Florida HIV/AIDS Advocacy Network
Webinar
July 2, 2012

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The Evolution of Cooperation

Competition is not the only force that shaped life on earth
FLORIDA CONSORTIUM FOR HIV/AIDS RESEARCH
19 Research Groups
110 HIV Researchers
~400 Recent and Ongoing Studies
The Research Consortium Agenda

**Vision:** Through high-level collaboration, produce a substantive decrease in statewide and local incidence, morbidity and mortality via identification of highly effective behavioral, pharmaceutical and biologic interventions.

**Goal:** Design and conduct new inter-institutional studies on HIV prevention, treatment, cures and vaccines.

**Objectives:**
- Identify common interest areas to lead to collaborations that will bring new research resources to FL
- Create, maintain and disseminate a statewide research inventory
- Educate staff and potential participants about clinical trials and other studies to promote appropriate referral
- Pursue ways to solve participant recruitment challenges
The Epidemic in Florida, 2011

Population: 18.8 million →
(4th in nation)
Cumulative AIDS cases: 124,069
(3rd in nation)
Cumulative pediatric AIDS cases: 1,543
(2nd in nation)
Cumulative HIV (not AIDS) cases: 47,695
(2nd in nation of 46 states with HIV name reporting)

Persons living with HIV/AIDS: 97,436 →
HIV prevalence estimate: 130,666

HIV incidence estimates are approximately
5,000 per year, 2006-2009

Deaths due to HIV/AIDS: 1,066 (2010)

*Other = Asian/Pacific Islanders; American Indians/Alaskan Natives; multi-racial.
Trend data as of 12/31/2011, Living data as of 05/16/2012
Advancing the Consortium Agenda
Submissions and Proposals Since January 2012

- TAI-USF and others (HRSA ETAC – TAI applicant)
- VGTI-DOH-CHDs-TAI and others (Acute HIV Infection [AHI] Study)
- FIU-Miami-Tampa (STTR for the Homeless)
- UF-UM and others (Women, Alcohol and HIV)
- UM and others (Clinical Trial with AHIs)
Collaborations on AHI-Related Research
Building Trust and Cooperation

- AHI Case Finding and Specimen Collection
- Protocol Development
- Role of the FCHAR Researchers
- Role of DOH
- Role of VGTI
- Specimen Repository
- IRB and legal issues – opportunities and barriers
Educational Brochures – Promoting Recruitment and/or Education of Patients, Potential Subjects, Case Managers, etc.

HIV/AIDS Labs (distributed May 2012)

Behavioral & Observational Studies (distributed June 2012)

Clinical Trials (text finalized; awaiting graphics layout; projected release in July)
Disseminating Information to Promote FCHAR

Distribution of Florida HIV/AIDS Research Inventory

Dissemination of educational brochures

US Conference on AIDS (USCA) 2012: FCHAR presentation

Quarterly FCHAR newsletter, electronically disseminated by The AIDS Institute in April and July 2012; available at www.fchar.org

Press releases, interviews with the media
Recruitment of New Researchers into the Consortium

Junior Level

Mid-Career

Senior
FCHAR
CHALLENGES
AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

June 2012
Barriers to Collaboration: Natural and Manmade

- Physical distance
- Limitations of electronic communication
- Unique needs and capabilities at each institution
  - Self interest impeding cooperation
- Centralizing or decentralizing administrative and supervisory functions
- Lack of education of study participants and investigators
- Multiple IRBs and legal counsel: reciprocity vs. consolidation
Barriers to Collaboration
Continued

- Identification and recruitment of people living with HIV, e.g., to assist with the development of comprehensible, ethical consent forms

- Marginalized, hard-to-reach populations
  - Different recruitment and retention issues at each participating institution

- Hard-to-obtain biologic specimens, sometimes including highly invasive procedures

- Availability of funds
DOH Bureau of HIV/AIDS planned and convened the first symposium of the Consortium in Orlando, Feb. 2011, with 65 HIV researchers from around Florida; a similar number attended the second symposium in Jan. 2012.

FCHAR joins The AIDS Institute, a policy research, advocacy and education nonprofit, with a national and a Florida focus.

Currently 110 researchers belong to FCHAR, with 40 directly involved with subcommittee or advisory committee work.

Established and conducted 2 conference calls with each of 4 subcommittees and the EAC to gather recommendations: Hard-to-Reach Populations, ARVs and Other Therapeutics, Research Education and Regional Networks.
- Educational brochures to present patients with clinical trials options and to inform providers of prevention interventions – goal is to improve recruitment efforts; DOH will place the clinical trials brochure in all STD clinic waiting rooms.

- Survey on hard-to-reach populations and hard-to-obtain biologic specimens: identifying challenges and sharing solutions

- Compiled a research inventory of ~400 recent or ongoing studies, and a Web-based inventory entering developmental phase:
  - 40% are clinical trials, 40% are epi/socio-behavioral studies and 20% address basic science
FCHAR Actions and Accomplishments
Continued

- Recruited an HIV/AIDS Research Coordinator, Sept. 2011
- Elected an Executive Advisory Committee
  - 9 voting members (all institutions represented)
  - 8 non-voting members (DOH, other researchers, TAI, community representative)

- In process of assisting FCHAR member organizations to develop 5 multi-institutional study protocols, headed up by UM, FIU and VGTI; includes studies of acute HIV infection (AHI); TAI as grants applicant, with low indirect costs

- Slide sets to interpret epidemiologic data (completed) and lab reports (in progress); webinar arrangements in progress
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