



PRESS RELEASE

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DORIS DUKE
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Medical Research Program

Ten Teams Receive Grants Totaling \$2 Million for Operations Research on AIDS Care and Treatment in Africa

June 1, 2007, New York, NY – The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation announced today the results of its second Operations Research on AIDS Care and Treatment in Africa (ORACTA) competition. Ten teams of researchers from the United States and Kenya, Lesotho, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia received two-year grants of \$200,000 each. See pages 2-4 for a complete list of the awardees.

First awarded in 2005, the foundation's ORACTA grants aim to improve the care and treatment of AIDS patients in resource-limited settings, inform antiretroviral therapy policy and practice, and improve outcomes of the roll-out and scale-up of antiretroviral therapy in Africa. For the 2007 competition, the foundation particularly encouraged the submission of proposals for research in three areas: the HIV-tuberculosis co-epidemic; HIV treatment adherence; and the integration of scaled-up AIDS care and treatment into public healthcare systems.

The 2007 competition attracted 57 proposals from investigators or teams of investigators working with AIDS healthcare providers in 16 African countries. A panel of experts reviewed the proposals and recommended 10 outstanding teams for funding.

“Operations research is critical to advancing the optimal delivery of care and treatment at the necessary scale for HIV and AIDS patients in Africa,” said Joan E. Spero, president of the foundation. “We are pleased to support these talented and dedicated teams of researchers and healthcare providers, who are working to fill important gaps in our knowledge base.”

Including the 2007 grants, the foundation has awarded 30 ORACTA grants totaling \$6 million to support research teams working in 10 African countries.

The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (www.ddcf.org) is to improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research and the prevention of child maltreatment, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties.

The foundation's Medical Research Program has committed more than \$150 million since 1998 to strengthen and support clinical research, which advances the translation of basic biomedical discoveries into new treatments, preventions and cures for human diseases. To learn more or to receive competition announcements, visit www.ddcf.org/mrp.

**Operations Research on AIDS Care & Treatment in Africa
2007 Grant Recipients
(in alphabetical order by principal investigator)**

“Transport Support to Improve ARV Treatment Outcomes”

Principal Investigator:

- David Bangsberg, M.D., Ph.D., University of California, San Francisco

Co-Investigators:

- Winnie Muyindike, M.B.Ch.B., M.Med., Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda
- Harsha Thirumurthy, Ph.D., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- James Habyarimana, Ph.D., M.A., B.Sc., Georgetown University
- Cristian Pop-Eleches, Ph.D., M.A., Columbia University
- Irene Andia, M.B.Ch.B., M.Med., Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda

“Macronutrient Supplement for HIV-Infected Patients Initiating ART”

Principal Investigator:

- Wafaa El-Sadr, M.D., M.P.H., Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

Co-Investigators:

- Stephen Arpadi, M.D., M.S., Columbia University
- Richard Deckelbaum, M.D., Columbia University
- Mark Hawken, M.D., M.S., Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University
- Pricilla Nyakundi, M.B., M.Med. Ped., M.Sc., Kenya Medical Research Institute

“Impact and Value of Improving TB Control in Africa”

Principal Investigator:

- Kenneth A. Freedberg, M.D., M.Sc., Massachusetts General Hospital

Co-Investigators:

- Robin Wood, B.M., B.Ch., M.Med., University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Linda-Gail Bekker, M.B.Ch.B., F.C.P., University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Melissa Bender, M.D., Massachusetts General Hospital

“Combating MDR and XDR TB and HIV in Rural South Africa”

Principal Investigator:

- Gerald Friedland, M.D., Yale University

Co-Investigators:

- Neel Gandhi, M.D., Albert Einstein College of Medicine
- Anthony Moll, M.Sc., M.B.Ch.B., Church of Scotland Hospital, South Africa
- N. Sarita Shah, M.D., M.P.H., Albert Einstein College of Medicine
- Adriaan Willem Sturm, M.D., Ph.D., University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
- Umesh Laloo, M.D., M.B.Ch.B., University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

“Impact of Peer Educators and Mobile Phones on HIV Care”

Principal Investigator:

- Ronald H. Gray, M.D., M.Sc., Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health

Co-Investigators:

- Larry Chang, M.D., M.P.H., Johns Hopkins University
- Joseph Kagaayi, M.B.Ch.B., M.P.H., Rakai Health Sciences Program, Uganda
- Steven Reynolds, M.D., M.P.H., National Institutes of Health
- David Serwadda, M.B.Ch.B., M.Sc., M.Med, M.P.H, Makerere University Institute of Public Health, Uganda

“Trial of Strategies to Enroll Pregnant Women onto ART”

Principal Investigator:

- William P. Killam, M.D., M.P.H., University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Medicine

Co-Investigators:

- Moses Sinkala, M.B.Ch.B, M.P.H., Zambian Ministry of Health
- Dwight Rouse, M.D., University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Medicine
- Jeffrey Stringer, M.D., University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Medicine
- Namwinga Chintu, M.D., M.Med., M.Trop.Paed., Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia

“Evaluating Two Models of ART Delivery in Rural Rwanda”

Principal Investigator:

- Michael L. Rich, M.D., M.P.H., Brigham and Women’s Hospital; Partners in Health, Rwanda

Co-Investigators:

- Henry Epino, M.D., Partners in Health
- Paul Farmer, M.D., Ph.D., Brigham and Women’s Health; Partners in Health
- Molly Franke, B.A., Partners in Health
- Felix Kaigamba Rubagumya, M.D., Ruhengeri Hospital, Rwanda
- Pierre Niyigena, Rwanda Ministry of Health; Partners in Health

“Mobile ARV Pharmacy at TREAT sites in Rural Uganda”

Principal Investigator:

- Ajay K. Sethi, Ph.D., M.H.S., Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

Co-Investigators:

- Peter Mugenyi, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.C.H., Joint Clinical Research Center, Uganda
- Cissy Kityo Mutuluza, M.D., M.Sc., Joint Clinical Research Center, Uganda
- Francis Bajunirwe, M.B.Ch.B, M.S., Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda
- Edgar Mugema Mulogo, B.D.S., M.P.H., M.S., Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda

“Improving TB Diagnosis in High HIV Primary Care Settings”

Principal Investigator:

- Kwonjune J. Seung, M.D., Brigham and Women’s Hospital

Co-Investigators:

- Jennifer Furin, M.D., Ph.D., Brigham and Women’s Hospital
- Hind Satti, M.D., Cure Medical Center, Lesotho
- Salmaan Keshavjee, M.D., Ph.D., Brigham and Women’s Hospital

“Community-Based Case Finding of TB-HIV Patients”

Principal Investigator:

- Christopher C. Whalen, M.D., M.S., Case Western Reserve University

Co-Investigators:

- Juliet Sekandi, M.B.Ch.B, M.S., Makerere University, Uganda
- Alphonse Okwera, M.B.Ch.B, M.Sc., Mulago Hospital Complex, Uganda
- Henry Luzze, M.B.Ch.B, M.S., Mulago Hospital Complex, Uganda