



CAPRISA

CENTRE FOR THE AIDS PROGRAMME OF RESEARCH IN SOUTH AFRICA



CAPRISA IS A UNAIDS COLLABORATING CENTRE FOR HIV PREVENTION RESEARCH

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In this issue...

The lead story for this issue of the newsletter focuses on the Scientific Meeting and Scientific Advisory Board Review that was held in Durban on 5-6 June 2011.

On page 3 we congratulate CAPRISA researchers on their recent awards and nominations to serve on the ACTG Site Management and Clinical Care Committee.

We highlight the recent CAPRISA Wellness day and the Community Programme HIV and AIDS communication workshop on page 4.



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Reviewing CAPRISA's Research



Professor Slim Abdool Karim addressing the delegates at the CAPRISA Scientific Meeting

CAPRISA hosted a Scientific Meeting and its 5th Scientific Advisory Board Review on June 5-6, 2011 at the Oyster Box hotel in Durban.

The Scientific Meeting was an opportunity for debate and discussion about broad South African AIDS and TB research needs and priorities. It was also an opportunity for CAPRISA scientists to seek peer-review and guidance from some of the world's foremost international researchers on its studies in the areas of Microbicides, HIV pathogenesis, TB-HIV treatment and HIV prevention.

This year, researchers and students from CAPRISA shared data on the progress on tenofovir gel as well as preliminary data on CAPRISA's efforts to improving the effectiveness of tenofovir gel, current and future research on HIV prevention in women, the results of the TB-HIV treatment studies, and recent findings from the CAPRISA 002 Acute HIV Infection study. There was a vibrant and robust debate on CAPRISA's most ambitious planned study which aims to stop the HIV epidemic in young girls attending rural schools.

Dr Cate Hankins, Chairperson of the CAPRISA Scientific Advisory Board meeting commented after the meeting that people who had not had the opportunity to participate before in a CAPRISA scientific meeting were "blown away by the science and the strength of the next generation coming through because of [CAPRISA's] capacity building".

This meeting was attended by 140 people including most of South Africa's leading AIDS researchers and several of the world's foremost experts in HIV and AIDS. Dignitaries from South Africa at the meeting included the Honorable Minister of Finance, Mr Pravin Gordhan, the Honorable Minister of Science and Technology, Dr Naledi Pandor, and the Director-General from the National Department of Health, Ms Precious Matsoso.

To maximize the networking opportunities, the Scientific Meeting was scheduled just before the South African AIDS conference and provided local and international colleagues and fellow researchers the chance to explore the potential for greater collaboration and to discuss strategies for enhancing our response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Guest speakers at the Gala dinner, which was held at uShaka Marine World, included the Head of the Division of AIDS at the NIH, Dr Carl Dieffenbach, the Deputy Minister of Science and Technology, Mr Derek Hanekom and Vice Chancellor of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, William Malegapuru Makgoba. Our US partners, Drs Jim Rooney, Ward Cates, Jeff Spieler and Henry Gabelnick were honoured at the dinner for the central role they played in the CAPRISA 004 trial (See CAPRISA newsletter, May 2011). Photos from the meeting are provided on page 2 and copies of the presentations are available from the CAPRISA website: www.caprisa.org/.



CAPRISA Scientific Advisory Board Meeting



a) Honourable Minister Pravin Gordhan delivering the opening address on “Rising to the challenge of funding the AIDS response”; b) Ms Precious Matsoso delivering her speech on “South Africa’s response to the AIDS epidemic”;



c) Roxana Rogers, USAID Southern Africa, Dr Lee Claypool, USAID, Dr Derek Hanekom, Deputy Minister of Science and Technology and Dr Jeff Spieler, USAID; d) Professor William Malegapuru Makgoba, Vice Chancellor of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, delivering the welcoming address at the Gala dinner;



e) Honourable Minister Naledi Pandor addressing the delegates on “South African Biotechnology for better health”; f) Professor Helga Holtz from McCords Hospital and Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, MEC for Health of KwaZulu-Natal, and Dr Rod Hoff, REDI; i) Professor Ahmed Bawa, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Durban University of Technology and Dr Sandro Galea, Chair of the Department of Epidemiology at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health; and j) Dr Zwele Mkhize, Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, delivering the closing address.





Rosenfield Alumni Award for Excellence



Congratulations to Professors Salim Abdool Karim and Quarraisha Abdool Karim, recipients of the 2011 Allan Rosenfield Alumni Award for Excellence. The award recognises their recent landmark study demonstrating the effectiveness of a microbicide for women to prevent HIV infection. The award also acknowledges the Karims' pivotal early role in sparking the work of the late Dr Allan Rosenfield on "MTCTplus," a precursor to ICAP, the International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs. The award is presented annually to a Mailman School alumna/us who has made exceptional contributions to the School and/or exhibited distinguished leadership in the field of public health, such as in research, education, healthcare administration, public policy and practice. Professors Salim Abdool Karim and Quarraisha Abdool Karim were honoured at the Alumni Summit for Public Health Leadership, on Thursday, June 16, where they delivered a talk with Dr. Wafaa El-Sadr.

Dr Naidoo selected to serve on ACTG committee



Dr Kogieleum Naidoo was recently elected to serve on the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) Site Management and Clinical Care Committee (SMCCC) as the Tuberculosis Transformative Science Group (TSG) Alternate Representative from June 1, 2011 to May 31, 2013.

The SMCCC oversees logistical processes essential for successful implementation and completion of the ACTG scientific agenda. The SMCCC provides practical advice and technical expertise in the areas of patient care, data collection and management, and site operations as they relate to the safe and successful execution of ACTG clinical trials. The SMCCC also provides training and education for site personnel to achieve optimal protocol operation, enhanced collection of quality data, including specimen collection and processing.

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Dr Naranbhai selected to attend "Summer Davos"

CAPRISA congratulates Dr Vivek Naranbhai, who was selected to attend the IAP/World Economic Forum's "Summer Davos" in Dalian, People's Republic of China, from 13-16 September 2011.



The World Economic Forum and IAP will facilitate the participation of around 50 outstanding young scientists in the event, to be integrated into the Forum's meeting which will involve around 1500 participants. The Meeting, this year on the theme "Mastering Quality Growth", is organized on the basis of panel discussions. The overall programme will focus on elements such as "Pursuing Frontiers of Growth", "Shaping new Business Models and Policies", "Embracing Disruptive Innovation" and "Sustaining a Creative and Entrepreneurial Culture". The World Economic Forum plans to identify a number of the selected young scientists to have active roles in cross-community public sessions on themes such as health, environment, energy, social business models, mobile economy and IT.

Discovery Health Wellness day hosted at CAPRISA

CAPRISA hosted its 4th Wellness Day on 24 June 2011. The Wellness day is an annual initiative to promote healthy living among CAPRISA staff and they are encouraged to try and improve on their assessments in the following year. The day was an opportunity for CAPRISA staff to have their health status assessed including measuring: weight, cholesterol, blood glucose and blood pressure. Based on their vitals from the health assessment and lifestyle habits, each person could determine their health risk. The wellness day was also an opportunity for people to consult with an optometrist, a biokineticist, a chiropractor, have a massage and/or beauty treatment and to sign up with a Virgin Active gym.



Effectively communicating the facts of HIV/AIDS

In May 2011, the CAPRISA Community Programme (CCP) participated in a two day workshop with the University of Michigan. The workshop, led by Professor Nesha Haniff, Director and creator of the Pedagogy of Action Program and HIV Oral Methodology, aimed to educate workshop participants about orally communicating HIV transmission dynamics, HIV prevention, and how to care for and not discriminate against those infected with the virus. This workshop has equipped the CAPRISA Community Educators with the skill of effectively communicating with people who cannot read or write but need to understand the facts of HIV/AIDS. On day two Ms Fanelesibonge Ntombela, CAPRISA's Deputy Head of the Community Core, facilitated a 4 hour training workshop on HIV prevention and treatment research, community engagement in research and community advisory mechanisms.

- Fanelesibonge Ntombela



The CAPRISA Community Programme and University of Michigan groups



The workshop ended on a high note of entertainment

2011 Scientific publications



UNIVERSITY of the WESTERN CAPE



THE AURUM INSTITUTE

CAPRISA is an official research institute of the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

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

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*this list continues from the previous newsletter - providing all CAPRISA publications in 2011

Upcoming Conference & Workshop Reminders

Conference	dates	Deadlines		
		Abstracts	Registration	website
6th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention	17-20 July, 2011	23 May (late breaker)	24 February 2011	www.ias2011.org/
Microbicides 2012	April 2012	To be announced	To be announced	http://www.microbicides2010.org/microbicides-2012

Board of Control: JM van Bever Donker (Chair) • SS Abdool Karim • AC Bawa • D Clark • LP Fried • NM Ijumba • S Madhi • S Naidoo • DP Visser • PN • Langa

Scientific Advisory Board: C Hankins (Chair) • SM Dhlomo • HL Gabelnick • R Hoff • D Martin • Y Shao • FG Handley • Y Lo

Executive Committee: SS Abdool Karim • Q Abdool Karim • G Churchyard • HM Coovadia • J Fröhlich • CM Gray • A Kharsany • K Mlisana • D Moodley • L Morris • K Naidoo • N Padayatchi • JCM Swart • C Williamson