

Avian Flu Activities Bolstered in Rwanda

South-to-South Partnership Launched

2006 Year-in-Review

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HIV Care and Treatment Enrollment Doubles During 2006

More than 196,000 HIV-infected people are currently receiving HIV care, including more than 91,000 people receiving antiretroviral treatment (ART), through ICAP-supported programs at 178 sites in 14 countries.

“Over the past year, ICAP-supported programs more than doubled the number of people enrolled in HIV care and treatment,” said ICAP director Wafaa El-Sadr, MD, MPH. “In partnership with in-country organizations, ICAP will continue scaling up high-quality programs for people suffering from HIV/AIDS around the world.”

Allan Rosenfield, MD, dean of the Mailman School of Public Health, credited ICAP’s success to its proven model of family-focused HIV prevention, care, and treatment. “As ICAP continues to support healthcare systems in resource-limited countries,” he said, “it will help turn the tide not only on HIV/AIDS, but potentially other infectious diseases as well, such as tuberculosis.”

For more highlights of ICAP’s 2006 accomplishments, see pg. 4 ■

International Experts Examine Management of Latent Tuberculosis/HIV Co-Infection

Symposium considers challenges facing resource-limited health systems

On Nov. 13-14, ICAP co-sponsored an international symposium in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to examine recommendations for the management of latent tuberculosis (LTBI) in people co-infected with HIV in Ethiopia.

TB is a major public health problem throughout the world and the leading cause of death in HIV-infected individuals. Nearly one-third of the world’s population is infected with the bacteria that cause TB. In Ethiopia, an estimated 61 percent of the population has been infected with TB, while 3.5 percent of the population is HIV infected. Because HIV-infected individuals are at a substantially higher risk of developing and dying from TB, public health programs are increasingly focused on addressing the problem of TB/HIV co-infection.

At the conference, co-sponsored by ICAP, Ethiopia’s Federal Ministry of Health, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, 72 health providers, TB experts, and officials, reviewed the latest information on the diagnosis and treatment of LTBI in adults and children, and shared data and programmatic experiences in the diagnosis and treatment of LTBI in HIV-infected individuals in resource-limited settings. They also surveyed data on the epi-

demology of TB and TB/HIV co-infection in Ethiopia, as well as results of pilot programs on isoniazid preventive therapy and studies of TB screening. Working in three groups, conference participants proposed specific recommendations to consider for the management of LTBI in HIV-infected patients in Ethiopia.



CDC-Ethiopia director Tadesse Wuhib (left) and ICAP director Wafaa El-Sadr participate in a panel discussion at the symposium.

“The guidelines proposed at the symposium will hopefully serve as a blueprint for developing integrated TB/HIV management programs in Ethiopia and other resource-limited countries,” said ICAP director Wafaa El-Sadr, MD, MPH.

Conference participants included TB and HIV/AIDS experts from the Ethiopia Ministry of Health, regional health bureaus, universities, non-governmental and governmental organizations, and the World Health Organization. Dr. Kebede Worku, Ethiopia’s Minister of Health, delivered the conference’s opening remarks. ■



Nigeria Program Continues Expansion

Key stakeholders discuss future directions

Less than a year after its launch, the ICAP-Nigeria program recently began supporting a fifth healthcare site to provide comprehensive HIV services, including testing, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT), pediatric and adult care and treatment.

In support of the continued scale-up of ICAP-Nigeria's activities, ICAP director Wafaa El-Sadr, MD, MPH, met last November in Abuja with key stakeholders, including government partners, donors, civil society members, leaders of community organizations, and others affected by HIV, to discuss the future direction of ICAP's activities in Nigeria. In conjunction with her visit, El-Sadr delivered a Nov. 27 talk titled "Scale-Up of HIV Care and Treatment: The Evidence and the Practice." During her presentation, El-Sadr emphasized importance of increasing enrollment of HIV-infected mothers in PMTCT programs. Currently, less than 10 percent of HIV-infected women are enrolled in HIV care and treatment.

Stakeholders who participated in the meeting included officials with the Federal Ministry of Health, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Agency for International Development, Pathfinder International, AFRICARE, World Bank, Gawon Foundation, and hospitals where ICAP supports HIV programs. ■

Monitoring and Evaluation System Links Site-Level Characteristics with Best Patient Outcomes

ICAP's Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research (MER) unit has launched the initial phase of a new web-based database system for tracking ICAP-supported activities at all in-country sites.

The system, which is being implemented by in-country MER officers in collaboration with clinical staff, will track key site characteristics every six months, such as patient-provider ratios and specific services provided. With this information, ICAP will be able to better describe the services it supports and determine program and site-level characteristics associated with the best patient outcomes.

Development of the tracking system is supported through a grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and support from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. ■

Avian Flu Activities Bolstered in Rwanda

ICAP's University Technical Assistance Program is working with the Rwandan Ministry of Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to bolster Rwanda's laboratory and surveillance capacities for the H5N1 avian influenza virus.

A World Health Organization report recently warned that avian flu could be particularly devastating to resource-constrained countries, such as Rwanda, with healthcare infrastructures already burdened by HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other health threats. Rwanda is considered a potentially high-risk country for avian influenza because of its high population density, location along migratory bird corridors, presence of local wild birds that can easily transmit the virus, and its traditional open system of poultry farming.

As part of the initiative, ICAP will work with CDC-Rwanda's Influenza Team to recruit and train two surveillance officers and two laboratory specialists. The influenza team will establish a system of sentinel surveillance posts, train other healthcare workers and veterinary workers, and assist two designated laboratories in Rwanda in developing the technical capacity to handle prevention and rapid response activities in the event of an H5N1 outbreak. ■

'Positive' Mothers Support Group Combines Health Education with Sewing Lessons



Mothers support group members make curtains.

In support of efforts to maintain the health of HIV-infected women and prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT), ICAP Mozambique (MZ) has launched an innovative group for mothers and pregnant mothers to learn about HIV and support each other while developing a potential income-generating skill.

The mothers support group, part of ICAP-MZ's PMTCT Model Center Program in Nampula, combines sewing lessons with health education on best breastfeeding practices for reducing HIV transmission risk to children, safer sex, and good nutrition to ensure general health. Mothers also learn about the importance of pre-natal and post-natal care, adherence to HIV care and treatment, and disclosure of HIV status. In one of the group's first sessions, mothers made curtains for an ICAP-supported antiretroviral therapy clinic in Nampula Province.

Maternal-child health nurses at the Model Center health facility lead the mothers support groups, which are supported by ICAP and the Mozambique Ministry of Health. ■

South-to-South Partnership Supports Pediatric HIV/AIDS Programs

ICAP and South Africa's Stellenbosch University recently launched the South-to-South Partnership for Comprehensive Pediatric HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment.

The USAID-supported training program brings multidisciplinary teams of providers to Stellenbosch University where they develop technical and practical skills for implementing comprehensive pediatric HIV/AIDS services based on the family-focused model of care. As part of the program, trainees learn about HIV care and

antiretroviral therapy management of children through rotations at Tygerberg Children's Hospital at Stellenbosch University, an experienced pediatric HIV/AIDS care facility. Complementing the clinical activities is a didactic program that emphasizes case management and service implementation.

ICAP Ethiopia was the first to send a team to participate in the training program. ■



Dr. Helena Rabie (second from left), pediatrician deputy director of the South-to-South Partnership, Tygerberg Children's Hospital, consults with Ethiopia nurses.

Workshops Spotlight Family-Centered Care and Treatment Model

Last summer, ICAP, in collaboration with the Partnership for Family-Centered HIV/AIDS Programs, held five training workshops on the multidisciplinary, family-centered model of HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment, for more than 150 healthcare workers in Lesotho and Swaziland.

The weeklong programs, led by clinical advisors and technical staff, consisted of classroom instruction and trainings with providers on-site at their healthcare facilities. Workshop leaders also worked with the participants to identify specific needs of their HIV/AIDS programs

and begin to develop strategies for addressing them.

ICAP organized the workshops to support the USAID-funded Partnership for Family-Centered HIV/AIDS Programs, a coalition among ICAP, the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, and the Academy for Educational Development/Linkages.

An October symposium, co-sponsored by ICAP Swaziland, drew 75 representatives from Swaziland health departments, the Ministry of Health, and United Nations agencies, to consider strategies for strength-

ening and expanding MTCT-Plus activities that link prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) with HIV care and treatment services. Participants brainstormed about how to increase the number of HIV-infected pregnant women identified through PMTCT who are eligible for antiretroviral therapy. Among the symposium's featured speakers was Elaine Abrams, MD, director of ICAP's MTCT-Plus Initiative, who delivered a presentation arguing for the implementation of MTCT-Plus. ■



At the DBS technical workshop in Mwanza, Sevestina Mtunga (right), ICAP-Tanzania infant diagnostics nurse coordinator, works with nurse Keziah Nkayamba Luyagaza (left) of Sekou Toure Regional Hospital.

Tanzania Providers Initiate Infant Diagnosis

In support of expanded pediatric HIV care and treatment, ICAP Tanzania (TZ) and three health facilities recently collaborated on a series of technical workshops on the Dried Blood Spot (DBS) DNA PCR method for diagnosing HIV in infants less than 18 months.

Participating in the workshops were healthcare providers from Bugando Medical Centre (BMC), Makongoro Health Centre (MHC), and Sekou Toure Regional Hospital (STRH). Since the trainings, providers have tested more than 240 infants for HIV.

ICAP TZ is piloting the use of the infant diagnostic procedures and tools at BMC, MHC, and STRH. In addition to TZ, ICAP supports infant diagnosis trainings and services in Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Zambia. ■



ICAP 2006 Year-in-Review

2006 Achievements

Country Programs: 14
 ICAP-supported sites: 178
 Patients enrolled in HIV care: 196,188
 Patients receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART): 91,285

Pregnant women receiving ART for prevention
 of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (pMTCT): 2,175
 Infants receiving ART for pMTCT: 1,188

Physicians trained in HIV care and ART provision: 764
 Nurses trained in HIV care and ART provision: 1,639
 Other healthcare providers trained in HIV care
 and ART provision: 772
 Others trained in HIV care: 2,257

Laboratory technicians trained in Good Laboratory
 Practice and Clinical Practice: 103
 Laboratory technicians training in HIV Rapid Test: 95
 Laboratory technicians training in Dried Blood Spot
 PCR for infant diagnosis: 13
 Nurse clinicians trained in infant diagnosis: 296
 Clinics, Laboratories, and Pharmacies Renovated: 67



ICAP leads technical workshops on an array of topics, including Good Laboratory Practice.

HIV Care and Treatment Enrollment, Clinic and Laboratory Renovations By Country

