

# CDUHR news

Center for Drug Use and HIV Research

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

## September 11, 2001: The Aftermath

The tragic events of September 11th, 2001 significantly changed the lives of many people. On a smaller scale, it changed the lives of the staff of CDUHR and NDRI—our main offices were on the 16th Floor at Two World Trade Center. As an organization we were extremely fortunate—we all survived and are now rebuilding.

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### Current Status

In the three months since 9/11, the organization established itself in new offices at 71 W 23rd Street (thanks to the efforts of Fred Streit, Executive Director of NDRI, and Robert Hulse, Facility Director). We have had our old telephone numbers restored and our e-mail addresses remain the same as before 9/11. Our field research sites continued to operate with minimal disruption. Holly Hagan joined CDUHR as the Deputy Director and there are several newly-funded CDUHR projects (see details in this issue).

We are grateful to our friends and colleagues who provided encouragement, support and generous offers of assistance. Through the hard work and dedication of our staff, we are in the process of moving forward, and CDUHR continues to be dedicated to increasing our understanding of the drug use-HIV epidemic.

*CDUHR and NDRI express sympathy to all who lost loved ones in the September 11th events at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.*

Towards that effort, CDUHR is conducting an assessment of the short- and long-term impact of 9/11 (and related events) on drug users in New York City. In December, at our annual CDUHR miniconference, the theme was *The Impact of the September 11 Disaster and Related Events on Our Clients and their Communities*. A broad range of field staff participated in the presentations and discussions. In addition, we are surveying drug treatment and HIV service



*Our new main offices at 71 W 23rd Street*

providers around the city (enrolled in courses given by the NDRI Training Institute), and conducting focus groups with drug users (recruited in our research study communities) on possible changes regarding drug use and HIV risk behavior.

Some of the possible changes being assessed include:

- HIV risk and protective behavior—use of syringe exchange programs and pharmacies to purchase syringes, condom use, sex work, drug use and drug relapse.
- Acquisition of drugs—quality and purity of drugs, prices, locations to buy and use and drug dealing patterns.
- Law enforcement—police presence (visibility) in the community, security measures and level of violence and crime.
- Drug treatment—access to treatment, attitudes towards treatment, entry into and dropping out of treatment.

These issues are being examined in relation to geographic proximity to Ground Zero, and in light of other emerging factors with potential impact on HIV risk behavior including the slowing economy in New York City, and the first wave of people reaching the five-year limit on federal welfare benefits.



## Holly Hagan Joins CDUHR as Deputy Director

Holly Hagan, Ph.D., joined CDUHR in October 2001 to become the Deputy Director for CDUHR and the Institute for AIDS Research and the Director of the Project Development Core. Dr. Hagan was a Senior Epidemiologist at the Epidemiology Research Unit, Public Health–Seattle and King County. She has been a Principal Investigator of studies on syringe exchange, HIV and HCV epidemiological research, and prevention intervention research with IDUs since 1990. Dr. Hagan filled the positions held by Dr. Beatrice Krauss who has become the Executive Director of the Center for AIDS, Drugs and Community Health at Hunter College of the City University of New York.

Currently Dr. Hagan is the Principal Investigator for the following projects:

- Hepatitis C in IDUs: Epidemiology and Prevention (NIDA) – Describes the epidemiology of HCV infection and measures incidence of HCV in relation to demographic characteristics, injection and sexual risk and participation in harm reduction programs.
- Collaborative Injection Drug Users III: Drug User Intervention Trial (CDC) (Seattle PI) – Evaluates a randomized trial of a peer volunteer activism intervention to reduce injection and sexual risk behavior and reduce incidence of HIV and HCV.
- Study to Reduce Intravenous Exposures (NIDA) (Seattle PI) – Evaluates a randomized trial of a peer-volunteer activism intervention for HCV-positive young injectors and identifies the proportion willing and eligible to undergo treatment to eradicate HCV.
- Etiology and Prevention of Blood-borne Viruses (NIDA) – Studies etiologic risk factors for HCV seroconversion and evaluates whether changes in syringe exchange programs (to increase distribution of and education about cookers and cottons) have reduced HCV infection rates. The study also examines partner notification and HCV case reporting.

“I’m very pleased to be a part of CDUHR during this period – the work of the Center will be very important to answering the next generation of questions in HIV research.”

Holly Hagan, Ph.D.  
Deputy Director, CDUHR

## UAB-NDRI-Substance Abuse ICOHRTA in Ukraine (NIDA)

CDUHR Co-Directors: Sherry Deren, Ph.D. and Samuel R. Friedman, Ph.D.

(PI: Sten Vermund, M.D., Ph.D., UAB)

This project is a collaborative effort with the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), CDUHR/NDRI and the Pirogov Medical University in Vinnitsa, Ukraine. It provides a multidisciplinary training program for Ukrainian scientists, physicians and public health practitioners on drug use (with a focus on injection drug use) – its treatment and prevention, and the prevention and control of HIV, sexually transmitted infections and tuberculosis. In addition, the collaboration is to assist in developing Pirogov into a regional center for training and research on clinical, operational and health services research for drug use. Pirogov scholars will earn a Masters in Public Health from UAB and do an internship with CDUHR.

## Cross-Border HIV Prevention Project: China and Vietnam (NIDA)

CDUHR Co-Investigator: Don C. Des Jarlais, Ph.D.  
(PI: Theodore Hammett, Ph.D., Abt Associates)

This project will evaluate an HIV prevention intervention in Guangxi Province, China and Langson Province, Vietnam, a border area affected by: large-scale drug trafficking, cross-border movement related to small-scale drug purchase and use, and an HIV epidemic that appears to be entering a “take-off” stage. Current HIV prevention activities are quite limited. The intervention will use a peer education model which includes elements of social marketing of sterile injection equipment and community education/mobilization. The project also seeks to improve cross-border collaboration on prevention interventions and to build capacity for additional behavioral and epidemiological research.

## Treatment Engagement of HIV-Positive Heroin Users (SAMHSA-CSAT)



Principal Investigator:  
Marjorie F. Goldstein, Ph.D.

Heroin users who are HIV-positive are in need of both health services and drug treatment. However, many are not enrolled in either drug

treatment or medical care. Even those who are enrolled in one or both of these services may not consistently attend or may drop-out of treatment. HIV-positive heroin users will be recruited and randomly assigned to either a brief or an intensive counseling intervention. The intensive intervention consists of outreach, cognitive behavioral groups, individual counseling and referrals to services. The brief intervention consists of a limited amount of individual counseling and referrals to services. Participants will be interviewed at baseline and six months later. Brief and intensive counseling groups will be compared on drug treatment enrollment, medical care enrollment and regularity of attendance in each service. Two advisory groups (HIV-positive clients in treatment, and directors of drug treatment and HIV primary care programs) will assist in finalizing the intervention and interpreting results. A manual and training materials will be developed for drug treatment and HIV care providers.

#### **Network Risks Among New IDUs in New York and Marseilles (NIDA)**



Principal Investigator:  
Alan Neaigus, Ph.D.

New injection drug users (IDUs) are at substantial risk of becoming infected with HIV and hepatitis C (HCV), and there is an increased risk of infection if their risk networks (people with whom they use drugs or have sex) and social influence networks (people with whom they interact and who influence their behavior) are at high risk. The purpose of this study is to examine and compare network and behavioral risks for HIV and HCV among new IDUs in New York and Marseilles. Analyses of survey, and HIV and HCV test data from ongoing studies in each city will be conducted. Qualitative research using institutional and ethnographic data will explore how differences in drug use and social benefit environments (such as medical care, income support and housing) affect network and behavioral risk. In addition, exploratory research will be conducted to understand whether travel patterns between Southern France and Northern Africa by new IDUs of North African origin are related to their network and behavioral risks for HIV and HCV.

#### **Hispanic Heroin Users, Transitions to Injecting and HIV (NIDA)**

CDUHR Co-Investigator: Alan Neaigus, Ph.D.  
(PI: Alevardo Valdez, Ph.D., University of Houston)

The increase in non-injection use (NIU) of heroin has serious consequences for the spread of HIV and blood-borne infections since non-injection heroin users are at risk of becoming IDUs. This study will examine the roles of social networks, and cultural and contextual variables associated with transitioning from NIU of heroin to injecting, and in the transmission of HIV, HBV and HCV among Mexican-Americans in San Antonio. Participants will be interviewed and tested for HIV, HBV and HCV at baseline, and at three follow-ups, at six-month intervals. Findings will provide information that can be used to develop network-based interventions to prevent transitioning to injecting and other consequences of non-injection heroin use.

#### **Measuring Sexual Minority Status Among Women Drug Users (NIDA)**



Principal Investigator:  
Rebecca M. Young, Ph.D.

An estimated 20-30% of women drug users are lesbian, bisexual or other women who have sex with women (WSWs). Sexual minority status appears to affect health, protective and risk behaviors, and experiences with drug treatment and medical services. However, there are currently no accepted measures for distinguishing women whose same-sex experiences are limited or transient from sexual minorities, for whom same-sex experiences and identity are more significant. The Institute of Medicine's Committee on Lesbian Health Research Priorities has recommended the development of measures of sexual orientation that can be applied to low-income and ethnic minority women, with specific attention to drug use and its consequences. This study directly addresses these recommendations. Measures will be developed and validated with a pilot survey of women drug users. The results will be used in future epidemiological and health services research among women drug users.

## June 2001–November 2001

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# The Training Institute

The Training Institute provides training for the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute and conducts courses by special request. Following are courses available January–June 2002, offered at no cost to participants. All courses are held at the NDRI offices unless otherwise noted.

Date	Course
1/7 <sup>a</sup> , 4/2 <sup>b</sup> , 6/11	HIV and STDs (3 hours)
1/7 <sup>a</sup> , 3/4 <sup>b</sup> , 5/8	HIV/AIDS Update (3 hours)
1/8–1/10 3/12–3/14 5/13–5/15	Reducing the Risk and Harm of HIV (Three days)
1/14, 4/22	Implementing HIV Reporting and Partner Notification (One day)
1/16, 3/20, 5/2	Introduction to Case Management (One day)
1/22 <sup>c</sup> , 3/19 5/20 <sup>a</sup>	Basic Information About Domestic Violence (One day)
1/23, 3/27, 5/9	Enhancing the Partnership Between Client and Case Manager (One day)
1/29, 3/26, 5/23	Domestic Violence in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Communities (One day)
1/30, 4/3 5/16, 6/12	Cultural Diversity Training for Case Managers (One day)

Date	Course
2/4–2/7 4/15–4/18 6/3–6/6	Community HIV/AIDS Educator Training (Four days)
2/13 <sup>c</sup> , 4/2, 6/11	Overview of HIV Infection and AIDS (3 hours)
2/13 <sup>c</sup> , 4/2, 6/11	HIV Confidentiality Law (3 hours)
2/19–2/20 4/8–4/9 6/18–6/19	HIV Testing Procedures (Two days)
2/21, 4/10, 6/20	Practicing the New York State Domestic Violence Screening Protocol (3 hours)
3/7 <sup>a</sup>	Reducing Perinatal Transmission in Prenatal, Maternity, and Pediatric Settings (3 hours)
5/22	Promoting HIV Adherence to HIV Treatment (3 hours)
5/22	HIV Treatment Fraud (3 hours)

a Woodhull Hospital, Brooklyn      b Lincoln Hospital, Bronx  
c Bronx AIDS Services

*These courses are eligible for contact hours for CASAC credentialing. For a complete listing of Year 2002 courses, the curriculum of Special Request courses, CDUHR/Training Institute courses, and information on the courses listed above, call the Training Institute at (212) 845-4564. This information is also available on our Web site at <http://www.ndri.org> where you may register for these courses.*

CDUHR is funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse to provide an infrastructure to support the HIV/AIDS-related research projects at NDRI. It is the first center for the socio-behavioral study of drug use and HIV in the United States and is dedicated to increasing our understanding of the drug use-HIV epidemic.

## CDUHR Core Directors

Administration and Coordination Core  
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Project Development Core  
*Holly Hagan, Ph.D.*

Statistics and Data Analysis Core  
*Shiela M. Strauss, Ph.D.*

Strategic National and International Comparisons Core  
*Don C. Des Jarlais, Ph.D.*

Theory Core  
*Samuel R. Friedman, Ph.D.*

Training and Dissemination Core  
*Andrew Osborne, M.S. Ed., CHES*

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## CDUHR Supported Projects

Collaborative Injection Drug Users III: Drug User Intervention Trial (CDC)  
*Principal Investigator: Holly Hagan, Ph.D. (Seattle PI)*

Community Vulnerability and Response to HIV (NIDA)  
*Principal Investigator: Samuel R. Friedman, Ph.D.*

Cross-Border HIV Prevention Project: China and Vietnam (NIDA)  
*CDUHR Co-Investigator: Don C. Des Jarlais, Ph.D. PI: T. Hammett, Ph.D.*

Drug Users' Self-Reported HIV Status: Validity/Methods (NIDA)  
*Principal Investigator: Shiela M. Strauss, Ph.D.*

Etiology and Prevention of Blood-Borne Viruses in IDUs (NIDA)  
*Principal Investigator: Holly Hagan, Ph.D.*

Expanded Syringe Access Program: NY Evaluation (NIDA)  
*CDUHR Co-Investigator: Sherry Deren, Ph.D. PI: D. Vlahov, Ph.D.*

HCV Service Innovations in Drug Treatment Programs (NIDA)  
*Principal Investigator: Shiela M. Strauss, Ph.D.*

Hispanic Heroin Users, Transitions to Injecting and HIV (NIDA)  
*CDUHR Co-Investigator: Alan Neaigus, Ph.D. PI: A. Valdez, Ph.D.*

HIV Risk Behaviors Among Urban Nomad Drug Injectors (NIDA)  
*Principal Investigator: Don C. Des Jarlais, Ph.D.*

Interventions for HIV-Positive Mothers with Drinking Problems (NIAAA)  
*Principal Investigator: Marya Viorst Gwadz, Ph.D.*

Local Context, Social Control Action and HIV Risk: Phase I (NIMH)  
*Principal Investigator: Samuel R. Friedman, Ph.D.*

Measuring Sexual Minority Status Among Women Drug Users (NIDA)  
*Principal Investigator: Rebecca M. Young, Ph.D.*

National Study of Syringe Exchange Programs (NIDA)  
*Principal Investigator: Don C. Des Jarlais, Ph.D.*

Networks, Norms, and HIV/STI Risk Among Youth (NIDA)  
*Principal Investigator: Samuel R. Friedman, Ph.D.*

Network Risks Among New IDUs in New York and Marseilles (NIDA)  
*Principal Investigator: Alan Neaigus, Ph.D.*

Non-Injecting Heroin Users, New Injectors and HIV Risk (NIDA)  
*Principal Investigator: Alan Neaigus, Ph.D.*

Parent/Pre-adolescent Training for HIV Prevention (NIMH)  
*Principal Investigator: Beatrice J. Krauss, Ph.D.*

Puerto Rican Drug Users in NY and PR: HIV Risk Behavior Determinants (NIDA)  
*Principal Investigator: Sherry Deren, Ph.D.*

Risk Factors for AIDS Among IDUs (NIDA)  
*Principal Investigator: Don C. Des Jarlais, Ph.D.*

Study to Reduce Intravenous Exposures (NIDA)  
*Principal Investigator: Holly Hagan, Ph.D. (Seattle PI)*

Treatment Engagement of HIV Positive Heroin Users (SAMHSA-CSAT)  
*Principal Investigator: Marjorie F. Goldstein, Ph.D.*

UAB-NDRI-Substance Abuse ICOHRTA in Ukraine (NIDA)  
*CDUHR Co-Directors: Sherry Deren, Ph.D. and Samuel R. Friedman, Ph.D. PI: S. Vermund, M.D., Ph.D.*

United Bronx Parents La Casita Therapeutic Community Evaluation (NYS OASAS, NYSDOH)  
*Principal Investigator: Don C. Des Jarlais, Ph.D.*

WHO Survey Coordinating Center, Drug Injecting Study- Phase 2 (WHO)  
*Principal Investigator: Don C. Des Jarlais, Ph.D.*

Women Drug Users, Their Male Partners and HIV Risk (NIDA)  
*Principal Investigator: Stephanie Tortu, Ph.D.*