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### **Report Shows Challenges to Implement Negotiated Prices**

A report on the impact of price negotiations for medicines and diagnostics for HIV/AIDS in the Andean region found that negotiated prices have been useful to drive down the cost of HIV/AIDS medicines in each country. However, difficulties in applying the conditions of the regional agreements at the national level have impeded countries from actually buying medications at the negotiated prices. The price negotiations took place in Lima, Peru, in June 2003, with the participation of 10 Latin American countries and 8 pharmaceutical companies responsible for the production of ARVs. The 150-page report shows that companies that participated in the negotiation did not move forward and register their products in each country, a crucial step necessary for countries to access the negotiated price. As a consequence of the difficulties, countries did not purchase the medications from the laboratories involved in the negotiations, nor in the quantity expected. The report further estimates that as a result countries have incurred in an increase in their spending on HIV/AIDS medicines and diagnostics, which decreases the amount of funds available for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Prepared by Ohio State University for PAHO, the report also contains recommendations and strategies for improving access to ARVs and other HIV/AIDS-related medications in the region. To view the report (available only in Spanish): <http://www.paho.org/Spanish/AD/FCH/AI/NegociacionPreciosVIH.pdf>

### **Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Held in the Dominican Republic**

Members of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on HIV/AIDS & STI met for the first time in Boca Chica, Dominican Republic, from January 22-24, 2005. The meeting was also attended by over 100 participants, including HIV/AIDS focal points, bilaterals and multilaterals, and directors of National AIDS Programs. The consultation resulted in 33 recommendations to PAHO to improve PAHO's technical cooperation and impact at the country level. The event provided a forum for sharing experiences about the achievements and challenges faced by countries in the region and for exchanging information on existing tools, methodologies, and available resources for scaling up efforts at the national level. Priorities for the appropriate and effective use of resources were also discussed at the meeting. Support from PAHO's Executive Management was evidenced by the participation of the assistant director, Dr. Carissa Etienne. The TAC consists of 10 members and is co-chaired by Dr. Paul Farmer and Dr. Mercedes Weissenbacher. More: [http://www.paho.org/english/ad/fch/ai/TAC\\_2005.htm](http://www.paho.org/english/ad/fch/ai/TAC_2005.htm)

### **PAHO Promotes Stronger Ties to Civil Society**

Dr. Mirta Roses, PAHO's director, provides details on this policy through a letter to Dr. Richard Stern, director of Agua Buena, an advocacy group that promotes the scaling-up of antiretroviral treatment in Latin America. The letter states that PAHO will actively encourage its staff, through increased awareness, to become involved with the civil society. In addition, according to Dr. Roses, "the Organization will also seek constructive and meaningful feedback from them regarding its technical cooperation in HIV/AIDS in the Americas". To view the letter: <http://www.paho.org/English/AD/FCH/AI/RSternE.pdf>

### **New Webpage on HIV and Drug Use**

A new website presents facts and resources regarding HIV and drug use in the Americas. It provides manuals geared toward health professionals, community organizations, and planners, with information on how to approach HIV prevention and infection among injecting drug users. The page also includes presentations and other documents to guide professionals working at the field level in the areas of surveillance, prevention, and care of HIV for drug users in the region. The material contained in the webpage intends to improve second generation HIV prevention among injecting drug users in Latin America, with a questionnaire on high-risk drug users and workshop guidelines for drug-related prevention at the national level. At the moment, the website is only available in Spanish at: [http://www.paho.org/Spanish/AD/FCH/AI/VIH\\_drogas.htm](http://www.paho.org/Spanish/AD/FCH/AI/VIH_drogas.htm)

### **3 by 5 Appointments to Guyana and Haiti**

Dr. Karoline Fonck and Dr. Enias Baganizi were recently appointed to the positions of 3 by 5 project managers for Haiti and Guyana, respectively. Dr. Fonck, who is originally from Belgium, has been a regional advisor in reproductive health in West and Central Africa for the UNFPA in Dakar, Senegal, for the past four years, and has extensive experience delivering country support to the coordination, implementation, and monitoring & evaluation of HIV/AIDS programs. Dr. Baganizi, a Rwandan national, joins PAHO from the CDC Headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. He has worked on the development of national AIDS programs, as well as on epidemiological studies in several countries, including Benin, Burkina Faso, and Mali, where he provided technical assistance to the

implementation of HIV/AIDS and STI control and surveillance activities in the region.

### **Latin American Award for Best Antiretroviral Treatment News Piece**

Red-Salud, a network of 600 Latin American health journalists, has announced the creation of the first Latin American Award for Health Journalism. This year, the award will be honored to the best piece on Antiretroviral Treatment. The award is sponsored by Red-Salud, which is supported by PAHO, the Communication Initiative, and the Fundación Nuevo Periodismo Iberoamericano. It aims to encourage journalists in the region to improve the quality and coverage of health issues in the media. Every year the award will focus on a different topic in health journalism that is central to the Latin American region. For rules, selection criteria, and more information on how to apply please visit: <http://www.comminit.com/la/reds salud/awards/index.html>

### **Suriname launches a PAHO-Sponsored Film on HIV**

“Wan Lobi Tori (A Love Story),” 40 minute film, was released on World AIDS Day in Suriname and Guyana. The movie has been very well received by young audiences, the media, and health specialists, who see in the film an extremely successful combination of education and entertainment. Written and directed by Sharda Ganga, the movie is a result of edutainment training exercise, partially assisted by the South African NGO Soul City. It shows how a young couple deals with the repercussions of a HIV-positive diagnosis, both within their families and among those in their society. This film provides a different medium for divulging prevention efforts in HIV and promoting the reduction of stigma and discrimination of people living with HIV. For more information on the video and other related topics: <http://www.paho.org/English/AD/FCH/CA/HIVJan05.pdf>

### **New Publication on Sentinel Serosurveys**

The WHO/UNAIDS Working Group on Global HIV/AIDS and STI Surveillance, with the support of PAHO and the CDC, has recently released a document entitled “Guidelines for Conducting HIV Sentinel Serosurveys among Pregnant Women and Other Groups”. This document is a technical guide for conducting HIV serosurveys; it is aimed at National AIDS Programs, for it provides methodologies that are specific to the serological surveillance of pregnant women, including how to design and conduct surveys, analyze and interpret data, and properly divulge results. To view the publication (available in Spanish): [http://www.paho.org/Spanish/AD/FCH/AI/vig\\_embarazadas.pdf](http://www.paho.org/Spanish/AD/FCH/AI/vig_embarazadas.pdf)

### **Nursing Center Develops Studies About HIV Health Disparities**

The Nursing Research Center on HIV/AIDS Health Disparities, a center that combines the efforts of the University of California, San Francisco and the University of Puerto Rico is currently conducting a series of pilot studies. The Center’s main objectives are to expand the number of nurse researchers in the field of HIV/AIDS, to promote more research projects aimed at reducing health disparities in HIV disease, and to enhance the career development of minority nurse investigators. The studies conducted this year include: “The HIV Symptom Experience of Latina Women”, “Women and HIV: Provider’s Perceptions of Adherence”, “Self-Care Symptom Management in HIV/AIDS”, “Validation of a HIV/AIDS Symptom Management Guidebook”, “Description of Skin Disease in HIV-Positive Persons”, and “Validation of a Stigma Scale Among an HIV Puerto Rican

Population". For more information on the Center, visit: <http://www.ucsf.edu/aidsnursing>

### **PAHO celebrates World AIDS Day with Human Red Ribbon**

On December 1st, 2004, World's AIDS Day was celebrated at PAHO headquarters in Washington, DC with discussions on the effects of the epidemic on women and girls in Latin America and the Caribbean. Violeta Ross, a 27-year-old AIDS activist from Bolivia living with HIV joined approximately 200 staff members clothed in red ponchos in the formation of a human ribbon on Virginia Avenue, outside PAHO headquarters, symbolizing the commitment of PAHO staff to the cause. Ross is a representative of the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW) for the Andean sub region and a member of the Latin American Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (REDLA). She gained worldwide recognition after delivering a closing speech at the International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, in July 2004. A 90-second video of the human ribbon and Violeta Ross's speech can be viewed at:

[http://www.paho.org/English/DD/PIN/street\\_ribbon.aspx](http://www.paho.org/English/DD/PIN/street_ribbon.aspx)

### **Most Frequently Used HIV/AIDS Acronyms**

[http://www.paho.org/English/AD/FCH/AI/Acronym\\_hivAIDS.pdf](http://www.paho.org/English/AD/FCH/AI/Acronym_hivAIDS.pdf)

The purpose of this bulletin is to share information on the efforts of PAHO professionals involved in the response to HIV/STI. It is not an official document of the Organization. To add or remove your name from the bulletin's distribution list, contact [sida@paho.org](mailto:sida@paho.org). Use this email address to contribute articles for publication. We ask the PAHO HIV/STI focal points to send us information on events, strategies, concerns, and needs. PAHO is the regional office of WHO in the Americas and a co-sponsor of UNAIDS.