

Lori Williams
Baylor College of Medicine
713-798-7637
loriw@bcm.edu

Rebecca Taylor
Bristol-Myers Squibb
609-252-4476
rebecca.taylor@bms.com

Pediatric AIDS Corps grows in second year; impact is clear

HOUSTON – (March 16, 2007) – Twenty-one new physicians have been selected to join 34 who are returning for a second year of caring for HIV-infected children and families in Africa and training African health professionals in managing the disease.

The impact of the Pediatric AIDS Corps program is clear, with thousands more children receiving treatment and hundreds more health professionals being trained each month. The joint program of Baylor College of Medicine and the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation's *SECURE THE FUTURE* initiative sent its inaugural group of 52 physicians to seven countries in Africa in the summer of 2006.

The new recruits were selected from dozens of applications received by the Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative (BIPAI) at Texas Children's Hospital.

"Word of the program and its effectiveness has spread rapidly," said Dr. Mark Kline, president of BIPAI, professor of pediatrics at BCM and chief of the retrovirology clinic at Texas Children's Hospital. "We are contacted daily by health professionals who have heard of the corps and are interested in starting

their medical careers by making a difference by joining the fight against AIDS in Africa.”

Kline said statistics confirm that the presence of the physicians is having a significant impact. Prior to the corps, BIPAI had 9,231 children in care and 4,461 on antiretroviral therapy in seven African countries. With the additional physicians, those numbers grew to 12,503 children in care and 5,669 on antiretroviral therapy six months later, in January 2007.

“Of great importance is that our capacity to train African health care professionals has steadily increased since the PAC doctors have been on the ground,” he said.

Prior to the PAC program, BIPAI trained about 200-300 health professionals each month. In January of this year, 719 African health professionals were trained.

“The program is working,” Kline said. “Not only are we saving the lives of thousands more children, but we are improving the ability of African health professionals to carry on this critical mission. The corps is ramping up progress at an exceptional rate.”

“The Pediatrics AIDS Corps and the Children’s Clinical Centers of Excellence, created by Bristol-Myers Squibb and Baylor, are demonstrating through the combination of excellent doctors, local training and infrastructure that comprehensive care for children and their families is possible even in the most remote areas of the continent, said John Damonti, president of the Bristol-Myers-Squibb Foundation. “In 2003, Baylor and Bristol-Myers Squibb, in partnership

with the government, opened the first HIV clinic in Africa in Gabarone, Botswana. Since then, the network has grown with clinics operating in Lesotho and Swaziland, two under construction in Uganda and Burkina Faso and more to be sited. BIPAI also has a clinic in Malawi.”

Most corps members recently have completed residency training in pediatrics, internal medicine or family medicine. They commit to spend at least one year serving HIV-infected children and their families in resource-poor areas of Africa. The program pays for the doctors’ living expenses and training and helps with medical school loan repayment while they are in the corps.

The new recruits will attend a four-week training course in pediatric HIV/AIDS and tropical medicine this summer at Baylor College of Medicine. They then will be assigned to BIPAI clinics in Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, Burkina Faso and Tanzania.

The new members of the PAC, their undergraduate institutions, medical schools, and places of residency training are:

- Dr. Anu Agrawal, University of Texas, Baylor College of Medicine, Children’s Hospital of Oakland.
- Dr. Anouk Amzel, William and Mary, Medical College of Virginia, New York Presbyterian Hospital
- Dr. Jonathan Bernheimer, Harvard University, Tufts University, Northwestern University.
- Dr. Christopher Buck, Wake Forest University, University of North Carolina, University of California – San Francisco
- Dr. Seema Chandra, Rice University, Baylor College of Medicine, University of Miami
- Dr. Kevin Clarke, University of New Hampshire, University of Connecticut, University of California – San Francisco
- Dr. Carrie Cox, Duke University, University of Chicago, University of North Carolina
- Dr. Kara DuBray, Stanford University, University of North Carolina, Children’s Hospital Oakland

- Dr. Michelle Eckerle, University of Louisville, University of Louisville, Cincinnati Children's Hospital
- Dr. Teresa Fritts, University of Arizona, University of Arizona, University of Tennessee
- Dr. Satish Gopal, University of North Carolina, Duke University, University of Michigan
- Dr. George Han, Harvard University, Baylor College of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine
- Dr. Michele Kiang, Harvard University, Robert Wood Johnson, Children's National Medical Center Washington D.C.
- Dr. Parth Mehta, Simon's Rock College, State University of New York, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- Dr. Paul Mullan, Columbia University, Cornell University, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- Dr. Alina Olteanu, University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Cluj, Romania, University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Ciuj, Romania, Baylor College of Medicine
- Dr. Jeffrey Pierce, University of Texas, Baylor College of Medicine, Santa Rosa Family Practice
- Dr. Richard Pittman, University of Mississippi, University of Mississippi, University of Texas Southwestern
- Dr. Guadalupe Richter, Louisiana State University, LSU School of Medicine, University of Tennessee
- Dr. Janell Routh, University of Colorado, University of California – San Francisco, University of California – San Francisco
- Dr. Omolara Thomas, City University of New York, New York University, Boston Combined Residency Program

The 34 physicians returning for another year of service in the corps are:

Drs. Saeed Ahmed, Annie Buchanan, Ellie Click, Daniel P. Dewey, Clarissa Dudley, Dana Duncan, Chelsea R. Forbes, Tony Garcia-Prats, Suzanne Gaudreault, Annuradha Goel, Carrie Golitko, Heidi Gomes, Matthew Gralewski, Megan Harkless, Heather Hindo, Kebba Jobarteh, Leah Kern, Sarah Kidd, Maria Kim, Amy McCollum, Eric McCollum, David McCollum, Monica A. McGrann, John Midturi, Ryan Phelps, Teena Sebastian, Amy Sims, Nandita Sugandhi, Lineo Thahani, Tamara Todd, Michael Tolle, Dwight Yin, Brian Zanoni and Jeffrey Zsohar.

For more information, see the following websites:

www.bayloraids.org.

www.bms.com

www.securethefuture.com

###