



**CIHR International Infectious Disease &
Global Health Training Program**
Canada • Colombia • India • Kenya

**Canadian Institutes of
Health Research**

International Infectious Disease & Global Health Training Program

**ANNUAL REPORT •
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IID in Bangalore, India for the 2011 Major Course Planning, Implementing, and Evaluating Scaled HIV Prevention and Care Programs among Vulnerable Populations in Resource Poor Settings.

OBJECTIVES

1. To equip trainees with the research, scientific knowledge and skills to become **outstanding researchers** in infectious diseases and global health.
2. To create a novel and stimulating **multidisciplinary** and **truly international** research training environment that fosters creativity, opportunity, and innovation, and one that demands excellence.
3. To harness the unique opportunity offered by the **critical mass** of infectious diseases and global health infrastructure, research opportunities and outstanding scientists in the training of the next generation of infectious disease researchers.
4. To make available **collaborative international research sites** for the trainees' primary research projects, sites for research practica and major course offerings.
5. To offer a **shared learning environment**, where trainees and mentors from all four of CIHR's research pillars and the four international training sites work cooperatively to explore issues of international infectious diseases and global health.

TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT



Nadia Musimbi Chanzu

Nadia Musimbi Chanzu is a PhD student in Infectious Disease at the University of Nairobi, Kenya under the supervision of Prof. Walter Mwanda, Prof. Omu Anzala and Dr. Julius Oyugi. Nadia applied to the training program because she was interested in the opportunity to investigate infectious diseases in Kenya which are now becoming increasingly available from a technological standpoint, however, the manpower and expertise were lacking. Since joining the program in 2011, Nadia has been awarded an HIV/AIDS Prevention Trials Capacity Building Grant from the Global Health Research Initiative-International Development Research Centre (GHRI/IDRC). Her PhD research focuses on Secretor Status, Fucosyltransferase 2 (FUT2) Gene Polymorphisms and Susceptibility to HIV Infection among Female Sex Workers in Kenya which is designed to explore the variable expression of blood group antigens in the context of HIV resistance in order to better understand the mucosal mechanisms of protection associated with blood group antigen expression profiles. In conducting this research Nadia hopes to provide additional insight into the development of new HIV preventive technologies.

Nadia's favourite aspect of the training program is the Infectious Minds sessions. As a basic scientist she feels that the diversity of the Infectious Minds sessions provide an excellent opportunity for her to broaden her scope and knowledge beyond HIV and Immunology/Haematology. Also she has found that the Infectious Minds sessions allowed her to gain a more comprehensive understanding of science, beyond basic science and HIV research, which she credits to presentations given by expert guest speakers who have diverse backgrounds.

Elizabeth Cooper, a PhD Student in Community Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba and a trainee in the IID program, has a Bachelors degree in Religious Studies and History, and a Masters degree in Native Studies, both from the University of Manitoba.

TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT, continued

Elizabeth is interested in community based, participatory action and health decision-making among Indigenous communities. The common thread that has always connected the work Elizabeth does is the desire for different voices to be visible within the overarching fabric of main-stream society. Through the coursework in Elizabeth's PhD program, combined with the opportunities afforded by the IID program, Elizabeth is gaining working knowledge of biostatistics, epidemiology, microbiology, economics and policy formation. She believes that working within an interdisciplinary academic environment is key to creating opportunities to enact change within the world. Working with, and learning from, individuals with diverse backgrounds allows for different views to be seen and actualized.



Elizabeth Cooper

One of the most poignant moments Elizabeth has experienced as part of the training program occurred during one of the learning visits in India. Members from a local non-governmental organization sang folk-songs to the training group and Elizabeth and some of her training colleagues and advisors sang some folk-songs from Canada in return. The individuals from India said that they always sing for visitors, but this is the first time they could remember people singing for them. This event highlighted to Elizabeth the need for ongoing discourse between organizations and individuals as well as the ongoing need for different modes of knowledge-translation and trust-building activities. Being able to learn about different techniques to connect with people in a meaningful way that is appropriate to the context is an intrinsic skill that the IID program works to develop in all of its trainees, and an important piece that is often missing from academic training programs.

Dr. Jayanna Krishnamurthy, a clinician and community health specialist from Bangalore, India, joined the training program in January 2011 as a Post-Doctoral Fellow trainee. He has 10 years of experience implementing public health programs and conducting research in the areas of HIV and Mother, Newborn and Child health (MNCH). His



Dr. Jayanna Krishnamurthy

research focuses on the quality of MNCH in public health facilities of poor performing districts in North Karnataka, India. The study specifically looks at the effectiveness of onsite mentoring programs by a cadre of nurse mentors to the primary health care centers about the quality of mother and newborn health services. Findings from his research have the potential to influence the policies and programs in India in the way they look at the quality of MNCH care. As a part of the training program, Dr. Krishnamurthy attended the 2011 major course in Bangalore, India which was aimed at providing the trainees with opportunities to understand the issues and challenges in implementing HIV programs in a developing country setting. He said that attending this course with trainees from multidisciplinary backgrounds offered a unique advantage to understanding different perspectives, which he feels is the best part of the IID program.

Dr. Krishnamurthy had a very eventful year in 2011. He co-authored two peer reviewed articles looking at positive prevention practices and morbidity profiles of HIV infected individuals in care settings in South India. He contributed to eight research reports describing MNCH situations in North Karnataka districts and he was awarded the “Young Scientist Award” from the Karnataka Association of Community Health (KACH) for the year 2010-11. This award is aimed at encouraging young and budding public health specialists in India to contribute to public health programs and research.



Natalia Taborda-Vanegas

Natalia Taborda-Vanegas is a PhD trainee at the Universidad de Antioquia, in Medellin, Colombia under the supervision of Dr. María Teresa Rugeles. Her doctoral thesis focuses on HIV and the mechanisms related to the control of viral replication in gut-associated lymphoid tissue and peripheral blood in HIV controllers. Dr. María Teresa Rugeles, who is a mentor of the IID program encouraged Natalia to enroll because it was a great opportunity for her to learn and work with researchers from several countries. Natalia believes that because her fellow trainees come

from different epidemiological, social and economic backgrounds there are several points of view coming together to solve a common problem and this is what makes this program an invaluable life experience.

In 2011, Natalia attend the “Planning, implementing and evaluating scaled HIV prevention programs among vulnerable populations in resource-poor settings” course in Bangalore, India. She said it was an excellent experience because she was able to work on a proposal about a topic totally different from her research area and, therefore, was able to learn a lot from the course.

All the activities performed in the program have enabled her to understand her research topic from a wide point of view as well as helped her to improve her understanding of the importance of her research and how it contributes to society. She believes that the training program will have a positive impact in both her future career as a biomedical scientist and her personal life.

Graduates and Where They Are Now

Dr. Arup Das successfully completed his PhD in Population Science/Demography at the International Institute for Population Sciences in Mumbai under the supervision of Dr. S K Singh. As well, he graduated from the IID program in December, 2011. Since completing the training program, Arup has been working as a Monitoring and Evaluation expert for the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation funded project “Integrated family health initiative” which is aimed at improving maternal, neonatal and child health outcomes in Bihar, India. Arup’s role in the project is to design and implement different evaluation studies including randomized control trials. According to Arup, “the most valuable component of the training program is its multidisciplinary nature. As a social scientist, I now do not feel confined only to my discipline, my horizons are broader after completing the course. I am confident in getting inside the clinical or basic science aspect of public health problems; at least I will make an attempt.”



Dr. Arup Das



Keith Fowke, James Sainsbury and Jayanna Krishnamurthy enjoying tea in India at one of the cultural exchange sites in Hampi



Margaret Ormond a trainee of "University without Walls" and Natalia Taborda-Vanegas a trainee of the IID Training Program during the 2011 India Major Course



Trainees at a field placement site in Bellary during the Major Course

RECRUITMENT

2011 Intake at the University of Manitoba

6 applicants were accepted (1 Post-Doctoral Fellow and 5 PhDs)
4 Basic Science and 2 Social Science Pillar

Intake at the International Sites

Bangalore, India Site

3 applicants were accepted (1 Post-Doctoral Fellow & 2 PhDs)
All are from the Social Science Pillar

Nairobi, Kenya Site

1 applicant was accepted (PhD)
1 Basic Science Pillar

Medellin, Colombia Site

1 applicant was accepted (PhD) from the Basic Science Pillar

LIST OF TRAINEES AND PROJECTS

Ph.D. Trainees

Winnie Apidi
Catherine Card

The glycolysis pathway in HIV-1 resistance
Regulatory T cells and Immune Quiescence:

Nadia Musimbi Chanzu

a model for resistance to HIV infection

Dhanunjaya Chintada

Secretor Status, FUT2 Polymorphisms and the Risk of Infection by HIV and HPV in Female Sex Workers in Kenya
Interrelation between Stigma, discrimination and impact on utilization of care and support services - A study among HIV Seropositive Men having sex with Men and Transgender (MSM-T) in Karnataka
A study on violence among women living with HIV/AIDS in Karnataka

Suresh S. Chitrapu

Elizabeth J. Cooper

Culturally Relevant HIV/AIDS Prevention Programming within Canadian Aboriginal Context

Kallesh Danappa Jayappa

The molecular mechanism of HIV-1 nuclear import: the role of HIV-1 integrase in targeting host nuclear import machinery and delivering viral cDNA into nucleus

Arup Kumar Das

Psychosocial, Behavioral and Contextual Determinants of STI/HIV Vulnerability among Female Workers in Bars: A life cycle approach

TRAINEES AND PROJECTS, continued

Ph.D. Trainees

Melissa Herman	Heterogeneity in Progression to AIDS: The Role of Antigen Specific CD8 ⁺ T cells
Jennifer Juno	The Role of Genetic Polymorphisms at the CD4 locus in HIV disease progression
Yoav Keynan	Immunogenetic factors associated with Influenza cross-protection and disease severity
Marion Kiguoya	A study to correlate longterm non progressor HIV-1 isolate viral fitness in highly exposed persistently seronegative (HEPS) versus low risk negative individuals and its association with HLA subtypes
Sajid Mahmood	Examining NK – DC Crosstalk in NK differentiation and functional properties of NK cells
Cisily Meeme	Evaluation of Drug Resistance Profiles and Viral Characteristics in HIV-1 Viruses from Infected Patients Before and After Receiving Antiretroviral Therapy
Ifeoma Okwor	Regulation of Secondary Anti-Leishmania Immunity
Robert Were Omenge	Linkage of innate and adaptive immunity in HIV-1 resistant women in Nairobi.
Michael Babu Raj	PPTCT Services: Are We Reaching Out? From Human Rights Perspective
Meika Richmond	Polyfunctionality and proliferation of CD8 ⁺ T cells in chronic and acute HIV infection
Zulma Vanessa Rueda	Epidemiologic and clinical characteristics of Mycobacterium tuberculosis in prisoners at four different jails, Colombia 2010-2012
Souradet Shaw	Understanding autoimmune diseases: combining traditional epidemiological techniques and complex systems approaches
Dan Alex Silaghi	Identification of virulence determinants in the 1918 Influenza Hemagglutinin (HA) and H1N1 flu
Aida Sivro	The Role of IRF-1 Polymorphisms in susceptibility to HIV-1 Infection
Derek Stein	Mass Spectrometry based characterization of HIV-1 resistance in the female genital tract
Michael Stobart	Identification of Non-Essential Host Genes Required for PrP106-126 Mediated Neurotoxicity
Natalia Taborda -Vanegas	Evaluation of genetic and immunological mechanisms involved in resistance to HIV-1 exhibited by chronically infected individuals who control viral replication without antiretrovirals
Yingfeng Zheng	Functional role and molecular mechanism underlying the interplay of HIV-1 integrase with host cofactors



Cisily Meeme, Marion Kiguoya, Winnie Apidi, Ifeoma Okwor, Nadia Chanzu and Were Omenge at the Major Course opening reception



Dhanunjaya Rao Chintada and Shamshad Khan on the bus



Melissa Herman, Julie Lajoie, Meika Richmond, Aida Sivro, and Catherine Card during the opening reception

TRAINEES AND PROJECTS, continued

Post Doctoral Fellow Trainees



Zulma Rueda, Yoav Keynan, Nadia Chanzu, Souradet Shaw and Lyle McKinnon during a site visit

Zhujun Ao

Investigation of the mechanism underlying anti-HIV action of R88-A3G: Development of a potent anti-HIV approach in primary CD4⁺ T cells and macrophages

Kaveri Gurav

Vulnerabilities associated with migration of female sex workers (FSWs) in India

Jayanna Krishnamurthy

Integrating HIV into General Health Systems; Opportunities and Challenges in Indian context
Community-based Ownership and Uptake of Future HIV Vaccine Programs among MSM and FSWs in India

Shamshad Khan

Julie Lajoie

Mucosal immune activation in commercial sex workers

Lyle McKinnon

Effect of antiretroviral therapy on mucosal immunology in female sex worker cohorts

James Sainsbury

Characterisation of a novel candidate gene for the HIV-1 Resistance Phenotype in the Pumwani Sex Worker Cohort



L-R: Derek Stein, Dhanunjaya Rao Chintada, Jennifer Juno, Keith Fowke, Kaveri Gurav, Mahesh Doddamane and Elizabeth Cooper in front of Shiv Sangam Residency in Bagalkote

FUNDING & ACADEMIC PARTNERS

Funding Partners

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
Manitoba Health Research Council (MHRC)
National Collaborating Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCCID)
National Microbiology Laboratory (NML)
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)
Province of Manitoba –Innovation, Energy and Mines
University of Manitoba
Kenya AIDS Vaccine Initiative (KAVI)
Colciencias

Academic Partners

Centre for Aboriginal Health Research
St. John's Medical College
University of Nairobi
University of Manitoba Centre for Global Public Health
University of Winnipeg Global College
Infectious Immunology Research Interest Group
University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics
University of Indiana Centre for Bioethics
Universidad de Antioquia



Jayanna Krishnamurthy, Ifeoma Okwor, Catherine Card, and Cisiy Meeme in Hampi

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

“Planning, implementing and evaluating scaled HIV prevention programs among vulnerable populations in resource-poor settings”

by Dr. Srinath Maddur, Ms. Parinita Bhattacharjee and Dr. Stephen Moses

The course consisted of a few days of foundational presentations and some site visits in Bangalore, India followed by learning visits to one of six field sites. The trainees were given an assignment at the field sites to design and present HIV intervention programs for a particular highly vulnerable group. A workshop on planning implementing and evaluating scaled HIV prevention, care and support programs among vulnerable populations in India (female sex workers [FSWs] and men who have sex with men and transgendered individuals [MSM-T]), was jointly conducted by the IID program and the Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT) for IID fellows from February 14-25, 2011, in Karnataka state, India. The workshop was designed to inform, engage and challenge the fellows with respect to key issues in HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support programming. It consisted of several modules, using a participatory and experiential learning process. The workshop aimed at building a broad knowledge base regarding HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support issues in a resource-poor setting. Fellows were introduced to the processes of planning, designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating HIV/AIDS programs focused on the most vulnerable populations.

The workshop stressed the scientific, social, behavioural and health-related aspects of HIV/AIDS programming. It began with presentations and field visits in Bangalore, where KHPT's head office is located, and laid a foundation in understanding HIV epidemiology and important perspectives around HIV/AIDS issues. This introduction gave the fellows a first-hand experience of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The fellows were then divided into six groups, and travelled to various sites in rural Karnataka, where they were exposed to actual program situations. At these field sites, they were given the task of developing various proposals on relevant and challenging topics. Each group spent approximately five days interacting with vulnerable communities of FSWs and MSM-T, assessing their needs and understanding their challenges. They then developed research and action proposals that addressed a spectrum of HIV/AIDS prevention and care issues. The fellows then returned to Bangalore, where the groups presented their proposals to a panel of experts. Proposals were rated for their understanding, feasibility and practicability, and were graded accordingly. The quality of the proposals developed was uniformly excellent, and KHPT, in collaboration with some of the fellows, has further developed some of these proposals for implementation.



Meika Richmond, James Sainsbury, Ms. Shama Karkal, Director (Learning Systems at Swasti – Health Resource Centre), Natalia Taborda-Vanegas, Ifeoma Okwor and Zhujun Ao at Swasti



Trainees at Swathi Mahila Sangha which provides services to commercial sexworkers



Trainees at an orphanage for HIV infected children in India

ACADEMIC PROGRAM, continued

Feedback from the fellows indicated that they found the experience to be valuable and enriching, and that they were able to develop a much deeper understanding regarding a variety of HIV/AIDS issues in the India setting. They also acquired knowledge and developed skills in program design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation which will be of great value to them in their future work.

TRAINEE PERSPECTIVE



A condom drop site in Bangalore, India to prevent MSM HIV transmission

The article "Community Matters" Newsletter, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba, Dept. of Community Health Sciences, Issue no. 39, April 2011, page 8-9 was published by Elizabeth Cooper, Program Trainee about the India major course.

In February, the CIHR International Infectious Disease & Global Health Training Program (IID) offered a ten day intensive course run by the Karnataka Health and Promotion Trust (KHPT) in Bangalore India entitled: Planning, implementing and evaluating scaled HIV prevention programs among vulnerable populations in resource poor settings. Thirty-one trainees from Canada (University of Manitoba), Colombia (Universidad de Antioquia), India (St. Johns University), and Kenya (University of Nairobi) came together for this unique learning opportunity. The CIHR IID's theme is "four continents, one shared experience" and the course in India strove to make multidisciplinary international health research an embodied educational experience for those involved.



Dr. Washington at The Catholic Order of Saint Camillians' Orphanage

In preparation for a five day field visit in rural India, the first day of training focused on academic presentations contextualising HIV/AIDS within India. On the second and third day of training we went to visit three social organizations, on the second day we visited an organization that works with FSW and an organization that works with MSM. Both organizations provide advocacy, health and social support for their members and extended social networks. We had the opportunity to hear a presentation, have tea and visit with both staff and clients. The staff from KHPT translated Hindi/Kannada and English as people happily shared stories about various experiences related to their work and personal lives with the trainees. In the late afternoon we went on a walking tour to sites where condoms are distributed to individuals who frequently engage in sex work or recreational sexual activities. Half of the trainees went to a local bus station situated in a bustling noisy area of Bangalore with numerous

shops, restaurants, public washrooms (where condoms are left in tubes for easy access by FSW), and hotels. The other half went to a large public park, meeting with MSM who were relaxing at the end of a long day (condoms are left in cases under identified bamboo trees for ease of access by MSM). A day long visit to Snehadaan, a PLHA, palliative care centre, support services centre, and orphanage provided further insight into disparities facing individuals affected by HIV/AIDS in Karnataka. Watching trainees, as well as Keith Fowke trying to learn yoga from a few of the HIV/AIDS affected orphans was certainly a highlight of the training program for everyone—especially the children.

On day four we packed our bags and boarded an overnight train (or bus) for rural India. The trainees were divided into groups of five and sent to rural areas to examine key issues around HIV/AIDS. At the end of our five day field visit, after numerous training opportunities including informal interviews, focus groups and meetings; we created “out of the box” intervention proposals, presented at the end of the course.

The issues examined included identification of new female sex workers, condom use with intimate partners, economic strategies to assist widows affected/infected by HIV, improved access to healthcare for MSM, improved foster care for children affected/infected by HIV, as well as GIS as a decision making tool.

The entire international learning experience in India was valuable. Working as international groups, within an international context, coming from interdisciplinary academic contexts, learning side-by-side, eating Indian food (with the occasional western KFC meal or pasta dish provided by KHPT for those who missed their North American diets), visiting temples, shopping in bazaars, laughing at monkeys as they clamored on vehicles, looking in awe at the elephants and cows that walked by, and most importantly having the opportunity to spend time with people working with, living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. This unique training offered an experience none of us will soon forget.



Nadia Chanzu, Shamshad Khan, and Yingfeng Zheng



CIHR IID Program 2011 Scientific Symposium

The Scientific Symposium was held on February 25, 2011 at the KHPT offices in Bangalore, India. The symposium highlighted each trainee's research and the trainees invited a guest speaker to take part in the symposium: Dr. S K Singh, Asst Professor, Dept of Mathematical Demography and Statistics, IIPS, Mumbai.

INFECTIOUS MINDS SCIENTIFIC DISCUSSIONS



Pamela Orr, presenting her guest lecture for the May 2011 Infectious Minds meeting

The purchase of video conference equipment for each international site has enabled important scientific discussions to take place in real time and has allowed the smaller sites the benefit of “critical mass”. In 2011, nine Infectious Minds meetings were conducted with each session being organized by a team of three trainees. The team responsible for the session decided on a topic, invited a guest speaker, presented to the group and held a question and answer/discussion session. The Infectious Minds meetings are coordinated by Dr. Javier Mignone, a mentor of the training program and a past trainee.

The Infectious Minds meetings held in 2011

January 19

Guest Speaker: Charlene Ranadheera

Presenting: Yingfeng Zheng, Souradet Shaw, Alex Silaghi

Topics: Henipavirus, Nipah and Hendra Viruses as examples of identification and management of new emerging infections; Lab identification of virus, epidemiological studies/patterns in emerging viruses and molecular biology of Nipah viruses

March 16

Guest Speaker: Alberto Severini

Presenting: Ifeoma Okwor, Shamshad Khan, Julie Lajoie

Topics: HPV, Cervical cancer screening and HPV vaccination, HPV vaccination in males, Incidence and clearance of genital HPV infection in men

April 27, 2011

Guest Speaker: Ashley Haase

Presenting: Derek Stein, Robert Were Omange, Aida Sivro

Topics: Mucosal Immunology and Vaccination

MAY 25, 2011

Guest Speaker: Pamela Orr

Presenting: Melissa Herman, Sajid Mahmood, Jayanna

Krishnamurthy

Topics: Tuberculosis



Manitoba based IID trainees during the September 2011 Infectious Minds meeting

INFECTIOUS MINDS continued...

The Infectious Minds meetings held in 2011, continued

JUNE 22, 2011

Guest Speaker: Margaret Lavallee

Presenters: Nadia Chanzu, Elizabeth Cooper, Kallesh Danappa Jayappa

Topic: Traditional Medicine

SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

Guest Speaker: Francisco Javier Diaz

Presenters: Marion Wangui Kiguoya, James Sainsbury, Natalia Taborda-Vanegas

Topic: Dengue Fever

OCTOBER 13, 2011

Presenters: Winnie Apidi, Kallesh Danappa Jayappa, Lyle McKinnon

Topic: Neglected Tropical Diseases

NOVEMBER 17, 2011

Guest Speaker: Dr. (Major. Rtd) Christopher Stuart Gontier

Presenters: Nadia Musimbi Chanzu, Dhanunjaya Rao Chintada, Kaveri GuravTopic: Autoimmunity

DECEMBER 15, 2011

Guest Speaker: Ron Dagan

Presenters: Yoav Keynan, Julie Lajoie, Sajid Mahmood

Topic: Effects of Pneumococcal Vaccines, Introduction on the epidemiology of pneumococcal diseases



Melissa Herman, a presenter during the May 2011 Infectious Minds meeting



Above: Keith Fowke and trainee Souradet Shaw during the discussion session of the September 2011 Infectious Minds meeting



Left: Lazaro Velez, Keith Fowke, Maria Teresa Rugeles, Natalia Taborda-Vanegas, Zulma Rueda, Carlos Rojas, and John Wylie after an Infectious Minds meeting in Medellin, Colombia

Practica 2011 Report



The intention of the practicum portion of the CIHR International Infectious Disease & Global Health (IID) Training Program, coordinated by Dr. John Wylie, is to expose trainees to a completely different type of learning experience apart from their main research area and to foster interdisciplinary research. The practica are intended to last from four to twelve weeks and to be tailored to the specific goals, objectives and time lines of each trainee. To date all informational documents related to the Practicum portion of the IID program have been prepared. These documents are intended to act as a guide for trainees to assist them in setting up their practicum. These documents consist of a step-by-step guide for the trainees to help them set up their practicum, a set of questions that the trainees can use to help them develop a framework for what they would like to get out of their individual practicum and a list of 20 possible sites the trainees could consider as a possible training site. Trainees are also encouraged to seek out other sites, as applicable, to reach their respective practicum goals. Finally, a practicum evaluation form has been developed which allows trainees the opportunity to provide feedback to the IID program on their completed practicum experience. As of September 2011, two trainees have completed their practica. A brief description of these practica are provided below:

James Sainsbury has completed his practicum in Ottawa with Lini Al-Kharki, Public Health Law and Ethics Program, Public Health Agency of Canada. His practicum supplemented his basic science PDF research by providing him with experience in policy development.

Zulma Rueda pursued her practicum with Dr. Bangdiwala, Department of Biostatistics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her practicum supplemented her epidemiology-based PhD Research by providing basic experience in biostatistical methodology applicable to the analysis of data arising from her PhD research.

A videoconference meeting with all of the remaining trainees occurred in November 2011 to review the practicum requirement of the IID program to provide further assistance to them in setting up their practicum. Possible changes to this portion of the IID program are being considered to allow trainees to engage in “skill development” and acquire new research skills that are closely related to their primary research programs, but unavailable within their supervisor’s research team. This change is being considered to maximize the usefulness of a practicum experience for both the trainee and their supervisor.

International HIV Prevention Exchange

The Universities of Manitoba & Nairobi Health Initiative (UMNHI) collaborated with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra (WSO) during the New Music Festival (NMF) to bring forth the International HIV Prevention Exchange.

On January 29, 2011, the WSO brought back John Corigliano's Symphony No.1 as part of their opening night to the NMF. This work was composed by Corigliano as his personal response to the AIDS epidemic during the late 1980s.

To coincide with the performance, the University of Manitoba and the IID program organized an International HIV Prevention Exchange (The Exchange) which was held in Winnipeg on January 28-29, 2011 to create a discussion on HIV research. The two-day symposia and workshops culminated with the opening night of the WSO's NMF and included a pre-concert video presentation of the HIV project work in Nairobi and India.

The Exchange was chaired by Dr. Keith Fowke, Dr. Marissa Becker and Dr. James Blanchard and was organized by a group of people from the Medical Microbiology and Community Health Science departments at the University of Manitoba lead by Jude Zieske, Lynn Gauthier, and Dr. Adrienne Meyers.

Many of the presenters and those in attendance included trainees and leaders in the CIHR International Infectious Disease and Global Health Training Program. It brought together local and international researchers and created awareness of HIV research and its global impact to those taking in the WSO concert.



L-R: Vincent Ho, John Corigliano, Alexander Mickelthwate, Frank Plummer, and Keith Fowke at the NMF



L-R top: Jude Zieske, Lynn Gauthier, Michelle Driedger, Joshua Kimani, Frank Plummer, Javier Mignone, Carlos Rojas, L-R bottom: Lesley Slaney, Adrienne Meyers, and Keith Fowke during the NMF



Dream Catchers Drum Group performing during the Scientific Symposium for "The Exchange"

PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Maasai Warrior Statuette

The Program Advisory Committee (PAC) is composed of key stakeholders such as government, industry, community members, non-profit sector, academia, international partners and one of our trainees. This committee was struck in March 2010 and Dr. Gary Glavin, Associate Vice-President (Research) accepted the invitation to serve as the PAC Chair. The responsibilities of the PAC are to advise the Principal Investigator and Core Committee (Drs. Fowke, Wylie, Mignone, and Moses) of the program, provide recommendations and feedback with regard to the program goals, vision and responsibility. The first meeting of the PAC took place on May 12, 2010 and a second meeting was held on October 14, 2011.

Dr. Keith Fowke asked the international sites (India, Kenya and Colombia) to update the PAC members on the program. The highlights from the most recent meeting were the Infectious Minds Scientific Video-conference sessions and an update on framework of the Practicum portion of the program requirements.

PLANS FOR 2012

The trainees will be in Nairobi, Kenya to attend the “Clinical Trials and Research Ethics in a Developing Country Setting” course from January 29 – February 12, 2012 hosted by the Kenya site leader Dr. Julius Oyugi.



Baby Elephant at the Elephant Sanctuary outside of Nairobi, Kenya



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