Seminar Description:
The purpose of the seminar is to discuss the complexities and issues related to HIV/AIDS and older adults. The seminar will explore, in detail, three primary topics related to HIV/AIDS and aging including research, prevention, and care and treatment as it relates to HIV/AIDS and the aging population in the United States. The session will include interactive discussions with expert panelists covering the wide range of aging issues and HIV/AIDS. The AIDS Institute will conclude the seminar by highlighting its annual National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day and ongoing educational campaign as well as emphasize the need for increased awareness among the older adult population. In addition, participants will be provided with the necessary tools to build a network of support for HIV and aging related issues and resource links will be shared.

Seminar Agenda:
9:00 - 9:15 AM Welcome & Introductions, Michael Ruppal, The AIDS Institute
9:15 - 9:30 AM Brief overview of NHAAAD, Michelle Scavnicky, The AIDS Institute
9:30 - 10:15 AM Overview of the data showing trends in the HIV aging population, care and treatment challenges, Nathan Linsk, PhD
10:15 AM Break
10:20 - 11:00 AM Prevention and outreach challenges, Dan Tietz, AIDS Community Research Initiative of America (ACRIA)/Hanna Tessema, ACRIA
11:00 - 11:15 AM The HIV and Aging Consensus Project: Recommended Treatment Strategies for Clinicians Managing Older Patients with HIV, Ken South, American Academy of HIV Medicine
11:15 - 11:30 AM Aging with HIV: a personal perspective, Jane Fowler, HIV Wisdom for Older Women
11:30 - 11:45 AM Policy Updates, Elizabeth Lovinger, Gay Men’s Health Crisis
11:45 - 12:00 PM Q & A

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MICHAEL RUPPAL, Michael Ruppal is the Executive Director of The AIDS Institute (TAI), a national HIV/AIDS organization with a mission to promote action for social change through, public policy research, advocacy and education. TAI’s program and administrative offices are in Tampa, FL at the University of South Florida, College of Medicine and the national policy office is in Washington, DC. For the past 15 years, he has functioned in senior management for the non-profit sector developing, managing and providing HIV/AIDS support services in various capacities including case management, supportive housing services, rental assistance, food pantry, financial management and job placement. Prior to his experience in the non-profit field he worked as a real estate/construction lender for Barnett Banks of Florida. He founded and owned a real estate company as well as a real estate development/construction company for over 12 years. As a licensed real estate broker, mortgage broker and residential contractor, Mr. Ruppal has an extensive background in financial and business management and program and project development. Since transitioning into working with HIV/AIDS service organizations he has developed and supervised, advocacy and outreach programs, research projects, prevention services, food service programs, comprehensive financial assistance services, direct housing and housing assistance programs, volunteer programs, special events and fundraising services.

MICHELLE SCAVNICKY, M.S., Michelle Scavnicky is currently the Director of Education and Capacity Building Services with The AIDS Institute. The AIDS Institute is a national nonprofit nonpartisan organization that promotes action for social change through public policy research, advocacy and education. Ms. Scavnicky also serves as secretary of the board of directors of Metro Wellness and Community Centers. Metro Wellness and Community Centers Inc., a 501(C) 3 organization, is committed to providing premier HIV services, social networking and other health and wellness programs that enhance the quality of life. Ms. Scavnicky has over ten years experience in the HIV/AIDS arena and over fifteen years in the nonprofit sector. Along with her passion for conducting education and training programs, Ms. Scavnicky was instrumental in the development of The AIDS Institute’s Women Informing Now! (WIN) Project and the agency’s National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day campaign. Ms. Scavnicky began her career as a prevention coordinator with a prevention and substance abuse treatment facility in Youngstown, Ohio. After moving to Florida, Ms. Scavnicky focused on different areas of health prevention which included diabetes prevention, health and physical wellness and HIV/AIDS. Ms. Scavnicky holds a Master of Science in Human Services with a specialization in Management of Non-Profit Agencies from Capella University and a Bachelor of Arts in community health education from Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio.

NATHAN L. LINSK, Ph. D., Nathan L. Linsk, Ph. D. is Emeritus Professor at the Jane Addams College of Social Work and Professor of Social Work in Family Medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is currently co-investigator of the seven state Midwest AIDS Training and Education Center which he founded in 1988. He conducts research and develops service programs related to family caregiving issues, program evaluation, case management systems development, medication adherence issues and health professional training. Dr. Linsk has been a gerontological social worker since the 1970s and worked in a variety of home based, community and long-term care settings. He became involved in the HIV/AIDS field in the early 1980s, where he explored long-term care issues for people with HIV establishing the AIDS Long-term Care Access Project and later conducted a series of studies about the role of older adults in caring for people with and affected by HIV. He helped launch the Northeastern Illinois HIV/AIDS Case Management Cooperative in the early 1990s. In 1996 he conducted a study of older adults psychosocial and service needs related to HIV. He helped organize and co-chaired the National Association on HIV Over Fifty from 1996-2006.

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Dr. Linsk has conducted a number of global health and service related programs. In 1991-1994 he initiated and led the Romanian-American HIV/AIDS Prevention Partnership, which provided education and technical assistance for physicians and other health providers to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS as well as provide education and support services to people with HIV and related organizations. Dr. Linsk shared leadership for the Social Work Education in Ethiopia Partnership helping establish the first MSW and Ph D social work education programs in Ethiopia. He was an African AIDS Regional Research Fulbright Fellow in Ethiopia in 2006, studying the role of non-governmental organizations in decision making and community support for antiretroviral HIV medications. He was Principal Investigator on two HIV Twinning Center projects partnering the Jane Addams College of Social Work and the Institute of Social Work in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Addis Ababa University School of Social Work to develop competencies for para-professionals to provide basic social services to vulnerable children and adults who are HIV affected. Dr. Linsk is founding co-Editor of the Journal of HIV/AIDS and Social Services, 2001-present.

DAN TIETZ, RN, JD, Daniel Tietz has served as Executive Director of the AIDS Community Research Initiative of America (ACRIA) since March 2006. In his tenure, Tietz doubled ACRIA’s budget and vastly expanded its research activities, as well as its educational, materials development, and evaluation consulting services. He has also ensured that ACRIA is committed to furthering sensible, science-based public policy, and actively advocates for the resources necessary to bring an end to the AIDS epidemic in the U.S. and around the world. With the creation of the ACRIA Center on HIV & Aging, Tietz has guided the organization to become an international leader in research on and responses to the needs of older adults with and at risk for HIV. Following the 2006 release of its groundbreaking Research on Older Adults with HIV (ROAH) study, ACRIA has collaborated with researchers around the world and delivered much-needed HIV prevention, education, and related services to people over age 50, including training and capacity building to HIV and senior services providers across the U.S. and beyond. A registered nurse and lawyer, Tietz previously served as Deputy Executive Director for Operations at the Coalition for the Homeless, Deputy Executive Director for Day Treatment and Residential Services at Housing Works, and Director of Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) at the Postgraduate Center for Mental Health. Earlier in his career, he worked for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health in a senior staff position for the Deputy Commissioner. In addition, Tietz has long-advocated on behalf of LGBT rights and social justice issues through independent political activity, including campaign management.

HANNA TESSEMA, MPH, MSW, Hanna Tessema is the HIV & Older Adults Technical Assistance Manager HIV Health Literacy Program (HHLP) for AIDS Community Research Initiative of America (ACRIA). She manages citywide, statewide, and national capacity building, training and technical assistance programs on HIV prevention, care and treatment. Hanna previously worked as the Coordinator of Health Education & Outreach at a Community Based Organization in the South Bronx on maternal and child health issues as well as infant mortality reduction with women of childbearing age. Her interests are in global public health issues, mainly HIV, TB, and Malaria. She has previously done research on the social determinants of HIV infection and the role of traditional healers in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. Tessema holds a Global Masters in Public Health in Epidemiology from New York University and a Masters in Social Policy & Evaluation within Community & Social Systems from the University of Michigan.
KEN SOUTH, Ken South is the membership director of the American Academy of HIV Medicine in Washington, DC. Ken South has been working in the nonprofit field ever since earning his BA in nonprofit management from Salem College in 1969. His professional career has included work in three areas of interest, the interfaith community, the AIDS community and the aging community. Ken attended the Methodist Theological School in Ohio with one year at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland and earned a MDiv degree in 1972. He was then ordained by the United Church of Christ that December. He was a co-founder of the Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective in the early eighties where he met his first AIDS patient. He has worked with several faith-based organizations including Bread for the World, Church World Service and the Christian Activities Council of the United Church of Christ. Ken’s experiences with the AIDS epidemic include his work as the first executive director of AID Atlanta, the AIDS National Interfaith Network, AIDS Action, the AIDS Institute of KOBA Associates, the President’s Commission on the AIDS Epidemic, and his current position as the Director of Membership Services of the American Academy of HIV Medicine. Experience in the aging world include his time as co-founder of Bushnell Congregate Homes, aging coordinator at the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force and co-authorship in 2001 of “Outing Age: Public Policy Issues for GLBT Elders.” He served on the national board the LGBT Aging Issues Network of the American Society on Aging, SAGE Metro-DC and the advisory committee of Senior Health Resources of DC. He has been President of Prime Timers of DC since 2000, a national social club for “mature gay men and their admirers”.

JANE PECINOVSKY FOWLER, Jane P. Fowler, a retired Kansas City journalist, is an HIV prevention educator who has given hundreds of presentations throughout the U.S., even internationally. After becoming a public speaker in 1995, she was among the founders/leaders of the National Association on HIV Over Fifty, and then in 2002, she established the national HIV Wisdom for Older Women program. Jane’s story has been told, and her work described, by the national media in newspapers and magazines, on radio and television, including the Oprah Winfrey Show, a CNN prime time special, and National Public Radio. A founding member of the U.S. Positive Women’s Network, Jane was named by POZ magazine as one of the 100 most powerful, influential, and inspirational people working the HIV/AIDS field in America today.

ELIZABETH LOVINGER, Elizabeth Lovinger currently serves as the Policy Associate at Gay Men’s Health Crisis (GMHC), the nation’s oldest HIV/AIDS services organization. She has also been an AVODAH fellow and community organizer at GMHC, and has previously served as a Community Based Research Fellow in anti-LGBT bias crime research at the Triangle Foundation of Michigan. Lovinger received her B.A. in Political Science from the University of Michigan.