Inside the Core
Penn CFAR Behavioral Social Sciences Core

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Visit us on the web:
www.uphs.upenn.edu/aids/cores/bssc/bsscmain.htm

SBSRN

On October 6-8, 2010 the 5th National Scientific Meeting of the SBSRN convened in Atlanta, GA. Penn BSS Co-Director Michael Blank, mentee Kamila Alexander, and CAB Chair, Waheeda Shabazz-El were in attendance. Mentoring the next generation of researchers began immediately with a day dedicated to demystifying the grant review process and research development.

The scientific meeting was devoted to presentations that reflected the overarching theme of the meeting, “Translational Research to Reduce Disparities in HIV” the talks included four key areas 1. Translational Initiatives - Kevin Fenton, MD, PhD, FFPH (CDC), Russ Glasgow, PhD (NCI), Christopher Gordon, PhD (NIMH); 2. Technology as a Dissemination Strategy- Marguerita Lightfoot, PhD (University of California, San Francisco), Simon Rosser, PhD, MPH (University of Minnesota), Patrick Sullivan, PhD, DVM (Emory University); 3. HIV Prevention Translation: Local, National and Global-Scott Rhodes, PhD, MPH, CHES (Wake Forest University), Greg Millet, MPH (Office of National AIDS Policy, The White House); 4. Novel Dissemination Venues- Susan Allen, MD, MPH, DTM&H (Emory University), Loretta Jemmott, PhD, FAAN, RN (University of Pennsylvania), Josiah Rich, MD, MPH,( Brown University).

The meeting also had a Keynote Address -Sten Vermund, MD, PhD (Vanderbilt University); NIH Research Priorities for Translational Research- Carl Dieffenbach, PhD (NIAIDS); Pernary Perspective: Translating Research into Policy -Michael Blank, PhD (University of Pennsylvania), Ellen Stover, PhD (NIMH); and Closing Keynote Address: Recent Advances in Biomedical HIV Prevention: Translating Research into Practice- Carlos del Rio, MD, MPH ( Emory University).

Protocols to Watch

- Gender, Migration, & HIV Risk among Hispanics (E. Parrado). Contact: (215) 662-3557
- Efficacy of Drug-HIV counseling among IDU at Methadone clinics in Jakarta (D. Metzger) Contact (215) 746-7346
- Functional MRI of Brain Response to HIV Prevention Public Service Announcement (D. Langleben) - Contact: (215) 222-3200
- Teach Inside Teach Outside (TITO). (J. Draine) Contact: (215) 349-8710

State of Emergency

Activists, Researchers, Policymakers, community members, and others all gather in City Hall this past October to testify about the status of HIV/AIDS in Philadelphia and the efforts to arrest an illness that affects 19,000 residents directly and countless others indirectly. Councilwoman Marian Tasco, 2010 CFAR Red Ribbon Award Honoree, convened this hearing like the one convened a decade ago by past Red Ribbon Award Recipient, Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell. The hope is that the outcome will be slightly different. That the hearing in late October will be the clarion call to put more dollars in the hardest affected areas in the city, where people question whether or not AIDS is still a problem. The hope is that more young people will hear in their classrooms and in their communities the dangers of HIV and then heed the warnings. The hope is that stigma and shame will no longer exist and people will get tested and treated. The hope is that the decline in new AIDS cases that Health Commissioner Schwartz alluded to in his testimony will continue. The hope is that we no longer live in a state of emergency.
Network Re-competition & Restructuring

Where to find

- Assessment Tools
  http://www.uphs.upenn.edu/aids/cores/bssc/assessment.htm

- Office of Research Services
  to promote the research endeavors at Penn
  http://www.upenn.edu/researchservices/

- NIH RePORTER - searchable database of federally funded biomedical research projects. http://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter.cfm (replaces CRISP)

- Information regarding the re-competition and restructuring can be found at http://www.niaid.nih.gov/topics/HIVAIDS/Research/Pages/2013NetworkRestructuring.aspx

- To post comments about DAIDS future research agenda please visit http://blog.aids.gov/2010/06/future-priorities-for-DAIDS-hiv-prevention-research.html

Tell us what you think!
1. How can the BSS Core improve to meet your needs?
2. Have you used the new software library? Was the process easy to navigate? Was it adequate technical support?
All responses can be emailed to: Tiffany B. Dominique at tybrown@mail.med.upenn.edu

In the Community

The CFAR CAB is excited to host the Seventh Annual Red Ribbon Awards on Dec. 1, 2010 in City Hall's Conversation Hall from 5pm-7pm. This year’s honorees include: Dr. F. Nicholas Ifft (Philadelphia FIGHT); Ivan Juzang (MEE Productions) and Councilwoman Marian Tasco (Philadelphia City Council). The keynote address will be done by Columbia University’s, Dr. Robert Fullilove. Again the CFAR CAB has partnered with the Philadelphia School District as youth contribute the artwork and calendars commemorating the fight in HIV. There are a few surprises in store so come out and join us on World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, 2010

Big Ups!
- Anne Teitelman had her 1st publication from CFAR pilot and K award data.
- Jerilynn Radcliffe published 2 articles on stigma & trauma of YMSM.
- Daniel Langeleben & Daniel Romer have been awarded supplemental funding for work originating from CFAR pilot.

What’s on your IPOD?
1. Man in the Mirror—Michael Jackson (what can I say I’m one of the ones increasing record sales since his death)
2. I’m still Standing—Elton John (If you need an HIV theme song here you go besides Shaft is taken)
3. Favorite Girl—Justin Bieber (yes I have Bieber fever and I know I’m your favorite girl)
4. Children’s Corner—Debussy (in honor of harvest season as some feel as if they have been relegated to the Children’s corner or need to send others there)
5. Speak Softly, Love—Andy Williams (I love Godfather trivia ..it is the theme song for the movie)
6. This is My Story, This is My Song—Thelonious Monk (Everyone has a story, what’s yours?)

Currently there are six networks: (1) AIDs Clinical Trials Group (ACTG): Optimizing clinical management of HIV/AIDS including, co-infections and other HIV-related conditions, and conducting translational research for new drug development; (2) HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN): Evaluating non-vaccine HIV prevention strategies; (3) HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN): Evaluating preventive HIV vaccines; (4) International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials (IMPAACT): Preventing mother to child transmission of HIV, optimizing clinical management of HIV, including co-morbidities and other HIV-related conditions in children, adolescents and pregnant women; (5) International Network for Strategic Initiatives in Global HIV Trials (INSIGHT): Optimizing clinical management of HIV/AIDS, including co-infections and other HIV-related conditions and (6) Microbicide Trials Network (MTN): Evaluating microbicides for HIV prevention

Discussions regarding the network restructuring will continue over the next several months. One restructuring possibility proposes the following six leadership groups: Funded through the Division of AIDS (DAIDS): (1) Prevention Network (to include Phase III PrEP trials); (2) Vaccine Network; (3) Therapy Network; 4) Microbicides and PrEP (developmental activity) Network; (5) Pregnant Women and Children Network; and Funded through the Department of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (DMID): (6) Non-AIDS Infectious Disease Network which would utilize the clinical trial units for non-AIDS related research. Over the next several weeks, NIAID will post a series of entries on AIDS.gov related to planning for the future of NIAID’s HIV/AIDS clinical trial networks. The awards supporting the six current HIV/AIDS network leadership awards are set to expire in 2013 and 2014 for the CTUs.

NIAID is looking to expand the scope of the networks’ current activities to include the treatment and prevention of other infectious diseases of significance to people who are infected with HIV or are at risk for infection both domestically and globally, namely tuberculosis, hepatitis, and malaria. Additionally, they are looking for ways to increase collaboration across the networks, create transparent mechanisms for network leadership to solicit and support ideas from the research community, and develop a means for external researchers to tap into the clinical trial infrastructure and capacity that the network system provides. NIAIDS ultimate goal is to have each of the networks establish a means of designing and implementing a cross-network agenda to address research questions related to specific populations. NIAID will be asking specific questions designed to invite comment that will help shape the clinical trial networks.