



Global Campaign
FOR Microbicides

Global Campaign News – Issue #51 March 31, 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>

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New resources and analysis on the Oral Tenofovir Trials

Global

Dialogue surrounding oral Tenofovir trials continues around the world. Below, you will find links to three new pieces of writing about these trials from the Nigerian HIV Vaccine and Microbicide Advocacy Group (NHVMAG), the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC) and the Lancet.

NHVMAG Report: This impressive report documents the Nigerian HIV Vaccine and Microbicide Advocacy Group's (NHVMAG) experience in articulating, analyzing, and seeking resolution of questions and concerns related to the tenofovir trials. In an environment of escalating tensions and conflicting information, NHVMAG is examining the issues critically, and developing recommendations for moving forward that are firmly grounded in their local analysis. While the Nigerian TDF trial has now been suspended, apparently due to technical rather than ethical concerns, the contribution of NHVMAG to the debate and to the dialogue between community and researchers continues. You can download a copy of NHVMAG's report at: <http://www.global-campaign.org/clientfiles/TDF-NHVMAG.pdf>

AVAC Report: The new AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (AVAC) report, "Will a Pill a Day Prevent HIV? Anticipating the Results of the Tenofovir "PREP" Trials," examines the issues surrounding the tenofovir trials and makes recommendations for ensuring that trials are carried out ethically and that provisions are made for dealing with the results of the trials when they are available. The report also calls for more concerted coordination and advance planning to accelerate evaluation, licensing and access to PREP. The report is available online at www.avac.org and in print upon request from avac@avac.org.

In the Lancet: In an editorial entitled, "The trials of Tenofovir trials", the Lancet editors provide a quick synopsis of the status of oral Tenofovir trials and then go on to discuss ethical guidelines surrounding the trials and the need for community involvement. The article is available at: <http://www.global-campaign.org/clientfiles/TDF-Lancet.pdf>

UK NGOs launch e-campaign on microbicides

Europe

Three British NGOs with diverse missions have teamed up to raise awareness of microbicides among British politicians as they gear up for the national election. The Terrence Higgins Trust (THT), Interact Worldwide and the National AIDS Trust are leading members of the UK Campaign for Microbicides. In its first week the campaign has

generated 200 responses from UK campaign supporters, the national network of THT campaigners and British members of the National Union of Students (NUS).

The campaign was launched on 2nd March with some 10,000 registered THT and NUS campaigners were invited to send a personalised letter to their MP: “We believe that in 2005 the UK Government should use its leadership position in the EU and the G8 group of countries to secure increased resources from the European Union and its member states for the microbicides field to ensure that a safe, affordable and effective microbicide is found”. Visitors to the e-campaign site (see url below) are also encouraged to learn more about microbicides and sign the online petition at the website of the Global Campaign for Microbicides.

The UK Campaign for Microbicides was established in September 2002 by the National AIDS Trust, IFH (now closed) and THT as a coalition of British-based NGOs working towards widespread global access and use of microbicides. As of January, Interact Worldwide is now hosting the UK Campaign. Interact has worked for over 30 years to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights, including in relation to HIV/AIDS, in developing countries. Interact provides technical, management and advocacy expertise, funding and network linkages with organisations in Africa, Asia and Latin America & the Caribbean, including the Africa Microbicides Advocacy Group (AMAG).

British readers of GC News are urged to join the e-campaign by visiting:
http://www.advocacyonline.net/tht/mar05/content_camp_micro.jsp

For more information about the UK Campaign and how to get involved, please contact Suzanne Church:
churchs@interactworldwide.org

Preliminary Estimates of Global Investment in Microbicide and Vaccine R&D

Global

New estimates from the *HIV Vaccines and Microbicides Resources Tracking Working Group* put the total global investment in microbicides in 2004 at **\$140 million**, of which approximately **\$2.8 million** went to support policy, advocacy, and resource mobilization. Total global investment in HIV vaccines totaled \$616 million in 2004. Total microbicide funding from the public and philanthropic sectors increased more than two fold between 2000 and 2004. In 2004, the public sector accounted for about 85% of total investment in microbicide R&D. These estimates are based on preliminary data. Final results of this project—which will include commitment figures for 2005, investment levels by the private sector and information on expenditures by stage of product development will be available in April 2005. The preliminary report can be downloaded at: <http://www.global-campaign.org/clientfiles/Investment-Preliminary-March05.pdf>

Global Campaign Annual Report Available On-Line!

Global

The Global Campaign Update Report for 2003-2004 is now available. This report details the collective accomplishments of our global network over the past two years. Together with our many partners, we have:

- Sponsored a major consultation on ethical issues in the clinical testing of microbicides
- Rapidly expanded microbicide advocacy across the continent of Europe and opened an office in Brussels
- Developed and launched a film on microbicides, entitled “In Women’s Hands”, and a museum-quality traveling exhibit, entitled: Giving Women Power over AIDS.
- Contributed significantly to the tripling of US government investment in microbicide research that has occurred over the last four years. In FY 2005, the United States’ annual federal investment in microbicides will exceed \$100 million US for the first time.
- Supported the emergence of the Africa Microbicide Advocacy Group, an independent, Africa-led network of microbicide advocates and researchers.

To learn more about these and other activities of the campaign, download the report as: <http://www.global-campaign.org/clientfiles/GCM2004-AnnualReport.pdf>

Invitation to join electronic discussion group on female condom advocacy

Global

As part of the outcomes from Global Campaign for Microbicides and Global Coalition on Women and AIDS Female Condom Experts Meeting in December 2004, the Global Campaign will be facilitating an electronic discussion group about female condom advocacy. (More information available at: http://www.global-campaign.org/prevention_options.htm) The purpose of the discussion is to share perspectives and input on opportunities and strategies for expanding access to female condoms. To join the list, visit <http://groups-beta.google.com/group/femalecondom>

We look forward to lively, provocative, and frank discussion in this group- but it depends on the participants to make it useful. Please forward this invitation to others whom you think would be interested.

GCM Welcomes New Program Assistant!

North America

The Global Campaign is very happy to announce the latest addition to our team in Washington. As our new program assistant, Katie West will be a critical part of our information dissemination to partners around the world. She will be distributing Global Campaign resources like our series of fact sheets, maintaining our database of contacts, updating our website, and providing key administrative support to our team.

Katie has held several positions related to reproductive health issues. As the International Project Assistant for the Reproductive Health Initiative, a project of the American Medical Women's Association, she assisted with the planning, implementation, and promotion of the project, including the development of publications and resources for use by medical students and faculty in developing countries. She also served as a counselor and clinical assistant at Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington and as an Emergency Contraception Specialist and clinical assistant at Planned Parenthood of Central North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Katie also worked for Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch in Washington, D.C., first as a Legislative Assistant and then as a Field Organizer and Internship Coordinator. Katie has a BA degree in International Studies from the University of Washington and a Certificate in Documentary Photography and Documentary Studies from Duke University.

2nd Canadian Microbicides Symposium: Advancing HIV Prevention

North America

As part of International Women's Week, on March 10-11, the Canadian AIDS Society organized the *2nd Canadian Microbicides Symposium: Advancing HIV Prevention*, in Ottawa. The goal of the Symposium was to build commitment for multisectoral contributions to microbicides from Canada, by defining what each sector (government, community, research, private sector) could contribute to the microbicide field, domestically and globally.

At the opening reception, attended by Symposium participants and several other guests from government and community, the Honorable Aileen Carroll, Canada's federal Minister of International Cooperation, made an impassioned speech about the importance of microbicides for HIV prevention among women, and the key role Canada could play.

Following brief presentations and responses from Dr. Oguda from the IPM, Marc-André LeBlanc from MAG-Net, Manju Chatani from the African Microbicides Advocacy Group (AMAG), Anna Forbes from the Global Campaign, Louise Binder from the Canadian Treatment Action Council, and Gail Steckley from Health Canada (International Affairs Directorate), the 35 participants from across Canada and across sectors developed outlines of sector-specific action plans, and agreed to develop a Steering Committee to continue the work of further developing a comprehensive multi-sectoral action plan.

The event was co-organized by ten community organizations and government agencies: Canadian AIDS Society (CAS) on behalf of the Microbicides Advocacy Group Network (MAG-Net), Action Canada for Population and Development (ACPD), Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR), Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Global Campaign for Microbicides (GCM), Health

Canada (HC), Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development (ICAD), International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM), and Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). The event was sponsored by CIHR, CIDA, GlaxoSmithKline in partnership with Shire BioChem, HC, IPM and PHAC.

Exhibit Tours Georgia and Connecticut this spring North America



The Georgia Campaign for Microbicides worked with partners in and around Atlanta to host the *Giving Women Power Over AIDS* exhibit at six different sites in the month of March. Most notable was an evening launch of the exhibit at the Morehouse School of Medicine, Center for Primary Care, with guest speakers including Dr. David Satcher, the former U.S. Surgeon General and currently interim president of the Morehouse School of Medicine. Faith-based communities learned more about women, AIDS and microbicides at events at the Nacoochee Presbyterian Church and the Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta (picture).

The exhibit was also featured at the African American Outreach Initiative, a weekend event that is attended by hundreds of HIV positive African American men and women around Atlanta. Finally, two universities hosted events at around Atlanta – the Georgia State University Women's Studies Department as well as Emory University Rollins School of Public Health. Many thanks to our advocates and partners in the state of Georgia for their leadership in organizing these events, including: Terri Wilder, Chris Thrasher, Shannon Shelton, Rev. Bob Primm, Antoinette Barnes, Guy Pujol, and Susan Talburt.

In April, the Connecticut Microbicides NOW! Coalition will be working with partners throughout the state of Connecticut for the following events.

April 1: June Baker Higgins Gender studies conference, 12:00-6:00 pm CCSU.

April 2: 17th Annual conference on Women and Gender, 8:30-6:00pm UCONN, Storrs.

April 4-7: Yale University, Harkness Ballroom including two receptions and a musical performance

April 20: AIDS Awareness Day, 10:00-3:00 pm State Capitol Building, North Lobby of the Capitol, Hartford.

April 22: CIRA AIDS Science Day, 9:00-4:00 pm. Omni Hotel, New Haven.

April 26-28: Institute for Community Research (ICR) including a Reception and panel discussion and then a lunch and lecture

For more information please contact: CT AIDS Education and Training Center at www.caetc.yale.edu
Email: caetc@yale.edu, Phone: (203) 737-2312

Microbicides at Beijing +10 Global

A review and appraisal of the implementation of the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#) adopted at the [Fourth World Conference on Women](#) (Beijing, 1995), and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000), took place in New York from 28 February to 11 March 2005. For more information on what has been tagged "Beijing + 10", visit the official UN website: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/Review/>

The Global Campaign and International Planned Parenthood Federation hosted a joint screening of the film on March 7, as a side event for delegates to the Beijing +10 update conference hosted by the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. The event, held in New York City as part of a wide array of Beijing+10-associated events and meetings, attracted a highly diverse audience of international delegates and other NGO participants. Jane Galvao of IPPF and Global Campaign staffer Anna Forbes facilitated the post-screening discussion during which many participants expressed interest in obtaining copies of the film (now available on-line at www.global-campaign.org/film.htm) for use in their own countries.

We welcome your input and contributions for future issues!

Correspondence can be addressed to info@global-campaign.org.

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