



Global Campaign News – Issue #77 5 March 2007

Welcome to the *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 other sexually transmitted infections. This and previous issues of *GC News* are available online at <http://www.global-campaign.org/gcarchives.htm>

In this issue:

Funding news

European Commission commits €4.2 million to IPM – thanks to advocacy efforts

Advocacy in action

Announcing the launch of S4M: Students for Microbicides
123 organizations send message on microbicides to U.S. Congress
Global Campaign welcomes to Sean Philpott as new Policy and Ethics Officer
Portland, Oregon and southern Washington host the microbicides exhibit

New Resources

GCM Resource Highlight: New easy to read brochure!
Factsheets about women and microbicides for International Women's Day

Funding news

European Commission commits €4.2 million – thanks to advocacy efforts Europe

In the second of two grants to the International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM), the European Commission (EC) has signaled its strong support for microbicides. The €4.2 million grant expands upon the Commission's existing support for microbicides with a strong focus on engaging communities in clinical trials.

The grant will be provided over a three-year period from 2007-2009 and will fund the development of up to eight clinical trial sites in Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa and Zimbabwe. As part of the project, the Belgium-based Institute of Tropical Medicine will provide clinical laboratory training for the development of sites in Africa. IPM will provide additional funds, thus bringing the total project cost to €5.25 million. In addition to clinical capacity development, the grant will seek to build community participation in clinical trials and work with national regulatory agencies to help lay the groundwork for future access to safe and effective microbicides.

“Women in developing countries require an increased array of HIV-prevention options they can initiate,” said Dr. Lieve Fransen, Head of Human and Social Development for the European Commission's Directorate General of Development. “We believe IPM is well positioned to accelerate the development of microbicides for women by working collaboratively with communities, researchers and government regulatory agencies in the developing world.”

The Global Campaign heartily congratulates Dr. Fransen on her impressive leadership and our European NGO partners on their active, creative and dedicated advocacy which clearly contributed to the EC's expanded commitment to microbicides. The accomplishment stands as yet another example of the ability of the very different advocacy strategies implemented by IPM and the GCM to dovetail effectively -- giving rise to expanding political demand in Europe for development of new HIV prevention tools, especially for women. Political will drives

political action, as witnessed by the fact that investment by European governments (collectively and individually) now totals over €130 million.

In addition to the EC contribution, this total includes national contributions from Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Germany, France and Belgium. The Global Campaign is delighted, but not at all surprised, to note the congruence between this list and the list of countries in which Global Campaign Europe's NGO partners have been actively engaged in building political support for microbicide research and development. For a full listing of our European partners and endorsers, please see <http://www.global-campaign.org/Europeanpartners.htm>.

Advocacy in action

Announcing the launch of S4M: Students for Microbicides

Global

The Global Campaign has a new student advocacy affiliate--S4M: Students for Microbicides! S4M mobilizes students from all disciplines and from all parts of the world to advocate for the development of a safe and effective microbicide. The S4M website has been launched in time for International Women's Day and can be found at www.global-campaign.org/S4M.htm.



S4M provides resources to existing student groups around the world—enabling them to teach others about microbicides or even establish S4M chapters. S4M's advocacy tactics include presentations, distribution of materials at tables, film screenings, and other

creative initiatives to educate students about the need for more HIV prevention options. Currently, there are S4M chapters at Wesleyan University in Connecticut, U.S. and Saint Michael's College in Vermont, U.S., and we are reaching out to students in the UK and South Africa.

In honor of International Women's Day (on March) and the U.S. National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (on 10 March), S4M is encouraging groups to host a screening of the Global Campaign's film, "In Women's Hands" to demonstrate the importance of a microbicide to the empowerment of women around the world. The S4M website provides a campus organizing toolbox, along with other materials, that make organizing this event easy. Check out the website to find out more and see what other student events are coming up at <http://www.global-campaign.org/upcoming-s4m-events.htm>.

For more information, to join the S4M listserv, or to join us in supporting student advocacy, email Leah Katz at S4M@global-campaign.org

123 organizations send message on microbicides to U.S. Congress

North America

On 12 February, 123 U.S. based organizations submitted a letter to leading Senators and Representatives in the U.S. Congress in support of the Microbicide Development Act. The Act, which is expected to be introduced in the coming months, would authorize the U.S. federal government to strengthen coordination and funding of its microbicide development effort. The full letter including sign-ons is available at our U.S. legislative action center at www.global-campaign.org/legislativeadvocacy.htm. There, you can find factsheets and letters you can tailor for your community, a "write to Congress" section where advocates can send emails in support of the MDA, and of course, updates on any legislative developments.

The endorsement letter will remain "open" on the website, so that other groups can sign on over the next few months. Please direct any additional endorsements, potential endorsers, or questions to bpatel@global-campaign.org. Many thanks to the groups who joined the Global Campaign in this letter. We look forward to working with you in the coming year to get the Microbicide Development Act passed!

Global Campaign welcomes Sean Philpott as new Policy and Ethics Officer North America

The Global Campaign for Microbicides invites you to join us in welcoming the newest addition to our staff, Sean Philpott. Sean will guide and help to implement the Global Campaign's work related to ethics, access and policy advocacy.

Sean has a Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of California at Berkeley and a Masters in bioethics from the Alden March Bioethics Institute (AMBI). Most recently he has been an Associate Professor of Medicine at Albany Medical College and Adjunct Professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences of the University at Albany School of Public Health. He has also been serving as the Associate Director of AMBI and is the Executive Editor of its award-winning journal *The American Journal of Bioethics*.

Prior to these positions, he was a tenured Research Scientist (Assoc. Research Professor) in the Department of Infectious Disease at the New York State Department of Health. We are certain that Sean will bring a new level of energy and expertise to the Global Campaign's commitment to and work on issues of policy advocacy and ethics of clinical trials. Sean will be based in the secretariat's Washington, D.C. office and can be reached at: sphilpott@path.org

Portland, Oregon and southern Washington host the microbicides exhibit North America

The "Giving Women Power Over AIDS" traveling exhibit drew several hundred viewers in the Portland, Oregon metropolitan area from 7-15 February. A local group, Friends of PATH—Portland Metro Chapter, which formed to bring the exhibit to the region and to support the global health work of PATH, was successful in recruiting twenty local partner organizations to help publicize the exhibit and invite their members to a special reception for the exhibit. Columbia Sportswear Company, Portland General Electric, PATH, and the Global Campaign for Microbicides joined Friends of PATH in sponsoring the exhibit.

The largest crowds came to see the exhibit during its four days at Portland State University. At a reception in Vancouver, Washington, where the exhibit was on display for a day, many community members gathered to hear three speakers talk about the issues facing women in the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the promise of microbicides.



Speakers and Friends of PATH members

The exhibit then spent three days at the World Trade Center in Portland, due to the generosity of Portland General Electric. A reception at this venue brought together about 150 guests to view the exhibit and hear four speakers: Dr. Christopher Elias, President of PATH; Jessica Cohen, Coordinator of the Northwest Microbicides Coalition; Paula Bock, The Seattle Times reporter who wrote the story "In Her Mother's Shoes" that led to the creation of the exhibit; and Dr. Heidi Printz from Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) who manages microbicide trials through the Women's Health Research Unit at OHSU. Columbia Sportswear Company executives at the reception invited Friends of PATH to bring the exhibit to the company's headquarters for its 600 employees to view, thus extending

The exhibit's message was embraced by the Portland metro area...a local cable television station broadcast the speeches, interviews with the speakers, and a panel discussion. Also, one of the partners of Friends of PATH is now calling for a follow-up educational forum on microbicides for HIV/AIDS workers in the region. The Global Campaign thanks the sponsors and most of all, Friends of PATH, Portland Metro Chapter for their hard work in organizing these fabulous events!

New Resources

GCM Resource Highlight:

New easy-to-read brochure! Factsheets about women and microbicides for International Women's Day

On Thursday 8 March 2007, people around the world will commemorate International Women's Day – a day to celebrate the economic, political and social achievements of women. As you plan activities for your celebrations this week, please take a moment to consider how you might incorporate information about microbicides and other prevention methods into your plans. One easy way may be to quote from, or distribute, Global Campaign materials focused on women's needs and concerns.

We are pleased to introduce an updated version of the Campaign's easy-to-read (low literacy) brochure, beautifully re-designed by Kiesha McCurtis. With minimal text and increased visual content, this piece is designed to appeal particularly to people with limited interest in, or capacity for, reading. It is currently available in English, but translated versions will be forthcoming. You are welcome to download the new brochure at <http://www.global-campaign.org/USdownload.htm#public>. The following Global Campaign fact sheets, also recently updated, may be of particular interest to audiences on 8 March. These are available in English, Spanish, French and Russian at www.global-campaign.org/download.htm

Factsheet 4 - Gender Equality

Factsheet 7 - HIV Positive Women

Factsheet 10 - Violence, HIV and Microbicides

Factsheet 11 - Reproductive Rights

Factsheet 20 - African American women and microbicides

Learn more about International Women's Day at: <http://www.internationalwomensday.com/> and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Women's_Day

We welcome your input and contributions for future issues! Please send emails to: 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