International AIDS Society
Paris July 13-16, 2003

UAB AIDS investigators were well represented at the second International AIDS Society meeting in Paris. Among the 6,000 delegates from 120 countries were over 20 UAB affiliates contributing three oral presentations, 19 poster presentations, and a “Controversy Debate” to the program. Many of these presentations were products of the Zambia-Rwanda HIV Research Group, led by Susan Allen, MD, Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology. For more information on the conference, click on www.ias2003.org.

New Mucosal HIV and Immunobiology Center

Phillip D. Smith, MD (Gastroenterology)

UAB has been awarded a highly competitive 5-year NIDDK grant to establish the Mucosal HIV and Immunobiology Center. Directed by Dr. Phillip D. Smith, the Center promotes investigation of the interaction between innate and adaptive immune cells of the mucosal immune system and HIV-1 (as well as H. pylori and commensal bacteria). The Center has three Cores: a (1) Genetically-Defined Microbe and Expression Core headed by Drs. John C. Kappes and Charles O. Elson; (2) Cell and Molecular Pathology Core headed by Drs. Jiri Mestecky, Robin Lorenz and Lesley E. Smythies; and (3) Gnotobiotic and Genetically-Engineered Mouse Core headed by Drs. Casey T. Weaver, Trenton R. Schoeb and Xiaoyan Wu. For additional information, contact Dr. Smith (pdsmith@uab.edu) or one of the core directors.

New Grant To Support HIV Vaccine Research

Jiri Mestecky, MD, PhD (Microbiology)

Dr. Jiri Mestecky, Professor, Departments of Microbiology and Medicine, is principal investigator of a research study that seeks to prevent the spread of HIV through the preclinical development of a vaccine. UAB has received a $16-million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) in support of research performed in laboratories of J. Mestecky, B. Hahn (co-director), P. Fultz (UAB), N. Letvin (Harvard University), R. Compans (Emory University) and R. Robinson (Novavax). For additional information, please contact mestecky@uab.edu.

2003-2004 CFAR DEVELOPMENTAL GRANTS AWARDED

CFAR Developmental Grants for year 2003-2004 have been awarded. The most recent developmental awards resulted in support for the following seven UAB faculty members:

Geeta Datta, PhD (Gerontology/Geriatric Medicine)

HIV Protease Inhibitors, Dyslipidemia and Apolipoprotein A-I and E Mimetics. This study proposes to investigate the role of a synthetic peptide in reversing dyslipidemic side-effects of protease inhibitors, using a mouse model.

Zdenek Hel, PhD (Pathology)

Novel DNA-based HIV/AIDS Vaccine Strategies. This study aims to characterize the mechanisms that govern long term CD4+ memory, whose role is important in protection against viremia in DNA vaccinated non-human primates.

Jennifer King, PharmD (Pharmacology)

Pharmacokinetics and Antiretroviral Resistance Testing. This study proposes to utilize pharmacokinetic data and resistance phenotype data together to create a probability estimation of optimal HIV treatments.

N. Rama Krishna, PhD (Biochem. & Molecular Genetics)

Interaction of Calmodulin with HIV-1 gp41. The objective of this project is to characterize the role of Calmodulin as a signal for FAS mediated (on cytoplasmic tail of gp41) apoptosis in HIV infected cells.
Christina Ochsenbauer-Jambor, PhD  
(Hematology/Oncology)  

*DC-SIGN Mediated HIV-1 Trans Infection and Neutralization Resistance.* This study will investigate Dendritic Cell interactions with HIV, and how those interactions affect interactions with neutralizing antibodies and CCR5 receptor selectivity.

Grosebeck Parham, MD  
(OB/GYN)  

*Cervical Cancer Screening of HIV-infected Women in Zambia.* This study will examine the feasibility of using Visualization with Acetic Acid as a low-cost screening test for HPV infection in HIV-infected women in Lusaka, Zambia.

George Shaw, MD, PhD  
(Hematology/Oncology)  

*Interdisciplinary Program in HIV-1 Latency Research.* This project proposes to study HIV latency via both *in vitro* studies and *in vivo* analyses of patients with lymphoma.

For additional information on the CFAR Development Award Program, please visit www.uabcfar.uab.edu/cores/development.

**CFAR Dinner Lecture**  
www.uabcfar.uab.edu/lectures/dinner

**Mark Connors, M.D.**  
October 1, 2003

Dr. Connors is an investigator at the NIAID Laboratory of Immunoregulation in Bethesda, MD. His current interests include the study of immunopathogenic mechanisms of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and disease progression.

**“The Trip”**  
Sunday, November 16, 2003

The Alabama Theatre will show a Houston King/Tom Blount film “The Trip” on November 16th. Doors will open at 4:00 pm, with showing at 5:00 pm. The showing of this film will benefit the 1917 Clinic. To reserve tickets, please call 934-4309. There will be a Question and Answer session following and a silent auction before the film. Items to be auctioned include: 1. A piece by noted AIDS activist, author and artist Mary Fisher. Find out more at www.maryfisher.com. 2. A display quilt by Judy Cloe entitled “Rising Stars of the New Millennium.” 3. A piece by UAB Professor of Art Sonja Rieger. Find out more at her web page at http://main.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=11807. 4. A framed drawing, entitled “In My Father’s Hands,” by Alabama artist Alan Woellhart. 5. A signed and numbered limited edition photograph by Harry C. S. Wingfield. 6. A set of two framed oil pastel drawings by noted Birmingham artist Gerald Zeigler. 7. Other pieces T.B.A.

**Alabama AIDS Hike**  
Saturday, November 1

This year the Alabama AIDS Hike will take place on November 1st, at Ruffner Mountain. The hikes begin at 9:30 am. All levels of hikers are welcome. Proceeds benefit the Birmingham AIDS Outreach and any Alabama AIDS organization of your choosing. Participants may pick up a packet at the 1917 Clinic or BBRB 256. Call 934-2437 or 975-9126 for additional information.

**Care Team Leadership Training Conferences (LTCs)**

Care Team Member Betsy Smith talks with Mrs. B.

Fall 2003 Care Team Leadership Training Conferences (LTCs) are scheduled for the following dates:

**October 16-17** - Chapel Hill, NC  
**October 16-17** - Auburn, AL  
**October 29-30** - Chicago, IL  
**November 4-7** - Harare, Zimbabwe  
**November 6-7** - Birmingham, AL  
**November 13-14** - Montgomery, AL  
**November 17-18** - Huntsville, AL

The LTC is a two-day conference that teaches congregations and organizations how to develop Care Teams in their setting. For more details, please visit www.careteam.org or call 205-975-9129.

**CENTER FOR AIDS RESEARCH**  
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