



HIV/AIDS NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER FROM THE NATIONAL HIV/AIDS AND TB PROGRAMME, PRETORIA

13 July 2001

EDITOR'S NOTES

For contributions, please submit contributions and suggestions to serenc@health.gov.za.

STAFF MATTERS

We wish to congratulate our new Research Coordinator, Sesupo Makakole-Nene, who joined our unit as from 2 July 2001. She will focus primarily on the MTCT programme for the moment, but also incorporates issues relating to STI research and surveillance. She can be contacted on telephone (012) 312-0130.

A great loss for the Unit was that of Dr. Graham Neilsen, our resident STI Specialist, who has taken up a position in Thailand. He is missed!

The Sub-directorate: Partnership Support gained a new consultant from the EU donor programme. Elmarie Goussard will work on the Women in Partnership against AIDS project. She can be contacted on telephone (012) 312-0118 and fax (012) 325-6723.

Bareng Rasego has been seconded from the Policy Project to assist with the capacity building programme. He can be contacted on telephone (012) 312-0139 and fax (012) 325-6723.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL HIV/AIDS PROGRAMME

"People with HIV/AIDS shall be involved in all prevention, intervention and care strategies." This is the first guiding principle of the HIV/AIDS

Strategic Plan for South Africa, 2000 to 2005. In practice many AIDS service organisations including the National Department of Health, Chief Directorate: HIV/AIDS and STDs often struggle to live up to this principle.

The Interdepartmental Support programme aims to affirm the role of PWAs in the development and implementation of departmental HIV/AIDS workplace policies and programmes. To this end a tender has been issued for eight persons living openly with HIV/AIDS who will be seconded to selected National Government Departments.

This project has been planned and executed in partnership with the United Nations Programme for the Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GIPA). The project serves as a pilot. Lessons learned from the project will be recorded and hopefully utilised for an expansion of the programme in time to come.

An interdepartmental Task team identifies departments to host the persons. Important selection criteria were the expressed interest of a department, staff size and the existence of a supportive infrastructure. The Department of Health pays for the remuneration of the PWAs whilst the hosting departments provide office facilities and pay for all operational costs.

One condition for the secondment of the PWAs was that the Heads of the hosting Departments commit themselves in writing that they sustain



the project after the initial 12-month tender has elapsed.

By the end of July three of the eight posts will be filled. It is anticipated that the remaining five "GIPA Fieldworker" will join on the month of August. A small task team is currently preparing an intensive induction and training programme for the newcomers. For more information, contact Niko Knigge at (012) 312 0022 or watch this spot for updates.

NEWS FROM PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT

The unit has recently put out three tenders, and welcomes tenderers to apply. They are:

- The appointment of an external tenderer to support the Road Freight Association to implement AIDS policies and programmes in the long-distance trucking industry
- Appointment of an external tenderer to assist with an information, education and peer education campaign with commuters and drivers in trains, taxis and buses for a two-year period
- Appointment of an external tenderer to assist with the development, management, coordination and implementation of HIV/AIDS policies and programmes in shebeens, taverns and bars

NEWS FROM THE IPAA BULLETIN

Groundbreaking SADC meeting

The SADC Ministers of Health and seven pharmaceutical companies met in Pretoria in June to review progress in the SADC region since the launch of the WHO/UNAIDS Accelerating Access

to Care Initiative about a year ago. The Ministers outlined the challenges confronting their countries and their experience in accessing affordable treatment and care. They generally welcomed the initiatives of the pharmaceutical industry but called for greater consultation between governments. They also noted that assistance was not uniformly available to all countries in the region as companies adopted different eligibility criteria. However, it was recognised that where governments and pharmaceutical companies had worked together the results had been extremely positive and mutually beneficial. *For more information contact Dr Thuthula Balfour, Director: SADC Health Sector, Tel: 27 12 312 0901 or by email on thuthb@health.pwv.za.*

Kenya moves on cheaper AIDS drugs

Kenya's Parliament unanimously passed a bill that would allow the government to suspend drug-patent rights in a national health emergency, clearing the way for cheaper, generic AIDS drugs in the east African nation. Opposition lawmakers joined government ministers and legislators in supporting the bill, which brings Kenya in line with World Trade Organization rules. AIDS activists say the bill will allow greater access to drugs for Kenya's 2.2 million HIV-positive people. *For more information contact Dr Warren Naamara, UNAIDS Country Programme Advisor, Kenya, at warren.naamara@undp.org*





*Compiled by Celia M Serenata
Deputy Director: HIV/AIDS and STDs
Tel: (012) 312-0128 or (082) 413-2381
Fax: (012) 326-2891
e-mail: serenc@health.gov.za*

Any queries, comments or additions can be forwarded to this address.

Address List for Chief Directorate

Fax for all staff: (012) 328-5743 or (012) 326-2891

Dr. Nono Simelela
Chief Director: HIV/AIDS and STDs
(012) 312-0121

Collen Bonnecwe
Director: HIV/AIDS & STDs
(012) 312-0137

Thami Skenjana
Director: GAAP
(012) 312-0133

Dr. Refiloe Matji
Director: TB
(012) 312-0106

Ria Schoeman
Deputy Director: Partnership Support
(012) 312-0119

Sonja Martin
Deputy Director: Youth Programme
(012) 312-0125

Cornelius Lebeloe
Deputy Director: Care, Counselling & Support
(012) 312-0132

Eva Gosa
Deputy Director: STDs, Barrier Methods, TB & Research
(012) 312-0130

