



Global Campaign  
FOR Microbicides

## Global Campaign News – Issue #50 March 7, 2005

Welcome to the biweekly *Global Campaign News*! The *Global Campaign News* is a forum for international exchange on microbicide activities and information with an aim to build a more informed and integrated movement for microbicide development and other prevention options against HIV and STDs. This and previous issues of GC News are available online at <http://www.global-campaign.org/gcnews.htm>

---

### In this issue:

*Microbicide Development Act to be introduced on International Women's Day*  
*Announcing new report on female condom from December meeting*  
*Microbicides Film Featured on International Women's Day*  
*New Findings Released at Retroviral Conference*  
*New Model for Informed Consent*  
*Student March Against AIDS in Washington, DC*  
*Job announcement with the Global Campaign in Washington*  
*Presentations available from the HIV Prevention Trials Network Annual Meeting*

---

### Microbicide Development Act to be introduced on International Women's Day North America

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, International Women's Day, Senator Jon Corzine (D-NJ), Senator Barack Obama (D-IL), and Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME) will introduce a new bill into the U.S. Senate--the Microbicide Development Act of 2005. At least nine other senators will also be listed as original co-sponsors of this bill.

One of the most far-sighted anti-HIV measures in years, the Microbicide Development Act would strengthen and accelerate microbicide research and development at the National Institutes of Health, the US Agency for International Development, and the Centers for Disease Control. To learn more about the U.S. legislative advocacy efforts of the Global Campaign and its partners, visit <http://www.global-campaign.org/legislativeadvocacy.htm>

### Announcing new report on female condom from December meeting Global

As a convening partner of the UNAIDS Global Coalition on Women and AIDS (GCWA), as well as part of its own mission to expand prevention options for women, the Global Campaign for Microbicides (GCM) sponsored an experts' consultation in December 2004 to examine barriers and opportunities for increasing access to the female condom. The meeting first sought input from a number of individuals with experience researching, programming, advocating for and/or funding female condom programs, and then dedicated a morning session at the GCM/GCWA partners' meeting to discuss the issues and make recommendations for concrete action strategies.

The main recommendations of the report are to re-orient the public health paradigm of providing people with a range of options, tailoring messages to specific audiences, and helping people reduce their risk, by:

1. Positioning female condom as an integral (not optional) part of HIV prevention, care and treatment strategies--both existing and future.
2. Integrating female condom provision specifically into the expansion of voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) programs accompanying the roll out of antiretroviral therapy (ART) programs, risk reduction counseling for serodiscordant couples, and mother to child transmission (MTCT) programs that identify HIV positive and negative women through perinatal testing.
3. Evaluating the pros and cons of actively promoting re-use of the female condom as a risk-reduction strategy

A short report from the meeting is available at: <http://www.global-campaign.org/clientfiles/FemaleCondomMeeting-Dec2004.pdf> (95 KB PDF)

## **Microbicides Film Featured on International Women's Day Global**

International Women's Day (March 8)-- an occasion marked by women's groups around the world and commemorated at the United Nations--is recognized in many countries as a national holiday. When women on all continents, often divided by national boundaries and by ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic and political differences, come together to celebrate their day, they can look back to a tradition that represents at least nine decades of struggle for equality, justice, peace and development (United Nations Public Information, 1997).

In commemoration of International Women's Day several partners and affiliates of the Global Campaign for Microbicides in Africa, Canada, Europe and the United States will host a screening and discussion of our new film "In Women's Hands." Through these screenings the Campaign hopes to mark both the toll that HIV/AIDS has taken on women as well as the critical role that woman have played in fighting AIDS and advocating for microbicides.

"In Women's Hands" was launched on World AIDS Day 2004 in over 40 sites globally. The Campaign encourages everyone to use the film in a scheduled event or collaborate with partners and organize your own event, such as:

- Theater screenings
- Campus screenings in an auditorium or lecture hall at colleges and universities
- House parties
- Community or agency-based events in agency/NGO venues, churches, or other community gathering spaces
- Events including donors and/or policy makers (e.g., at a local conference center or a theater)

Both a 10- and 26-minute version of the film can now be ordered on the Global Campaign for Microbicides website: [www.global-campaign.org](http://www.global-campaign.org). Copies will be mailed in mid April. In addition to the film, the Global Campaign can provide related fact sheets, presentations, invitation letters, a guide to planning events and a discussion guide for the film.

For more information on the history of International Women's Day go to:

<http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/women/womday97.htm>

<http://www.un.org/events/women/iwd/2004/>

## **New Findings Released at Retroviral Conference Research**

Several studies of interest to microbicide advocates were released in Boston last week at the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI). More information on the conference is available at: <http://www.retroconference.org/2005/Home.htm> Below, we provide short introductions and links to more information (thanks to NAM and aidsmap) about three studies that are particularly relevant to our work.

Pregnancy appears to double the risk of HIV infection

<http://www.aidsmap.com/en/news/2FFFA96F-EF36-42C2-8BBF-8EE2291C75DB.asp?hp=1>

Women are more vulnerable to HIV infection when they are pregnant, with an infection rate more than double that among other women, a study from Uganda has found.

### ***Oral Tenofovir delays but does not prevent HIV in rhesus monkeys exposed rectally***

<http://www.aidsmap.com/en/news/F4EFF025-193B-4459-B3FC-AA5BD7096C71.asp>

Five studies are underway in Africa, Asia and the United States to test the safety and potential effectiveness of using tenofovir (an existing drug used to treat HIV infected individuals) as a "once a day" pill to prevent HIV infection in uninfected individuals. The rationale for these studies was earlier research that demonstrated the ability of Tenofovir to protect macaque monkeys from infection after vaginal exposure to simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV), a virus commonly used in monkey research to model HIV infection in humans.

The new findings reported at CROI are based on a different animal model and a different route of exposure. The first study showed protection against a single massive dose of SIV in macaques when delivered *vaginally*. The new study examines protection in rhesus monkeys following repeated, low dose *rectal* exposure of SHIV. Scientists do not know which model is better or whether either model accurately predicts HIV protection in human beings.

### ***D for death, not A B or C, is main cause of decline in Ugandan HIV prevalence***

<http://www.aidsmap.com/en/news/269D81D6-FDC2-4745-B6BC-76CA718B2217.asp?hp=1>

Mortality, not behavior change, is the main cause of the decline in HIV prevalence seen in Uganda during the last decade, a study from the Rakai district suggests.

## **New Model for Informed Consent**

### **Global**

How to ensure that participation in prevention trials is truly voluntary and fully informed, is an on-going challenge for all prevention research. A recent article by Cynthia Woodson in the *American Journal of Public Health*, proposes an enhanced framework for informed consent, drawing on experiences garnered from domestic and international trials conducted as part of the HIV Prevention Trials Network. To download a copy of the article, go to: <http://www.global-campaign.org/clientfiles/ajph-woodson-2005.pdf>

## **Student March Against AIDS in Washington, DC**

### **North America**

On February 26th, thousands of American students and youth rallied together in Washington DC, in collaboration with thousands of youth around the world as a part of Youth AIDS Day, a global day of youth action to end AIDS.



The Student Global AIDS Campaign (SGAC), in partnership with Africa Action and Advocates for Youth, organized the largest youth march and rally in US history in order to confront one of the greatest problems our world faces today. Their demands were:

- Fully Fund the Global Fund
- Prevention Guided by Science, Not Politics
- Debt Cancellation
- Full funding and reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act
- Guaranteed Access to Affordable and Effective Health Care and Treatment

The following day, SGAC organized the Youth Summit on Ending AIDS that involved a series of workshops and trainings run by students and Washington based advocacy organizations. The mission of the summit was to educate students about AIDS issues as well as to train them for advocacy on their own campuses. More information on both the March and Summit is available at [www.studentaidsmarch.org](http://www.studentaidsmarch.org)

The Global Campaign for Microbicides participated in the summit by presenting an hour-long workshop, which was led by Bindiya Patel of GCM and Erin McDonnell of St. Michael's College.

## **Job announcement with the Global Campaign in Washington**

### **North America**

The Global Campaign for Microbicides is seeking a financial and administrative manager to join our team as a project administrator, working out of our Washington D.C. office. The duties and responsibilities will include:

- Independently manage and monitor administrative, contractual, and financial activities
- Liaise with donors and prime contractors, partners, collaborators, seconded staff, and consultants on administrative, contractual, and financial matters
- Support team productivity by implementing processes that foster clear communication, enhance internal organization and track timely completion of work plan components

Qualifications include:

- Minimum four years experience in financial and administrative management
- Experience designing and implementing project coordination systems
- Demonstrated experience with government/USAID or other international donor contracts and agreements
- Demonstrated financial management and budgeting skills required

For a full job description and to apply, click on: Job #1597 at: <http://www.path.org/about/jobs.php>

## **Presentations available from the HIV Prevention Trials Network Annual Meeting Global**

The HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) annual meeting took place from February 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> in Washington DC with participants including HIV Prevention Trails Unit Principal Investigators, Investigators of Record, QA/QC staff, study and site coordinators, data manager, lab managers/coordinators, community advisory board representatives, community educators, pharmacy staff, financial administrators, IRB administrator, and staff from the HPTN central leadership. Throughout the week, the meeting included:

- An overview of the current and future HPTN scientific agenda and priorities
- Highlights of science results that relate to HPTN research priorities
- Highlights of HPTN study designs
- Interchange among members of HPTN protocol teams and working groups
- Training sessions on research ethics for study staff and community representatives, Good Clinical Practices, IRB administration, site operations and management, laboratory, data, and pharmacy study activities
- Community advisory board and community educator forums
- Scientific Working Groups
- Protocol team meetings

Presentations from the annual meeting are now available at [http://www.hptn.org/network\\_information/AnnualMeeting2005.htm](http://www.hptn.org/network_information/AnnualMeeting2005.htm)

---

We welcome your input and contributions for future issues!

Correspondence can be addressed to [info@global-campaign.org](mailto:info@global-campaign.org).

If you would like to unsubscribe to the Global Campaign News, please reply to this e-mail with the subject line: UNSUBSCRIBE.