



HIV/AIDS AND TB NEWSLETTER

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

Number 19 28 March 2002

EDITOR'S NOTES AND STAFF NEWS

Happy birthday to the staff members of the HIV/AIDS and TB unit who celebrate their birthday in April:

- David Allen (28)

For those driving over the Easter season, please buckle up, and don't drink and drive!

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON PMTCT – 27 MARCH 2002

Below please find the text of a media statement from Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, issued on 27 March 2002.

"Seven MECs for Health and I have approached the Constitutional Court directly for leave to appeal against the execution order on the provision of Nevirapine and an extension of that order which was handed down by the Pretoria High Court on Monday.

Our legal representatives are today filing papers with the Constitutional Court to that effect. We have also indicated that the matter should be treated on the basis of urgency and should be heard either when the appeal on the main application is heard – on May 2 and 3 – or before that date, as the Constitutional Court may direct.

I would like to emphasise that we have no intention of circumventing the courts or simply delaying matters by endless litigation. We stand ready to abide by the final decision of the courts on the execution order.

We have turned to the highest court in the land precisely because of our belief in the judicial system and because we think the issues warrant this kind of attention. We have said in our papers that we believe that the execution order is a constitutional matter,

or at least so intimately linked to the central constitutional questions of the original case that it is a proper matter for the Constitutional Court to deal with.

While these legal matters proceed, I am appointing a task team whose function it will be to guide and support the further development of the programme on mother-to-child-transmission of HIV within norms and standards that have been endorsed by all provinces."

For more information, contact Jo-Anne Collinge at (012) 312-0713.

TB OPERATIONS RESEARCH COURSE

The National TB Control Programme (NTCP), together with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), USA, and the SA Medical Research Council (MRC) will be presenting a course on basic epidemiological methods required to a) conduct tuberculosis operational research and b) interpret and apply operational research findings to improve tuberculosis control. The main aim of the Course is to develop basic but essential capacity in each Province for planning and implementing operational research projects relevant to tuberculosis control and service delivery. Participants will also have the opportunity to develop Province-specific operational research proposals during the course. These will be evaluated for funding after the course is concluded. Successful applicants (one project per province) will receive small research grants to conduct their projects over the next year. The research protocols developed during the course should fall within the framework of the recent national and/or provincial medium-term development plans for tuberculosis control and should address specific needs identified in these plans



The Course will consist of lectures, practical exercises and field visits to demonstrate the collection and use of tuberculosis control programme data in designing research protocols.

The Course will be held in Cape Town from 5 to 12 May 2002.

Nominations of course participants are being coordinated through the Provincial TB Coordinators.

For more information, contact Bill Coggin on (012) 312-0222 or coggiw@health.gov.za

NATIONAL HIV/AIDS AND TB MEETING

The national and provincial managers in HIV/AIDS, STIs and TB met over 3 days, from 7-9 March 2002. The aim of the meeting was to share information on operational activities for the 2002/03 financial year, identify problem areas and share lessons.

Each province presented its operational activities, with inputs from the national office as well.

This was a very informative meeting, and also highlighted some of the innovative approaches in provinces to deal with challenges. One example from the Free State is the use of the reverse side of electricity bills to popularise the PMTCT programme.

Provinces also highlighted some common challenges:

- Inadequate number of lay counsellors to provide VCT
- Inadequate space for the provision of VCT
- Lack of expertise in monitoring and evaluation
- Slow integration of the TB and HIV/AIDS programmes at provincial level

A positive development is the additional funding provided for HIV/AIDS in the 2002/03 financial year, mainly through

increases in the conditional grants for VCT, HBC, PMTCT and the new conditional grants for step-down care, and provincial management.

For more information, contact Celia Serenata on serenc@health.gov.za

DONATION FROM JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

Following discussion with the national Department of Health and the Provincial Health Departments, the Japanese International Development Agency delivered equipment worth R1.2 million to the Department of Health on 12 March 2002. This equipment will be used in the provinces, mainly in training programmes and community mobilisation around programmes such as VCT and PMTCT.

The list of equipment provided include:

- 3 video recorders
- 22 overhead projectors
- 28 data projectors
- 50 combination TV/VCRs
- 10 laser pointers
- 5 digital cameras
- 2 video cameras
- 4 projector screens

This is part of the ongoing support of JICA to South Africa.

An official handing-over ceremony will be held in April 2002.

For more information, contact Celia Serenata at serenc@health.gov.za

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.health.gov.za

www.aidsdirectory.co.za

www.medadvocates.org/news/main10818.html#Week-in-Review

www.dpp.org.za



www.hst.org.za

www.childaidsservices.org

www.equinetafrica.org

You are also encouraged to share information on other useful websites. Feedback on the Department of Health website would be especially valuable.



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

Red Ribbon Resource Centre

For all requests of HIV/AIDS materials (posters etc.), please contact:

Ms. Loreley Yeowart
Tel: (011) 880-0405
Fax: (011) 880-8552

Address List for Chief Directorate

Fax: (012) 326-2891 or (012) 323-7323

Dr. Nono Simelela
Chief Director: HIV/AIDS and TB
(012) 312-0121
simeln@health.gov.za

Collen Bonnecwe
Director: HIV/AIDS & STDs
(012) 312-0137
bonnec@health.gov.za

Thami Skenjana
Director: GAAP
(012) 312-0133

Dr. Refiloe Matji
Director: TB
(012) 312-0106
matjir@health.gov.za



AIDS HELPLINE
☎ 0800-012-322