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The lead story for the March issue of the newsletter focuses on the MMCI-CAPRISA workshop to discuss and refine a HIV prevention trials communication handbook that is being developed

On page 2 we focus on CAPRISA's participation in the 4th South African AIDS Conference that was held in Durban from 31 March—4 April 2009.

The launch of the new KwaZulu-Natal Research Institute for TB and HIV is the detailed on page 3.



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MMCI and CAPRISA co-host meeting on communication of microbicide research



Participants of the CAPRISA-MMCI workshop contribute to a lively discussion on the draft documents for the HIV prevention Trials Communications Handbook

CAPRISA co-hosted a meeting with the Microbicides Media and Communication Initiative (MMCI) to solicit input and field test draft materials for a HIV prevention Trials Communications Handbook that is being developed.

The meeting was held in the Susser and Stein Seminar room at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine and was attended by over 40 participants from 8 different countries including Botswana, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, the United States, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The choice of venue was particularly appropriate considering it is dedicated to Dr Zena Stein, one of the first proponents of the need for HIV prevention methods that women can use.

The day started off with presentations to debrief and discuss the recent dissemination of the HPTN 035 results, focusing on the communications activities and media coverage.

In the afternoon the large group was divided into four smaller groups to review and assess draft materials of some of the key areas of focus of the handbook.

A DVD will accompany the Handbook so the meeting was recorded and participants had an opportunity to share case studies and lessons learned from the field.

The Handbook will be available in April 2010 and will serve as a valuable resource for researchers conducting HIV prevention trials.

The MMCI is a unique multi-partner collaboration housed at the Global Campaign for Microbicides that is designed to help the wider microbicide field anticipate and respond proactively to the communications challenges posed by the conduct of large scale effectiveness trials in Africa and other resource-limited settings. For further information about MMCI see http://www.microbicide.org/cs/microbicides_media_communications_initiative



4th South African AIDS conference focuses on scaling up for success



Ms Natasha Arulappan explains what microbicides are to interested conference delegates

The 4th Southern African AIDS Conference was held in Durban South Africa from 31 March – 3 April 2009. CAPRISA was well represented with 27 staff and fellows attending. This conference brings together key stakeholders—those who are actively engaged in research, policy makers, advocacy groups, caregivers, other service providers and those living with or affected by HIV and/ or AIDS and serves as the key forum in South Africa for debate around prevention, treatment and care of HIV.

The theme for this year's conference, 'Scaling up for success' was brought upon by the recognition that there is an urgency to take stock of the best practices in treatment and prevention and to scale up sufficiently in order to roll back the impact of the epidemic. Statistical reports continue to identify Africa as the global epicenter of the AIDS pandemic and most severe in Southern Africa where the epidemic continues to expand. Even in areas of the Southern African region where the epidemic is leveling off, it's doing so at an exceptionally high level. The conference chairperson Professor Linda-Gail Bekker of the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation said, "more than ever before we need to come together as a region, declare war on the epidemic and begin to see the rates in Southern Africa decline."

CAPRISA Director Professor Salim Abdool Karim chaired a plenary session and a session on Acute HIV. Dr Koleka Mlisana Head of HI Pathogenesis and Vaccine Research at CAPRISA presented at the Acute HIV Infection session on 'Clinical features of Acute HIV Subtype C infection: Findings from a Cohort of South African Women' while the Head of CAPRISA Treatment Research, Dr Kogie Naidoo, presented at the TB and HIV session on 'Is it feasible to integrate HIV and TB treatment? Results of the CAPRISA 001 Starting Tuberculosis and Anti-Retroviral Therapy (START) randomised trial.' In addition to the many poster presentations by CAPRISA staff, CAPRISA also maintain a stand at the conference displaying the work of the organization.

CAPRISA's science was well represented at the conference through several oral and poster presentations:

- Phalane T, Sibeko S, Parker G, Mlisana K, Frohlich J, Abdool Karim S, Abdool Karim Q. Ensuring continuity of care for volunteers enrolled in the CAPRISA 004 microbicide trial
- Gengiah T, Upfold M, Naidoo A, Mansoor L, Frohlich J, Abdool Karim Q, Abdool Karim S, on behalf of the CAPRISA 004 Study Team. Feasibility and utility of returning used and unused gel applicators in the CAPRISA 004 study.
- Parker G, Sibeko S, Phalane T, Maarschalk S, Mlisana K, Frohlich J, Abdool Karim S, Abdool Karim Q. Monthly pre- and post- test HIV counseling and testing in the context of participating in a microbicide trial: experiences from CAPRISA 004.
- Govender T, Van Loggerenberg F, Mvandaba N, Abdool Karim SS. Internal quality assurance of the informed consent process in research cohorts managed by the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA).
- Richards J, Arulappan N, Naidoo K, Govinden R, Charls P, Parathnandh R, Ramjee G, Abdool Karim Q. Preventing co-enrolment between pre-trial cohort studies and HIV intervention trials within and between organisations: lessons learned in CAPRISA and the South African Medical Research Council.
- Naidoo K, Abdool Karim S, Naidoo K, Padayatchi N, Abdool Karim Q, Churchyard G, Grobler A, Gray A, Friedland G. Is it feasible to integrate HIV and TB treatment? Results of the CAPRISA 001 Starting Tuberculosis and Anti-Retroviral Therapy (START) randomised trial.
- Luvuyo M, Sibeko S, Baxter C, Abdool Karim S, Abdool Karim Q. Determining pregnancy status in microbicide trials
- Grobler A, Maarschalk S, Magwaza N, Ndimande C, Mlotshwa M, Phungula P, Frohlich J, Abdool Karim Q. Are data on last coital day representative of sex acts throughout the month? A validation study nested within a microbicide trial.
- Kharsany ABM, Frohlich J, Werner L, Groeger J, Mlotshwa M, Madlala B, Abdool Karim SS, Abdool Karim Q. Pregnancy rates among women self-reporting intention not to fall pregnant: implications for efficient conduct of late stage microbicide trials
- Thebus R, Treurnicht F, Abrahams M-R, Mlisana K, Abdool Karim S, Williamson C. A comparison of methods for staging primary HIV-1 subtype c infection based on clinical data and laboratory markers.
- Padayatchi N, Naidoo K, Naidoo K. Expanding sentinel HIV surveillance from ante-natal clinic (ANC) surveillance only, to include tuberculosis (TB) patients



**4th SA AIDS
Conference
Scaling up for Success**

**31 March - 3 April 2009
International Convention Centre, Durban
South Africa**



New institute for TB and HIV research launched

A new institute for tuberculosis and HIV research—the KwaZulu-Natal Research Institute for TB and HIV—to be built at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) was announced on 19 March 2009 at a simultaneous presentation at the Susser Stein seminar room in UKZN Medical School and at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) in Washington DC.

The creation of K-RITH reflects nearly two years of discussion between HHMI and UKZN, and will result in the establishment of an institute to high international standards at the Medical School Campus of UKZN. The partnership which is valued at US\$ 60 million will span a 10 year period. US\$ 20 million dollars of this funding will be spent on the building itself. Construction of the building is expected to begin in September of this year and to be completed by 2011. The new building will link with the Doris Duke Medical Research Institute in which many research organizations including CAPRISA are currently based.

The announcement which was split between Washington DC and Durban, was linked via live video streaming and saw announcements in Washington from the South African Ambassador to the U.S., His Excellency Welile Nhlapo, Vice-Chancellor of UKZN Professor Malegapuru Makgoba and Professor Thomas R Cech the President of HHMI. Locally the event was chaired by Professor Dasarath Chetty, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Corporate Relations, with a talk by Dr Peter Bruns, Vice President of Grants and Special Programmes for HHMI who traveled to Durban for the announcement.

Although K-RITH will not be fully functional till 2011, many of the projects to be conducted at the institute will however begin in earnest. One such project is the CAPRISA 005 TRuTH study led by Professor Salim Abdool Karim and Dr Kogie Naidoo. The main objective of the TRuTH study is to determine the extent of and reasons



Architects rendering of the new K-RITH building and the changes to the Umbilo Road entrance of the Medical School upon completion.

for, relapse and re-infection in incident cases of TB in HIV-infected patients on antiretrovirals. This prospective cohort study is expected to enroll 470 patients and involve three years of follow-up. The primary endpoint of this study will be the development of recurrent TB. Currently the relative contributions of reactivation and reinfection for recurrent TB in HIV infected patients remains unknown. The TRuTH study however is well placed to answer this important question. The TRuTH study is also a clear example of how K-RITH can help improve our understanding of the changing dynamics of the dual infection facing South Africa.

Adapted from UKZN newsletter online vol3, issue 4

UKZN-CAPRISA CTU: Current status & progress

ACTG

ACTG had screened 107 patients and enrolled 40. The study is now closed to enrollment. PPD conducted a site monitoring visit from 23-27 February 2009. The monitor gave a very positive feedback on the site's quality of source documentation and data. The next monitoring visit will be held on 01-05 June 2009.

IMPAACT

A total of 462 pregnant women have been screened, among whom 307 were eligible and consented to participate in the study. 171 infants were enrolled within 7 days of birth, and 155 were randomized at 6 weeks of

age. The next PPD monitoring visit is scheduled 22-26 June 2009. Two new staff members have been appointed (Research nurse and Counselor)

HVTN

The protocol is in the long term follow up stage of the enrolled participants. To date 7 participants have seroconverted, 3 from the vaccine arm and 4 from the placebo arm. Version 3.0 of the protocol has received Ethics approval and all participants have been re-consented into the new version. HIV positive participants who initiate ART will be enrolled into the recently-approved HVTN 802 protocol for long term follow-up.

Research update - February 2009

Study	Site	Screened		No. Enrolled	
		Total	Cumulative	Total	Cumulative
Acute Infection	Umbilo (Phase II)	0	118	0	118
CAT	Vulindlela	19	3002	19	1227
	eThekwini	11	2063	4	640
SAPIT	eThekwini	-	1364	-	645*
START	eThekwini	0	147	0	58*
CHAVI	eThekwini	0	10852	0	32
HEPS	Umbilo	-	-	0	122*
HVTN	eThekwini	-	114	-	53*
Microbicide	eThekwini	10	1046	6	280*
	Vulindlela	0	1110	0	620*
EASP	eThekwini	-	-	-	298*
ACTG	eThekwini	19	98	8	40

* enrolment stopped

CSRC update - February 2009

Abstracts submitted for review		Manuscripts submitted for review		Ancillary studies submitted for review	
Total [#]	Cumulative [^]	Total [#]	Cumulative [^]	Total [#]	Cumulative [^]
3	143	1	56	1	16

for month, ^since committee initiation

Upcoming Conference & Workshop Reminders

Conference	dates	Deadlines		website
		Abstracts	Registration	
5TH IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention	19-22 July 2009	25 Feb 2009 (see also Late-breaker dates)	Currently open	http://www.ias2009.org/
AIDS IMPAACT 9th International Conference	22-25 Sep 2009	1st May 2009	(Starts) 1st Dec 2008	www.aidsimpact.com
Int Assoc for Adolescent Health (IAAH)	28-29 Oct 2009	30 April 2009	Currently open	www.iaah2009.com/
40th Union World Conference on Lung Health	3 - 7 Dec 2009	15 March 2009	Currently open	www.worldlunghealth.org/Conf2009/



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN



National Institute for Communicable Diseases



Columbia University MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



UNIVERSITY of the WESTERN CAPE



CAPRISA was established in 2002 through a CIPRA grant from the NIH, as a multi-institutional collaboration, incorporated as an independent non-profit AIDS Research Organization

Registration Number: 2002/024027/08

www.caprisa.org