

# CDUHR news

Center for Drug Use and HIV Research

in the Institute for AIDS Research at National Development and Research Institutes, Inc.

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Sherry Deren, Ph.D.,  
Center Director

## New HIV/AIDS Research Center in NYC is Announced

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) recently funded the first center for the socio-behavioral study of drug use and HIV in the United States. The Center for Drug Use and HIV Research (CDUHR) is headed by Sherry Deren, Ph.D., Center Director, and Beatrice J. Krauss, Ph.D., Center Deputy Director. It is located within the Institute for AIDS Research, at National Development and Research Institutes, Inc. (NDRI) in New York City. New York City is the site of the largest drug use-HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States.

“The first cases of HIV among drug injectors in New York City occurred early in the epidemic, 1975-76, so it is appropriate that a center be located here. Injecting drug users (IDUs) in New York City now account for approximately one-tenth of all AIDS cases in the United States. It is important not only to learn about the epidemic in New York City, but also to use this information to understand the HIV epidemic nationally and internationally,” said Don Des Jarlais, Ph.D., a CDUHR Core Director and Investigator, and former member of the United States National

Commission on AIDS. IDUs and other drug-related HIV/AIDS cases increasingly are the focus of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, accounting for about half of the new AIDS cases in the United States<sup>1</sup> and the majority of new AIDS cases in New York City.

CDUHR will provide an infrastructure to support the HIV/AIDS-related research projects at NDRI.

The goals of the Center are to:

- 1 Contribute to knowledge about high-risk drug users and HIV/AIDS;
- 2 Enhance the quality and efficiency of research conducted;
- 3 Advance the science regarding the drug use-HIV/AIDS epidemic.

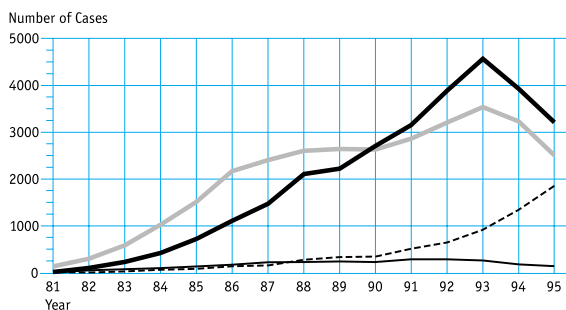
As Dr. Deren noted, “Research efforts have produced a broad base of knowledge regarding the drug use-HIV/AIDS epidemic; the integration and dissemination of these findings should be accelerated to benefit prevention efforts. This is especially relevant now because the recent and encouraging finding that seroprevalence is declining among injection drug users in New York City<sup>2</sup> indicates that well-implemented interventions can reduce HIV incidence.”

The Center will focus on a wide variety of populations at risk of HIV/AIDS, many of whom have been identified as hard to reach. Center efforts will enhance our understanding of these populations and increase the effectiveness of interventions. The Center's leadership team, which includes Core Directors and Principal Investigators of all CDUHR-supported projects, has extensive experience in managing HIV and substance use related research projects. This team will enhance the impact of the epidemiological, prevention and intervention research projects on HIV and substance use operating within CDUHR.

### Adult Male AIDS Cases in New York City

— Male IDUs  
— Men having sex w/men (MSMs)  
— Male IDUs and MSMs  
- - - Male heter./other

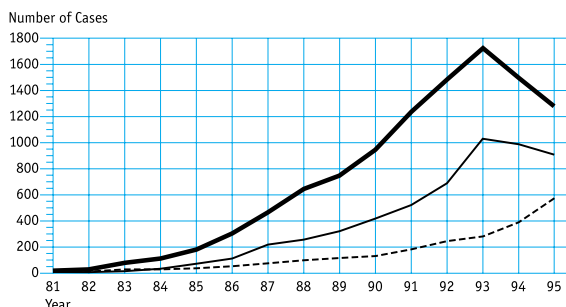
Source: New York City Department of Health; Office of AIDS Surveillance Update, Third Quarter 1997



### Adult Female AIDS Cases in New York City

— Female IDUs  
— Female heter.  
- - - Other

Source: New York City Department of Health; Office of AIDS Surveillance Update, Third Quarter 1997



1. Holmberg, S.D. (1996). The estimated prevalence and incidence of HIV in 96 large U.S. metropolitan areas. *American Journal of Public Health*, 86, 642-654.

2. Des Jarlais, D.C., Perlis, T., Friedman, S.R., Deren, S., Chapman, T., Sotharan, J.L., Tortu, S., Beardsley, M., Paone, D., Torian, L.V., Beatrice, S.T., De Bernardo, E., Montero, E., Marmor, M. (in press). Declining seroprevalence in a very large HIV epidemic: Injecting drug users in New York City, 1991-1996. *American Journal of Public Health*.

## How CDUHR is Structured— Five Cores Established

The Center has five Cores, each with a distinct focus. The Cores will be guided by the goals of the Center, and will enhance project efforts to serve research and provider communities.

Core	Purpose
<b>1</b> The Administration and Coordination Core	To provide overall Center management and promote discussion, integration and dissemination of research findings. Directed by Sherry Deren, Ph.D.
<b>2</b> The Project Development Core	To identify emerging issues and trends in the field and manage pilot studies. Directed by Beatrice J. Krauss, Ph.D.
<b>3</b> The Methods Development and Data Analysis Core	To develop innovative research methods and provide consultation for data analysis. Directed by Sam Friedman, Ph.D.
<b>4</b> The Strategic National and International Comparisons Core	To conduct and promote studies comparing the drug use-HIV epidemic in New York City with other national and international locales. Directed by Don Des Jarlais, Ph.D.
<b>5</b> The Training and Dissemination Core	To provide training for research staff and disseminate findings to service providers. Directed by Andrew Osborne, M.S., CHES



Shown above: Sherry Deren, Ph.D., Center Director (right), and Beatrice J. Krauss, Ph.D., Center Deputy Director

## Research Projects Study Diverse Populations and Issues

The 12 projects currently within CDUHR approach the HIV/AIDS epidemic from many perspectives, studying varied risk groups throughout New York City. Some of the projects examine HIV risk behaviors, risk networks, and/or changes in risk patterns and seroconversion rates over time in injection drug users and other high risk groups (e.g., non-injection heroin users, crack smokers, youth in high seroprevalence neighborhoods); other projects specifically address HIV risk of women drug users, including the impact of social factors on HIV risk, and the HIV risks of women IDUs who have sex with other women. Other current studies focus on reengaging drug treatment dropouts in drug treatment, developing interventions to improve communication between parents and youth regarding HIV-related issues, estimating the size and characteristics of the heroin and cocaine using populations, and planning continuous care for children in HIV-affected families. The particular studies supported by the Center will vary, addressing emerging issues as the epidemic changes.

*Opposite is a listing of the current projects.*

## Getting Input From Constituencies: CDUHR Advisory Boards

To benefit from the expertise and experience both within and outside of NDRI, CDUHR will receive guidance from research and community advisory boards. Research advisors include directors of currently funded national research centers focusing on HIV/AIDS and other nationally renowned experts on HIV and other sexually or parenterally transmitted diseases. CDUHR's local advisors include members of service organizations in New York City, local researchers from New York agencies and other NDRI researchers. Advisory groups will be expanded as indicated by the changing needs of the projects.

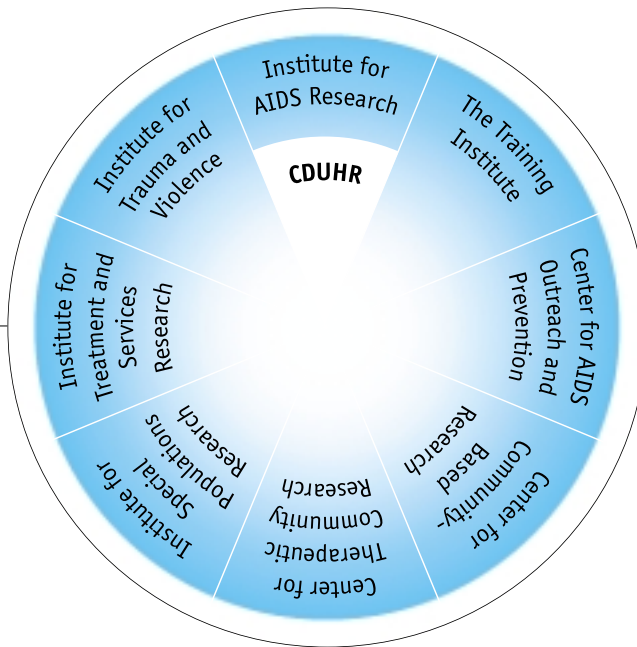
*Members of Advisory Boards are listed on page 4.*

## Projects Currently Supported by the Center

<i>Project and Funding Source</i>	<i>Principal Investigator</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Goal</i>
<b>Risk Factors for AIDS Among IDUs</b> National Institute on Drug Abuse	Don Des Jarlais, Ph.D.	Injection drug users (IDUs)/ drug sniffers	Beth Israel Hospital Detox Units, NY, NY	Monitor HIV risk behavior, infection and immunosuppression
<b>HIV Risk and Transitions from Non-injecting Heroin Use</b> National Institute on Drug Abuse	Alan Neaigus, Ph.D.	Non-injecting heroin users (NIUs)	Lower East Side, NY, NY	Determine predictors of, and the rates at which, NIUs become injectors, and rates of HIV and hepatitis infections
<b>Puerto Rican Drug Users in New York and Puerto Rico</b> National Institute on Drug Abuse	Sherry Deren ,Ph.D. (NDRI) and Rafaela Robles, Ed.D. (PR)	IDUs/crack smokers	East Harlem, NY, NY; Bayamón, PR	Assess determinants of risk behaviors among Puerto Rican drug users in NY and PR
<b>Drug Use and HIV Risk Among Youth</b> National Institute on Drug Abuse	Sam Friedman, Ph.D.	Youth in a high risk community	Bushwick, Brooklyn, NY	Ascertain drug use, drug and sex risk behaviors, risk networks, and determine rates and predictors of HIV/STD among youth
<b>Estimating Current Hard Drug Users and Operatives</b> National Institute on Drug Abuse	Bruce Johnson, Ph.D.	IDUs, crack smokers and “operatives”	Central Harlem, NY, NY	Develop survey techniques to estimate the number and characteristics of hard drug users and “operatives” in the drug trade
<b>Alternative Program for Methadone Maintenance Dropouts</b> National Institute on Drug Abuse	Sherry Deren, Ph.D.	Methadone program dropouts	East Harlem, NY, NY	Assess the effectiveness of an intervention for dropouts using outreach workers, peer support and counseling
<b>Women Drug Users, AIDS and Social Context</b> National Institute on Drug Abuse	Stephanie Tortu, Ph.D.	Female crack users, IDUs, and non-injecting heroin users	East Harlem, NY, NY	Determine how social contextual factors affect the risk of infection, and how they influence both risk and protective behaviors
<b>HIV Risk Among Street Recruited Drug Injectors</b> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Don Des Jarlais, Ph.D.	Younger/newer IDUs (18-30)	Lower East Side, NY, NY	Study changes over time in HIV risk behavior, social networks, and violence; measure HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C seroconversion rates
<b>HIV Risk Among Women IDUs Who Have Sex With Women</b> National Institute on Drug Abuse	Sam Friedman, Ph.D.	WSW IDUs	Several New York City neighborhoods and selected other cities	Ethnographic exploration of why women IDUs who have sex with women have higher HIV-related risks than other women IDUs
<b>Parent/Pre-adolescent Training for HIV Prevention</b> National Institute of Mental Health	Beatrice J. Krauss, Ph.D.	Parents and youth in a high seroprevalence neighborhood	Lower East Side, NY, NY	Evaluate long- and short- term effects of an HIV prevention intervention
<b>Substance Use, Drug Injection and Sexual Behavior</b> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Beatrice J. Krauss, Ph.D. (Co-Principal Investigator)	HIV positive IDUs	Lower East Side NY, NY; San Francisco CA	Explore determinants of safe and unsafe heterosexual behavior
<b>Families in Transition</b> New York State AIDS Institute	Beatrice J. Krauss, Ph.D. (Co-Director)	HIV positive parents and their minor children	NYC, NY	Evaluate and strengthen long-range planning for continuous child care in HIV-affected families

## Relationship Between NDRI, The Institute for AIDS Research and the New Center

NDRI



## NDRI

CDUHR's parent organization, NDRI, is the location of extensive research, outreach and training efforts targeting drug users, HIV and other related concerns. NDRI is an ideal location from which the Center can conduct ongoing research and dissemination efforts. Established in 1967, NDRI is a not-for-profit multidisciplinary social science research organization with training and outreach capabilities.

### NDRI Comprises Eight Centers and Institutes

"NDRI's eight research or service institutes focus on urban, health and substance use problems, not only in New York, but across the United States and internationally," remarked NDRI's CEO, Fred Streit, Ed.D. These include:

- Institute for AIDS Research**
- Training Institute**
- Center for AIDS Outreach and Prevention**
- Institute for Treatment and Services Research**
- Institute for Special Populations Research**
- Center for Therapeutic Community Research**
- Institute on Trauma and Violence**
- Institute for Community-Based Research.**

Together these centers and institutes manage over 75 ongoing grants and contracts relating to HIV, criminal justice, mental health, substance use, urban violence and related topics. The Training Institute offers over 75 courses annually to HIV and drug prevention, treatment, health care, law enforcement and other professionals throughout New York State and internationally. Coursework of the Training Institute fulfills the requirements for credentialed chemical and substance abuse counselors (CASAC). The Center for AIDS Outreach and Prevention uses street-based outreach to deliver HIV harm reduction messages, materials and strategies to hard-to-reach populations (e.g., clients of crack houses and shooting galleries) and has provided technical assistance and evaluation to other organizations wishing to establish street-based outreach models.

### In Future Issues:

- Recent research findings
- Recent publications
- CDUHR project descriptions
- Profiles of staff
- Reports from the field sites

## Advisory Board Members

### National HIV/AIDS Researchers

Thomas Coates, Ph.D.,  
*Director, AIDS Research Institute; Director, Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, University of California at San Francisco*

Anke Ehrhardt, Ph.D.,  
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Vickie Mays, Ph.D.,  
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### Local Service Providers

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*Director, Lower East Side Harm Reduction Center*

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*Program Coordinator, East Harlem HIV Care Network*

### New York Experts

Mary Ann Chiasson, Ph.D.,  
*Assistant Commissioner, Disease Intervention Research, New York City Department of Health*

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CDUHR News is published by the Center for Drug Use and HIV Research/Institute for AIDS Research/ National Development and Research Institutes, Inc.

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