

Narrative and Financial Report

Scientific Research Planning Meeting on Sexual Violence and HIV Transmission

19-20 March 2012, Manhasset, NY

Submitted to the

**Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and UNACTION
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I. Introduction

With funding received from UNAIDS, UNACTION and the U.S. National Institutes for Health (NIH), the Social Science Research Council convened a Scientific Research Planning Meeting on Sexual Violence and HIV Transmission. The meeting took place on 19-20 March 2012, at the Greentree Foundation in Manhasset, New York. This first ever convening of the biomedical community on the physiology of sexual violence and HIV transmission brought together an interdisciplinary group of more than thirty basic scientists, clinicians, social scientists and policy makers to share background information, related published research, and to identify priority research questions. The aim was to develop a consensus agenda setting out priorities for research, policy and practice to address the role of genito-anal injury and sexual violence in HIV transmission, acquisition and pathogenesis.

The meeting resulted in the “Greentree White Paper: Sexual Violence, Genito-anal Injury and HIV: Priorities for Research, Policy and Practice” which has been accepted for publication in the November Special Issue on The Science of Prevention in *AIDS Research and Human Retroviruses*. A special issue of the *American Journal of Reproductive Immunology*, to be published in January 2013, will include the Meeting Report and review articles that were developed for the Greentree Consultation.

The scientific research priorities and approaches emerging from the meeting have already been incorporated into three NIH funding mechanisms. Briefings have been convened to disseminate meeting outcomes and several new research and programmatic initiatives are being developed in the areas of mathematical modelling, sexual violence in armed conflict and in relation to young adolescent women.

II. Pre-Meeting Consultations and Organization

a. Pre-Meeting Consultations

An organizing committee was established to provide advice on the agenda, meeting goals and outcomes and participation. Members included Jennifer Klot (SSRC), Souleymane M’boup (Université Cheikh Anta DIOP), Gina Brown (NIH), UNAIDS (Berthilde Gahongayire, Nertila Tavanxhi, Tobias Bergmann), and UNACTION (Gillian Holmes, Letitia Anderson). Prior to the meeting, four conference calls took place with the organizing committee; two meetings were convened with UN Action and two meetings took place with the NIH in Washington, D.C.

The Consultation was initially scheduled to take place in Dakar, Senegal. All meeting arrangements had been made and most (non refundable) flights had been booked. Due to volatility associated with an unexpected run-off during the Senegalese Presidential elections, the meeting host, Souleymane Mboup, requested that the meeting be relocated for security reasons. Following consultations with partners and participants, the most central and cost-effective alternative identified was the Greentree Foundation in Manhasset, New York. These arrangements were facilitated by UNAIDS and the UN Secretary General’s Office. Despite the location change, all but one of the invited participants were able to attend.

b. Literature Review and Mendeley Resource Database

The SSRC recruited two research assistants to carry out a review of relevant literature from public health, social science and biomedical research. An annotated bibliography was compiled from the 669 articles, reports and program documents that were identified and made available on Mendeley, a free desktop and web-based social network and PDF reference management tool for sharing research and online collaboration. Resources were organized into thematic categories and included literature from social epidemiology, nursing and genital trauma, clinical and pharmacological prevention methods, mucosal immunology, modelling, social science and data collection. The background research was also used to identify appropriate participants for the meeting and pre-meeting consultations. Special permission was negotiated to preview a new version of Mendeley for Teams that allows up to 50 members to access the same literature collection. Through this platform, all meeting participants had, and continue to have, access to the articles and citations, as well as a means of ongoing communication.

Annex 1: Annotated Bibliography

c. Participation

Prior to selection, hour-long consultations were convened with each proposed participant prior to the meeting to discuss the agenda and their potential contribution to the meeting. This preparatory process was necessary for establishing a common basis for the discussions across disciplines and communities of practice. Pre-meeting consultations were held with 60 experts, including representatives from WHO, PEPFAR, the Institute Of Medicine, Together for Girls Partnership, the Population Council, the American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR), the Gates Foundation, the Peace Research Institute of Oslo, Engender Health and the HIV Modelling Consortium.

Initially conceived as a small meeting of 15-20 people, the change in meeting location made it possible to invite 34 participants, representing an unexpectedly broader range of expertise, including virologists, mathematical modellers, social scientists and public health specialists, as well as nurses and genital injury specialists, mucosal immunologists and social epidemiologists. Participant affiliations included research institutions, universities, and clinical settings from the UK, Norway, Sweden, Senegal, South Africa, Canada, Zimbabwe and the US. Subject matter and geographic expertise included most HIV endemic countries in sub-Saharan Africa, West Africa, South East Asia and Russia. The UN was represented by UNAIDS (Jantine Jacobi and Catherine Hankins) and Letitia Anderson (UN Action). Judy Auerbach, formerly with the NIH, amfAR and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, co-facilitated the meeting and contributed to the final outcome documents.

Annex 2: Participant List

d. Meeting Agenda

The meeting agenda was organized to bring about a consensus scientific research agenda that identified priority research questions and approaches. Thematic panel discussions were moderated on social epidemiology; the physiology of genital injury; clinical perspectives on risk groups and risk factors; mucosal immunology; data collection and measurement challenges and implications for modeling. Each of the 21 ten-minute presentations identified relevant research,

knowledge gaps and priority scientific questions. A final session focused on implications for practice and policy, and identified relevant opportunities through which the emergent agenda could be further advanced. The meeting structure included small working group sessions and provided opportunities for informal discussion. A small organizing committee that included UNAIDS, the SSRC and NIH held small planning meetings on the evening prior to the Consultation and stayed an extra day for a morning debrief.

Annex 3: Agenda

Annex 4: Note to the Agenda

III. Meeting Outcomes

The meeting generated unexpected interest from a broad range of constituencies. It resulted in a number of peer-reviewed publications, several briefings in policy and scientific research fora, the creation of new specialized funding mechanisms to advance basic science research in this area, and the development of several new research and programme initiatives.

a. Publications

- ***Greentree White Paper: Sexual Violence Genito-Anal Injury and HIV: Priorities for Research, Policy and Practice.***

A White Paper setting out priorities for research, policy and practice will be published in the November Special Issue of *AIDS Research and Human Retroviruses*, the very first AIDS publication in the field over 25 years ago. The Journal provides the broadest coverage from molecular biology to clinical studies and outcomes research, focusing on developments of novel therapeutics and immune-restorative approaches. Cutting-edge papers on the latest progress and research advances through clinical trials and examination of targeted antiretroviral agents lead to improvements in translational medicine for optimal treatment outcomes. The paper was drafted by Jennifer Klot and co-authored by Judith D. Auerbach, Independent Consultant; Fulvia Veronese, Assistant Director for Translational Research, Prevention Science Program, United States National Institutes of Health; Gina Brown, Chair and Coordinator, Office of HIV/AIDS Research, National Institutes for Health, April Pei, Research Assistant, SSRC; Charles R. Wira, Professor of Physiology and Neurobiology, Dartmouth Medical School; Thomas J. Hope, Professor of Cell and Molecular Biology, Northwestern University; Souleymane Mboup, Director, Laboratoire de Bacteriologie Virologie, Universite Cheikh Anta DIOP.

As of 6 September 2012, an advanced pre-edited copy is available online at the ARHR website: <http://online.liebertpub.com/doi/abs/10.1089/AID.2012.0273>. Open access is currently being negotiated.

Full citation: Klot JF, Auerbach JD, Veronese F, Brown G, Pei A, Wira CR, et al. Greentree White Paper: Sexual Violence, Genito-Anal Injury and HIV: Priorities for Research, Policy and Practice. *AIDS research and human retroviruses*. 2012 Sep 6; Available from: <http://online.liebertpub.com/doi/abs/10.1089/AID.2012.0273>

Annex 5: White Paper

- ***Special Issue of American Journal of Reproductive Immunology (AJRI)***

An online special issue of AJRI will be published in January 2013. This issue will include the Meeting Report and 27 review articles that were developed for the Greentree consultation. The special issue will also contain review articles and guest editorials from Jennifer Klot and Charles Wira, Souleymane Mboup, and Marleen Temmerman. The review articles will be organized thematically:

- The Social Epidemiology of Sexual Violence and HIV Risk with articles by: Jennifer Klot, Marie Claude Boily, Kristin Dunkle and Michele Decker, and Charlotte Watts;
- The Physiology of Genital Injury and implications for HIV Risk with articles by: Jacquelyn Campbell, Kathryn Laughon, Khady Diouf and Nawal Nour;
- Clinical and Field Perspectives: Genital Trauma, Sexual Violence and HIV Risk Transmission with articles by: Susan Cu-Uvin and Betsy Herold;
- Genital Trauma and Mucosal Immunology of the Female Reproductive Tract with articles by: Charles Wira, Charu Kaushic, and Rupert Kaul;
- Methodological Issues in Identifying Genital Trauma and Sexual Violence as a co-Factor of Transmission, Acquisition and Pathogenesis with articles by: Jennifer Klot; Catherine Hankins; Marie Claude Boily and Charlotte Watts; Michele Decker, Andrea Wirtz and Carel Pretorius; Alex Welte; and Anneka Ehrnst;
- Aligning Sexual Violence and HIV Interventions: Implications for Prevention with articles by Sengeziwe Sibeko and Nancy Glass.

Annex 6: Outline of Special Issue Journal Contributions

Annex 7: Draft Meeting Report

b. Briefings

- ***Centres for AIDS Research, Women and AIDS Network***

On 10 April 2012, Jennifer Klot briefed a conference call meeting of the HIV and Women Working Group for the NIH Centers for AIDS Research (CFAR). This briefing led to the inclusion of a special session on Genitoanal Trauma/Sexual Violence: Implications for Mucosal Immunology at the CFAR Annual Symposium convened in September 2012.

- ***US President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Briefing***

On 31 May 2012, a briefing on the Greentree consensus was convened by the Gender Technical Working Group for representatives from all of PEPFAR's implementing agencies. The Gender Technical Working Group is comprised of over 30 members representing all the US government agencies that implement PEPFAR programs. The meeting was hosted by the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator and organized by Daniela Ligiero, Senior Gender Adviser at PEPFAR. Representatives attended from PEPFAR's Gender Technical Advisers and Working Group, the Department of Defense, Centers for Disease Control, USAID, US Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator, State Department, and NIH. The briefing was given by Gina Brown, NIH; Jacquelyn Campbell, Johns Hopkins University; Fulvia Veronese, NIH; and Jennifer Klot, SSRC.

- ***Program Coordinating Board (PCB) Meeting, UNAIDS***

The Greentree Meeting and its outcomes were also presented at the UNAIDS PCB meeting in 5-7 June 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland, in relation to follow up for Security Council Resolution 1983 (S/RES/1983).

- ***Office of AIDS Research Advisory Committee (OARAC), NIH***

In October 2012, a special session will be convened by the Office of AIDS Research Advisory Council to present findings from the Greentree Consultation. OARAC provides advice to the Director of the Office of AIDS Research (OAR) on the planning, coordination, and evaluation of research and other activities in respect to AIDS conducted or supported by the NIH. OARAC also advises the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Assistant Secretary for Health, the Director of NIH, and the Director of OAR, on AIDS research programs, the development and annual review of the comprehensive plan for the conduct and support of all AIDS activities of the agencies of NIH, including research policies and priorities, and the coordination of domestic and international NIH AIDS efforts.

- ***Education for Public Inquiry and International Citizenship (EPIIC), Tufts University***

On 1 November 2012, Jennifer Klot will brief the EPIIC Program at Tufts University about the nexus of sexual violence and HIV transmission. EPIIC is part of Tufts University's Institute for Global Leadership and it is a student-run series of events that promotes the students' engagement in international issues. This year's theme is global health, and it will involve a speaker series throughout the year, culminating in an annual symposium.

c. New Research Funding Mechanisms on Sexual Violence, Genitoanal Injury and HIV Transmission

- ***National Institutes of Health (NIH)***

Recommendations from the Greentree White Paper have been incorporated into three new NIH funding mechanisms. The first, issued by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) in September 2012, is RFA-HD-13-00: Prevention of HIV Transmission/Acquisition through a better understanding of Reproductive Health (R01). It invites proposals for Research Project Grant (R01) applications to further our understanding of HIV acquisition/transmission by increasing our knowledge regarding the intersection between reproductive health and HIV prevention. The emphasis of the FOA is a comprehensive behavioral-biomedical approach that can lead to new insights in HIV prevention research. Special topics of interest include social epidemiology of forced and coercive sex, anal sex and hormonal aspects associated with acquisition – topics emphasized in the Greentree meeting.

In early 2014, NIAID will issue an RFA that address the scientific research priorities identified in the White Paper on mucosal immunology. Also in 2013-2014, the Office of AIDS Research is in the process of creating a supplementary funding mechanism to support exploratory and developmental research carried out by the US Centers For AIDS Research (CFARs) to on the role of genital injury and sexual violence in HIV transmission, acquisition and pathogenesis.

d. New Initiatives

- ***HIV Modelling Consortium***

The HIV Modelling Consortium leads the coordinated interaction between modelling groups and policy makers, in conjunction with the targeted and responsive commissioning of new work. Its central objective is to help improve scientific support for decision-making by coordinating a wide range of research activities in the mathematical modelling of the HIV epidemic. Following the Greentree Meeting, the Consortium invited the SSRC to develop a concept note/proposal outlining a proposed agenda for research that could be supported by the Consortium to advance the Greentree Agenda for research, policy and practice. This was considered an essential first step prior to commencing new work in this area.

Annex 8: Modelling Consortium Concept Note/Proposal

- ***Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Follow Up: Security Intelli-GEN: Access to Lifesaving Support (SIGNALS)***

The purpose of this initiative is to advance the recommendations emerging from the Greentree meeting on the role of conflict-related sexual violence and HIV transmission risk. Security Intelli-GEN: Access to Lifesaving Support (SIGNALS). SIGNALS is a GPS enabled incident tracking, reporting and emergency alert system connecting those in need with the nearest available security/protection, transportation and emergency services. Funding is currently being sought for the first phase of project of development.

This proposal was developed by the SSRC in a consortium that includes the Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training; Manuel Carballo, Executive Director, International Centre For Migration, Health And Development; Henia Dakkak, Senior Technical Adviser, Humanitarian Response Branch, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); Colonel Mbaye Khary Dieng, Lead Coordinator, Program Against HIV/AIDS, Senegalese Security Forces; Megh Gurung, HIV/AIDS Policy Adviser, United Nations Department Of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO); Leo Kenny, Appointed Director Of Bangladesh Office, Joint United Nations Programme On HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); Jennifer F. Klot, Senior Adviser, Gender, Security & HIV/AIDS, Social Science Research Council; Souleymane Mboup, Director, Senegalese Society For Immunology And African HIV/AIDS Network and Professeur Bacteriologie-Virologie, Universite Ch.Anta DIOP Dakar, Senegal; Rita Reddy, Senior Gender Adviser, United Nations Integrated Mission In Timor-Leste.

Annex 8: SIGNALS proposal

- ***Sexual Violence and HIV Transmission: An Interdisciplinary Research Initiative***

In September 2012, the SSRC developed a proposal to develop an interdisciplinary and international research team, agenda and strategy for improving our understanding about the role of sexual violence and genito-anal injury in HIV transmission, acquisition and pathogenesis. Funding will be sought from the NIH and other donors for a series of three scientific meetings to advance the scientific research priorities emerging from the Greentree Meeting. Increased

understanding about the relative contribution of genito-anal injury to important predictive variables such as 'risk behavior' and 'modes of exposure' and 'high and low risk heterosexual transmission' will improve understanding about the social drivers that influence unprotected heterosexual vaginal and anal sex. Further analysis on the distribution of HIV among subpopulations that are at highest risk of sexual violence will improve the design and prioritizing of combination prevention interventions that are most likely to reduce the risk of sexual violence and its potential contribution to HIV transmission.

Annex 9: Research Proposal

IV. Financial Narrative

Funding from UNAIDS and UN Action was received in November 2011. Although the meeting was initially scheduled to take place in October 2011, the disbursement delays caused the meeting to be rescheduled in March 2012. As a result, the grant period for UNAIDS funding was extended until 31 March 2012 and UN Action grant period was extended until 30 June 2012.

As indicated in the attached financial report, expenditures followed the approved budget. Modifications agreed to in consultations with UNAIDS and UNAction were made after the meeting location shifted from Dakar to NY. Host institution funds were reallocated to cover the costs associated with the meeting relocation to New York. Modifications to the Phase II Dynamic Modelling budget line were made after the Meeting and following consultations with members of the Gates Foundation-funded Modelling Consortium regarding the absence of data needed to develop new reference models. Funding was reallocated to cover the costs of developing a Concept Note, requested by the Modelling Consortium, that proposes new lines of research to improve model estimates and understanding about (1) the contribution of genito-anal injury to important predictive variables, and (2) the distribution of HIV among subpopulations that are at highest risk of sexual violence and HIV. The Concept Note was submitted to the Modeling Consortium in August 2012. An adapted version will be made publicly available in the Special Issue of AJRI.

Annex 10: Modelling Consortium Concept Note/Proposal

Annex 11: Financial Report