IT’S OFFICIAL

Michael Saag, MD
(Division of Infectious Diseases)

Dr. Michael Saag, who had been serving as Interim Director of UAB Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) since April of last year, was officially named Director, effective August 2004. Beatrice Hahn, MD will serve as Co-Director.

Drug Discovery and Development Research Grant

Olaf Kutsch, Ph.D.
(Hematology/Oncology)

Olaf Kutsch, Ph.D., Research Assistant Professor and CFAR Member, was recently awarded a 2004 GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Drug Discovery and Development Research Grant in the amount of $83,000. Dr. Olaf Kutsch and other researchers at UAB recently developed a new drug screening system to identify potential inhibitors of HIV transcription or replication.

TEEN FILMMAKER

Harry Saag, Director
(Student)

AIDS IN AFRICA: The Plague that Thunders. This is a 27 minute documentary that aired Saturday, Sept. 25, at 2:00 pm in the McWane Room as part of Birmingham’s Sidewalk Film Festival.

This documentary illustrates the effects of the AIDS epidemic in Zambia. It shows the current situation as well as what is currently being done by the United States and UAB to combat this plague. A Q&A section followed the screening with Harry Saag, Michael Saag, MD (Director, UAB Center for AIDS Research), Rob McDonald (former Assistant to the Director, UAB Center for AIDS Research) and Maggie Mumbi-McDonald. If you have not seen this film and are interested in seeing it, please contact the office of Dr. Michael Saag to schedule a possible viewing.

2004-2005 CFAR DEVELOPMENTAL GRANTS AWARDED

The CFAR has awarded Developmental Grants for year 2004-2005. The most recent development awards resulted in support for the following five UAB faculty members:

David Ansardi, Ph.D.
(Cell Biology)

Animal Model for HIV Genital Tract Transmission. This study seeks to develop a new and novel small animal model that, if successful, would greatly facilitate studies to further refine both the virological and immunological parameters associated with heterosexual HIV-1 transmission.

Laura H. Bachmann, MD
(Infectious Diseases)

Risk Assessment of Long-Haul Truck Drivers. This study aims to interview U.S. truck drivers and trucking industry executives and to conduct focus groups with truck drivers for the purpose of constructing a behavioral risk assessment instrument.

Paul Goepfert
(Infectious Diseases)

Mechanisms of HLA Class I Alleles in AIDS Protection. This project seeks to analyze the binding affinities of peptides to the two Class I molecules and to look at differences in CD8 responses to antigen presentation of these peptides by the two Class I alleles.

Olaf Kutsch, Ph.D.
(Hematology/Oncology)

Identification and Development of Novel HIV-1 Tat Inhibitors. This project proposes to transfer the reporter assay to a 384-well plate format and to establish several counter-screen and verification assays that will allow for the rapid and reliable screen of large compound libraries.

Lawrence Lamb, Ph.D.
(Hematology/Oncology)

Center for Cellular Therapy and Experimental Processing. This project proposes to build a state-of-the-art shared resource for cell and tissue engineering in support of basic and translational work in the fields of malignant diseases, transplantation science, regenerative medicine and stem cell biology.
CFAR DINNER LECTURES
www.uabcfar.uab.edu/lectures/dinner

Carl Grunfeld, M.D., Ph.D.
January 26, 2005
Dr. Grunfeld is an investigator with the Metabolism Section at Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in San Francisco. His current interests include the metabolic disturbances that occur during infection, with major focuses on changes in lipid metabolism and energy balance.

Joe Sodroski, M.D., Ph.D.
February 23, 2005
Dr. Sodroski is director of the Center for AIDS Research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI), Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and Children's Hospital. His research focuses on the mechanisms of transformation by human T cell leukemia viruses and the replication and pathogenesis of HIV.

King Holmes, M.D., Ph.D.
March 30, 2005
Dr. Holmes is the Director for the Center for AIDS and STD at the University of Washington in Seattle. He is also a Professor of Medicine at the University of Washington and head of Infectious Diseases at Harborview Medical Center. Dr. Holmes is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the Hoechst Marion Roussel Award from the American Society of Microbiology.

SUPPORT TEAM DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

Kelly Ross-Davis and Care Team Friends

March 23-24, 2005 - Asheville, NC
April 5-6, 2005 - Winston-Salem, NC

Leadership Development Training teaches congregations and organizations how to develop Support Teams in their setting. For more details, please visit www.supportteam.org or call 205-975-9129.

HEARTSONG RETREAT 2005

Sacred Heart Monastery

The Alabama HeartSong Retreat is an interfaith spiritual retreat for adults living with HIV and AIDS, those who work in the epidemic, and for caregivers. The primary goal is for each participant to take the time to listen to his/her own "heartsong" and to use what is learned to continue one's own spiritual growth. The 2005 retreat will be held February 24-27 at the Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman, AL. If you would like more information or would like to sponsor a participant, please contact Kelly Ross-Davis, 205-934-9253, KRD@uab.edu.

CENTER FOR AIDS RESEARCH
256 BBRB ZIP 2170

WORLD AIDS DAY
December 1st, 2004

‘Have you heard me today?’, is the theme of the UNAIDS World AIDS Campaign 2004-2005. With this theme, the Campaign seeks to raise awareness about, and help address, the many issues affecting women and girls around HIV and AIDS. This year’s campaign explores how gender inequality fuels the AIDS epidemic, and is conceived to help accelerate the global response to HIV and AIDS by encouraging people to address female vulnerability to HIV. For additional information, see www.unaids.org/wac/2004/index.html.

The Support Team Network (STN) is in the process of planning new Support Team Initiatives throughout the United States for 2005.

If you or your organization would like to be a part of the 2005 calendar, this is the best time to let STN know, as trainers are being assigned and strategies are being developed.

Please contact Director, Malcolm Marler to schedule your Support Team Initiative for 2005. His toll-free number is 866-435-1391 or you may email him at MMarler@SupportTeam.org.