Kiev, Ukraine
Drs. Woody and Dmitry Lioznov, Infectious Disease specialist at Pavlov State Medical University in St. Petersburg, Russia, presented results of the studies on the spread of HIV in St. Petersburg and the Leningrad Region, and naltrexone for presenting relapse to heroin addiction and HIV risk behavior at a meeting in Kiev, Ukraine at a meeting sponsored by NIDA and the U.S. Civilian Research & Development Foundation during the week of April 17. The meeting was attended by physicians from a number of former Soviet States and the focus was on developing studies and interventions to reduce the spread of HIV and other infectious diseases by expanding and improving current approaches to drug abuse treatment. The meeting was timely in that after a very long series of delays, the import license for methadone was signed and a consignment of methadone that is sufficient to treat about 3000 patients over the next year cleared Ukrainian customs so that is now available to be used in the medication assisted treatment infrastructure that is being put in place in Ukraine.

American Psychiatric Association
Annual Meeting May 5-7, 2008
On May 5, Drs. Petra Jacobs and George Woody co-chaired a symposium entitled "Diagnosis and Treatment of Adolescents/Young Adults with Substance Use Disorder" at the annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association. Presentations were made by Drs. Oscar Bukstein from the Appalachian-Tri-State Node, Geetha Subramaniam from the Mid-Atlantic Node, Ramon Solikhah from the Long Island Regional Node, Michael Robbins from the Florida Node, and Dr. Woody from Delaware Valley. The symposium was well-attended and the audience asked many questions, which is usually an expression of interest in the topic.

Regulatory Q & A
Question: What records should investigators keep, and for how long?

Answer: The HHS protection of human subjects regulations require institutions to retain records of IRB activities and certain other records frequently held by investigators for at least three years after completion of the research (45 CFR 46.115(b)). In addition, other regulations may apply and require retention of these records for a longer period of time. Documentation of the informed consent of the subjects - either the signed informed consent form or the short form and the written research summary - are records related to conducted research that are typically held by investigators and must be retained for at least three years after completion of the research, unless the IRB waived the requirement for informed consent or the requirement for documentation of informed consent (45 CFR 46.117).

If investigators have been designated to retain certain records (e.g., informed consent documents signed by subjects) on behalf of the institution as required by the HHS regulations at 45 CFR 46.115(b), they must retain the records in some form. Such records may be preserved in hardcopy, electronic or other media form and must be accessible for inspection and copying by authorized representatives of HHS at reasonable times and in a reasonable manner (45 CFR 46.115(b)). Retention of multiple copies of each record is not required. Investigators should follow the institution’s policies and procedures for retaining records. If investigators who have been designated to retain records on behalf of the institution leave that institution, the investigators and the institution should identify the successor responsible for maintaining those institutional records, either at the original institution or wherever the records are relocated, for the period of time required under HHS regulations at 45 CFR 46.115(b). Taken from www.hhs.gov
The 14th Annual AIDS Education Month is here. Sponsored by Philadelphia Fight, 1233 Locust Street, 5th Floor, Phila., PA 19107. 215-985-4448.

This year’s theme is Prevention: because this is still the only way to stop the spread of HIV; Treatment: because HIV is NOT a death sentence; Justice: because HIV is caused by a virus, but the epidemic is caused by poverty, injustice, and despair.

The Opening Reception
Date: Tuesday, June 3, 2008
Time: 5:30PM - 7:30PM
Location: The Crystal Ballroom of the Radisson Plaza Warwick Hotel
Address: 1701 Locust Street, Philadelphia

Let’s celebrate the start of AIDS Education Month! Please join us for hors d’oeuvres, jazz, great conversation, and the presentation of the annual Kiyoshi Kuromiya awards! The 2008 recipients are:

ACT UP Philadelphia: For 20 years of fighting to end the AIDS epidemic through direct action.

Leon King: Former Philadelphia Prison Commissioner, for his commitment to the health and safety of all individuals living behind bars.

Go to http://www.fight.org/aem/calendar.php to register and for a complete list of events for the month of June.

All events are free and open to the public. Advance registration is required.

From Dr. Susan Gordon on Eating Disorders. Presented at APA Meeting, May 5-7, 2008, Washington, DC; Sue will also be presenting this at CPDD in June.

How do Publicly-funded Addiction Treatment Programs Address Co-occurring Eating Disorders?
One of the benefits of being part of the CTN is introduction and access to major researchers in the addiction field. When the Gender Special Interest Group began to discuss the issue of eating disorders and addiction, one of our first questions was “how do addiction programs address co-occurring eating disorders?” Fortunately, Dr. Paul Roman from the University of Georgia, who was familiar to us through his study of the CTN clinical treatment programs, was conducting a longitudinal study of addiction treatment programs. He graciously agreed to add some items about eating disorders to the survey which was given to program directors of a nationally representative sample of 351 publicly-funded addiction treatment programs in face-to-face interviews between 2002 and 2004. Results of the survey soon will be published in the journal Psychiatric Services and presented as a poster at this year’s meeting of the College of Problems on Drug Dependence.

We found that half of the programs screen patients for eating disorders; almost one-third admit all eating disorder cases and almost one-half admit cases of low severity. Few programs attempt to treat eating disorders. Programs that do admit and treat patients with co-occurring eating disorders are more likely to emphasize a medical/psychiatric model of addiction, use psychiatric medications, admit patients with other psychiatric disorders, and have a lower caseload of African-American patients.

Program directors described three distinct ways in which the treatment of patients with co-occurring eating disorders differed from standard addiction treatment. Eating disorder patients tended to receive individual therapy. Treatment emphasized food consumption behaviors, such as the development of a specific meal or nutrition plan and the keeping of food logs. Eating disorder patients also tended to be monitored for bulimic behaviors, such as their activities at meal time or trips to the bathroom.

The most often given reasons for not treating eating disorders in publicly-funded addiction treatment programs were a lack of staff trained in eating disorder treatment, inadequate medical staff or medical resources, eating disorder treatment requires a more intensive level of care than the program.

National HIV Testing Day is June 27, 2008

In Philadelphia from 1980 until 2006, about 24,668 people have diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. More than 8,000 have died. Because many Philadelphians don’t know that they have HIV, the number of people living with the virus is certainly higher. HIV can take years to make a person sick with AIDS, which is when many first find out they were infected. Getting tested early in HIV infection could save thousands of lives because TREATMENT WORKS! Help keep our brothers, sisters, neighbors, lovers and you, yourself, healthy by getting tested today. For more information, call 1-800-985-AIDS, or visit http://www.jointhosewhoknow.org
provides and insufficient demand for these services relative to the resources required. If you would like to learn more about the results of this survey or if your program is concerned about the prevalence or treatment needs of your clients for co-occurring eating disorders, please contact me! I can be reached by email: sgordon@seabrookhouse.org or by telephone: 856-455-7575, ext. 5803.

DelVal Node Trial Progress:

CTN 0027 Study Update by:
Edgar Weiss, Assoc. Project Manager, NET Steps, Phila, PA
We are pleased to have Dr. Angela Walker, MD, joining us as our site physician for the START project at Net-Steps. She is completing her protocol training at the time of this writing. She is joining us at a time of high performance and expectation as we have topped off recruitment at 121 consented, of which 97 (80%) were randomized, and, of the 32 already completed, 31 (97%) completed the extension through 32 weeks. These, along with the 99% data cleanliness rate, are some of the best results in the nation. Dr. Walker realizes this and wants to hit the ground running, applying her skill and enthusiasm to the study, and we are very happy to have her.

Our RAs, Ellen Fritch and Devlin Hart, have been key in holding us steady at a time of transitions, have been our constant navigators with our clients, assessments and data, making it possible to achieve the numbers mentioned above. Tom Brown, our relatively new full time nurse, has done a remarkable job re-energizing the Genetics add-on study, completing the Hep-B reagent re-call/re-draw process, and promoting the special Saturday morning BUP support group, which may become a regular clinic offering. Special thanks to Dr. Trussandra Taylor, MD. She is our backup site physician who has expanded her hours and patiently dealt with our clients while we all await Dr. Walker’s coming on board.

CTN 0028 Study Update by:
Gretchen Friedberger, RN
Laura Scott, Research Assistant,
Rehab After Work, Paoli, PA
As recruitment has come to an end, the team has focused their efforts on the three active participants in the study. To date we have pre-screened 66 potential participants, consented 33 and randomized 15.

Since March, we have continued recruiting up until May 2, 2008 when the Lead Team announced the closure of the recruitment period. We visited Norristown Area High School, Council Rock High School, Coatesville Area School District and Overbrook High School. As a result of efforts to coordinate recruitment activities at Overbrook High School, we were invited to pre-screen on-site at the school. The school nursing staff, social worker and school counselor were instrumental in making this happen and we are most appreciative of their support.

In addition to recruitment efforts in school systems, the team also presented at a number of community agency meetings in the past few months. We attended the following meetings: the Interagency Council of Norristown; Communities that Care of Downingtown; the Greater Valley Partnership for Healthy Youth; and the Chester County Caring Communities Coalition 2008 Expo. The team has posted an advertisement on the CHADD website and attended local community CHADD meetings.

Mailings and emails were sent daily in an effort to inform the community of the study and its benefits. We also visited local shopping centers, libraries and groceries stores where we posted study advertisements. The Life Counseling Services/Rehab After Work staff continued to refer clients to us until recruitment was stopped and we are greatly appreciative of their hard work and dedication. We would like to thank the Intake Department!

The team greatly appreciated the EMMES visit during March in which the monitors provided an excellent review of the study documentation. We are also grateful to Lin Denton who always serves as a wonderful resource. Thank you Lin!

Charlotte Royer-Malvestuto devoted a great deal of time to IRB affairs since the last newsletter update and the team would like to thank her for her hard work and continual guidance and leadership! The team looks forward to working with the active study participants throughout the summer months.

Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

Delaware Valley Node Steering Committee

The next meeting (early fall) of the Delaware Valley Node Steering Committee TBD.
CTN Dissemination Library
The CTN Library is web-based, and includes all the CTN related publications (under What’s New). The web site is maintained by the Washington Node of the Clinical Trials Network. The address is: http://ctndisseminationlibrary.org
For a more detailed list of upcoming conferences, click on “Upcoming Conferences” under “Dissemination Opportunities”

SAVE The DATE!
Recovery Walks September 21, 2008
Recovery Works! September 26 2008

It seems like just yesterday we were walking at the September 2007 event. What a memorable day! The sun was shining, birds were singing and Mother Nature set the tone for PRO-ACT’s 6th Annual Recovery Walks 3-mile event. The walk was held on the grounds of a new location at Philadelphia’s Historic Memorial Hall along Concourse Drive in beautiful Fairmount Park. Over 2,000 people joined in one of Southeastern PA’s largest walks for recovery from alcohol and other drug addictions. The Honor Guards (people with 10 or more years in continuous recovery) led the walk. The city-wide event engages Recovery Treatment Providers, Behavioral Health Facilities and other Recovery Community Organizations. Along with community members in support of the effort, a host of city officials and other political dignitaries attended. Recovery Walks is a day of unity, activities, networking, information and entertainment. Participants range from consumers/recipients of alcohol and other drug dependence treatment, family members and friends of individuals in recovery, professionals working in the field and others with a special interest in and knowledge of recovery. All are welcome!

Recovery Walks is a cooperative effort of PRO-ACT, Philadelphia Office of Addiction Services, Bucks County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission, Chester County Department of Drug and Alcohol Services, Montgomery County Office of Drug and Alcohol Programs and Delaware County Office of Behavior Health. Many volunteer opportunities are still available for Recovery Walks 2008 and we’d love to have your help.

Information on this year’s walk:

Sunday September 21 2008
at Historic Memorial Hall
West Fairmount Park
4231 North Concourse Drive
Philadelphia, PA 19131
Registration at 9 AM; Walk Begins at 11 AM
Barbeque after the walk!

PRO-ACT also hosts the Recovery Works Baseball Game on September 26, 2008 for National Alcohol & Drug Addiction Recovery Month at Citizens Bank Park where the Phillies will face the Washington Nationals.

Contact for more details on either event:
Fred Martin
215-923-1661
fmartin@bccadd.org
www.proact.org

Hope to see you in September!

Announcement from Seabrook House
Presentation and Tour at MAFC
June 12, 2008; 10 am – 12 pm

You and your colleagues are invited to Matri-Ark’s Inside MatriArk Family Center at Seabrook House. Come visit our new Family Center and learn about the services this ground-breaking program has to offer. We hope you will attend.

RSVP to Maureen Kibelstis at (856) 455-7575 x1151 or email mkibelstis@seabrookhouse.org
Directions available at www.SeabrookHouse.org

Links to DelVal Node CTPs/Collaborators
Caron Foundation http://www.caron.org/
Consortium http://www.consortium-inc.org/
Jonathan Lax Center http://www.fight.org/
NET http://www.net-centers.org/
PHMC http://www.phmc.org/
Presbyterian http://pennhealth.com/behav_health/addiction/presby/
PRO-ACT www.proact.org
RAW http://www.rehabafterwork.com/contact.htm
Seabrook House http://www.seabrookhouse.org/
Welcome to Gvantsa Piralishvili, M.D., Ph.D., NIDA Invest Fellow, who arrived in U.S. on April 8th from Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia. While in the U.S., Dr. Piralishvili will focus on assessing outcomes of methadone and Suboxone maintenance treatment programs. Injecting use of Subutex is an emerging public health problem in Georgia.

Inspired by three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day - the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 - was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.

Happy Father’s Day
June 15th

First Day of Summer
June 21st
Hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer! See you in September.

Updates for this newsletter should be sent to Doreen Cardillo dcardillo@tresearch.org