



## ***GCM and Partners in Action***

### **GCM at M2010**

**23-25 May 2010, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA**

The 2010 International Microbicides Conference is around the corner in Pittsburgh, PA, USA, from 22-25 May. GCM and partners are organizing a pre-conference workshop on Saturday and a satellite session on *Standards of Prevention in HIV Prevention Trials* on Sunday evening; launch of the Communications Handbook for Clinical Trials on Monday evening; co-hosting the Advocates' Corner and the MMCI Training and Resource Center; and conducting 9 oral presentations and poster sessions. For more information please visit <http://www.global-campaign.org/M2010.htm>. Join us for four busy days in the Steel City.



### **GCM Director Nominated for Asian Women of Achievement Social and Humanitarian Award**

**19 May 2010, London, UK**

Yasmin Halima was a nominee for the Lloyds/TSB Asian Women of Achievement Award. This is an annual award that recognises women of South Asian descent who have excelled in their professions. The award ceremony will take place in London on 19 May.

### **Kenyan HIV-Prevention Research Workshop**

**11 May 2010, Thika, Kenya**

The lush farming community of Thika, Kenya was the site of a day-long community forum led by GCM's Kenya Program Officer Pauline Irungu, in conjunction with the Partners in Prevention–Thika PrEP (PiP) clinical trial team. Co-facilitated by Peter Michira, community liaison officer for PiP, and GCM Fellow Patrick Mwai, the workshop provided a space where the 21 participants—representatives from NGOs and CBOs in the region—could talk openly about the HIV-prevention realities their communities



face. They explored perceptions of how the new prevention technologies under development may affect their lives.



Pauline Irungu gave an overview on microbicides, and Dr. Elizabeth Irungu of the Thika PIP clinical trial site provided background on PrEP. She reported that the trial, which is slated to have 4700 participants enrolled in Kenya and Uganda, already has 3700 on board. The meeting closed with the question to each participant asking with whom they were going to share what they learned and the request that all become ambassadors in their communities. The Thika PIP study team has already asked GCM to return for future educational meetings.

### **GCM Steering Committee Meeting** **29-30 April 2010, Capetown, South Africa**



The newly configured GCM Steering Committee met in Cape Town, South Africa to share information and plan the next phase of development for GCM. Sustaining members include Chairperson Dazon Dixon Diallo, Scott Jackson, Mayowa Joel, Gita Ramjee, Shira Saperstein, Janneke van de Wiggert, and Monieke van der Kroef.

We welcome six new members to this already impressive group of counselors:

- Keith Alcorn, senior editor at NAM, UK
- Ennie Chipembere, Action AID International, South Africa
- Nohkwhezi Hboyi, Treatment Action Campaign, South Africa
- Elly Katabira, University of Makerere Medical School and President-Elect for International AIDS Society, Uganda
- Zinhle Makatini, University of Limpopo, South Africa
- Nelly Mugo, University of Nairobi / University of Washington, Partners PrEP, Kenya

PATH President Chris Elias and Catherine Brokenshire-Scott, head of PATH South Africa, joined for part of the meeting.

### **A new generation of HIV research advocates meet in the U.S.** **20-23 April 2010, Baltimore, Maryland, USA**



On 20-23 April more than 200 HIV treatment and prevention advocates attended the *HIV Research Catalyst Forum: Treatment, Prevention, Advocacy* in Baltimore, MD, U.S.

GCM co-facilitated a skills-building workshop with AVAC on ARV-based prevention. ARV-based prevention is an experimental approach that uses antiretroviral (ARV) medications to reduce the risk of HIV infection in HIV-negative people. The training provided an overview of the basics of ARV-based prevention, aimed at advocates who don't have a scientific background. It included post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), microbicides, prevention of vertical transmission, and treatment-as-prevention. The session described how these approaches fit into broader HIV prevention efforts, the current state of research and implementation, and how participants could become involved in advocacy to support their advancement. Webcasts and presentation slides from the event can be found at <http://www.hivresearchcatalystforum.org/webcast/presentations>.

Additional information on these topics is available for free on the GCM web site. To download GCM fact sheets and PowerPoint slides—including full scripts—on ARV-based prevention, PrEP, and microbicides, please visit: <http://www.global-campaign.org/EngDownload.htm>.

The *HIV Research Catalyst Forum: Treatment, Prevention, Advocacy* aimed to revitalise the community response to the domestic and global AIDS epidemic by amplifying the voices of community advocates in HIV treatment and prevention research. It provided a rare opportunity for new advocates to gain knowledge, build capacity, and sharpen skills; for experienced advocates to exchange ideas, craft strategies, and tackle new challenges; and for advocacy networks to recruit new participants and collaborators to strengthen planned or ongoing research advocacy campaigns.

The forum was supported by funding from the Office of AIDS Research (OAR) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and organised by the AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition (ATAC), Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP), Treatment Action Group (TAG), and other co-sponsors. GCM is proud to support efforts to provide skills-building training on ARV-based prevention to these new and seasoned advocates from the HIV-prevention and treatment advocacy field.

-Marc-André LeBlanc

## **Positioning HIV Prevention on the Human Rights Agenda** **29 March 2010, Rosebank, South Africa**

In recognition of South Africa's Human Rights Day, GCM hosted a panel discussion titled, "Positioning HIV Prevention on the Human Rights Agenda" on 29 March in Johannesburg. Nearly 30 stakeholders joined the conversation, including women's rights advocates, prevention researchers, donors, and such development organizations as UNAIDS and World Vision.

This forum generated thought-provoking discussions among government and civil society representatives. Panelists discussed barriers currently preventing—and future actions necessary for—positioning HIV prevention on South Africa's human rights agenda. A central question in this discussion was: "Who holds the power?" Several panelists noted that the current lack of female representation at senior levels in research and political positions could hamper the creation and availability of female prevention tools including microbicides. The fact that men set and enforce the HIV-prevention agenda means that women's unique needs will likely continue to be compromised in the future.



Another key component of the discussion was civil society's role in interfacing between the public and government's prevention agendas. There was shared consensus that the government needs to be responsible, and therefore accountable, for maintaining core components of the national HIV-prevention campaign. However, civil society could play a significant role in educating citizens about what resources are available and in helping them to access these. To prepare for this, civil society should identify and engage with organizations that have mastered the rights-based approach to programming, as well as grassroots health care services organizations that are already providing outreach services, such as education and counseling for HIV, within their communities.

The discussions between the panelists and audience members were fruitful and energizing. Shared points of agreement will inform the larger prevention movement, encouraging efforts by civil society to position HIV prevention on the national human rights agenda, and thus to facilitate access to future prevention tools and technologies for all South Africans.

-Jennifer Walia Staloch

## **Hope Against HIV Video Debut Global**



On 8 March 2010, in honor of International Women's Day, the International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM) and the Population Council officially launched the full-length version of the educational video "**Hope Against HIV: Microbicide Trials in Your Community**," which can be viewed online in five languages at: [www.IPMglobal.org](http://www.IPMglobal.org). It was developed by Population Council and Paw Print Productions with support from IPM and the U.S. Agency for International Development. Input throughout the process was sought from an advisory committee composed of a wide range of microbicide research organizations.

The video was developed to raise awareness about microbicide research in the communities where clinical trials occur. It answers commonly asked questions about microbicides and the clinical trials that take place in Africa and across the globe. "Hope Against HIV: Microbicide Trials in Your Community" uses an interactive question-and-answer format that clearly describes the complex process of developing and testing microbicide rings and gels for HIV prevention.

IPM and the Population Council will be holding a screening of the video at the upcoming Microbicides 2010 conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to [VideoWorkshop@ipmglobal.org](mailto:VideoWorkshop@ipmglobal.org) by 20 May 2010. You can view the video by visiting <http://www.ipmglobal.org/>

## **Kenyan Women's Day Event 6 March 2010, Mombasa, Kenya**

The first meeting was held in celebration of Women's Day on 6 March in Mombasa. GCM partnered with Kenya AIDS NGOs Consortium (KANCO) to reach out to a broad audience of community members. The



primary focus was to gain an understanding of what women are doing to empower the girl child on various reproductive health-related issues. More than 40 participants discussed the challenges that many women, girls—and boys—face each day in safeguarding themselves against STIs, including HIV. Numerous challenges were mentioned, most tracing back to a pervasive lack of female empowerment at all levels of society.

In addition to getting the current pulse of prevention efforts, the event provided a forum for introducing participants to microbicides. Most never heard of a microbicide before and asked many questions related to availability, use, cost, etc. Participants were excited about the potential for such a product and weighed in on how to ensure that a future microbicide is made accessible to those who need it most.

-Jennifer Walia Staloch

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## ***GCM Staff Updates***

### **Staffing Developments**

**Bindiya Patel**, senior operations officer, left GCM after 6 years to take on the senior program officer position with the Tuberculosis team at PATH. We will miss Bindiya's enthusiasm and talents. We wish her the very best and are delighted that she is staying in the PATH family. (see her reflections below)

**Pauline Irungu**, GCM's Kenya Programme Officer, returned from maternity leave in April. (see interview below)

**Stephanie Stuart** joined us as the new program administrator, and her position includes management of overall operations and donor relations and finances. **Melissa May** takes on the new role of director of communications. **Malu Latab** was appointed program associate, providing administrative support to Yasmin Halima and assisting on a range of GCM projects. The most recent arrival is South African office program assistant **Precious Pilane**, who came aboard this month.

### **A moment of reflection, from Bindiya Patel, outgoing operations manager at GCM**

I am sitting at my desk on my last afternoon at the Global Campaign. As I work my way through my email box and my paper files, I am spending most of my time reflecting back on the many people who have taught me so much over the past six years. This field is comprised of people who are determined, who are talented, and who, above all, do not lose hope.

In 2004, we all felt as though we are on the cusp of something big, with the first phase 3 microbicides trials starting up. The center of microbicides advocacy was firmly in the US, and starting to shift. GCM was fostering local coalitions in Chicago, Seattle, Baltimore, Boston, London, New Delhi, and a handful of other cities. Eighty people gathered in an over-crowded room during the Microbicides 2004 conference in London to talk about this idea of African-led advocacy.

As we climbed through the peaks and valleys of the trial results, learned more about the science, and were faced with the challenges of actually undertaking these large-scale trials in the field, the advocates



have changed. The core group of advocates has grown in numbers, has become more sophisticated in its strategies, has shifted its base to the places where the trials are happening, and has increasingly amplified women's voices.

I am so proud to have been a part of this movement, and to have become a Microbicides Lady. I look forward to learning what the new decade will bring.

Many thanks to all of you who have been a part of my journey. I hope to cross paths with you again soon.

-Bindiya

Bindiya Patel has joined PATH's global Tuberculosis team as a senior program officer.

### One-on-one with Pauline Irungu



We welcome back from maternity leave the head of GCM's Kenya office, East Africa Coordinator Pauline Irungu.

Q: Pauline, what have you been up to these past few months?

A: Over the last 4 months, I have been dedicating my time to bringing forth and bringing up a lovely baby girl called Imani. I reported back for work in mid-April and have been concentrating on finalising activities that have been in development.

Q: What projects are you working on right now?

A: I have been organising the following events: a community dialogue in Thika (see story) and one in Mombasa; a civil society training workshop and a site visit in Mombasa; and a media informational meeting with Internews in Nairobi. These activities should be completed before the end of June.

Q: What is coming up the rest of the year that will help strengthen GCM's impact in HIV-prevention research advocacy?



A: The GCM Nairobi office is collaborating with other Kenyan HIV organizations to organise the Kenya Women's Prevention Summit, targeted for September. We shall also be conducting further Prevention Research Literacy Trainings as well as conducting more dialogues with communities in districts hosting clinical trials so that we can identify opportunities for action.

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## ***GCM's Upcoming Activities***

### **GCM at Women Deliver 2010 and Global Health Council 2010 Conference June 2010, Washington, DC, USA**

GCM staff will provide materials and help to staff PATH's exhibit booths at two major international conferences next month:

Women Deliver 2010 will be held in Washington DC on 7-9 June, 2010. On the theme of "Delivering solutions for girls and women," the conference aim is to focus on political, economic, social/cultural, and technological solutions to improve reproductive health.

Global Health Council's Conference—Dateline 2010: Global Health Goals & Metrics—will be held in Washington DC, 14-18 June.

### **GCM at AIDS2010 18 - 23 July 2010, Vienna, Austria**

GCM/PATH and partners will have an important presence at the International AIDS Conference—AIDS 2010—in Vienna, Austria to be held 18-23 July. GCM will be co-hosting booths in the Global Village and the exhibit hall, showcasing study findings through 5 posters, and leading a high profile *Treatment as Prevention AND Treatment for Prevention: Building Synergies Between HIV Prevention and Treatment Research, Policy and Advocacy* satellite meeting, to be held 18 July.

The microbicides community is expecting the results of the CAPRISA 004 study to be announced at the major biennial conference. This was the first late-stage clinical trial of a microbicide candidate containing an ARV. It tested the drug tenofovir in gel form for vaginal use among 900 women in South Africa. GCM's Microbicides Media and Communications Initiative will be connecting trial researchers with many of the field's communications professionals to prepare for the announcement.