

NIDA International Program

Summary of Fiscal Year 2008 Program Accomplishments



French Southern and Antarctic Lands
POLYORCA

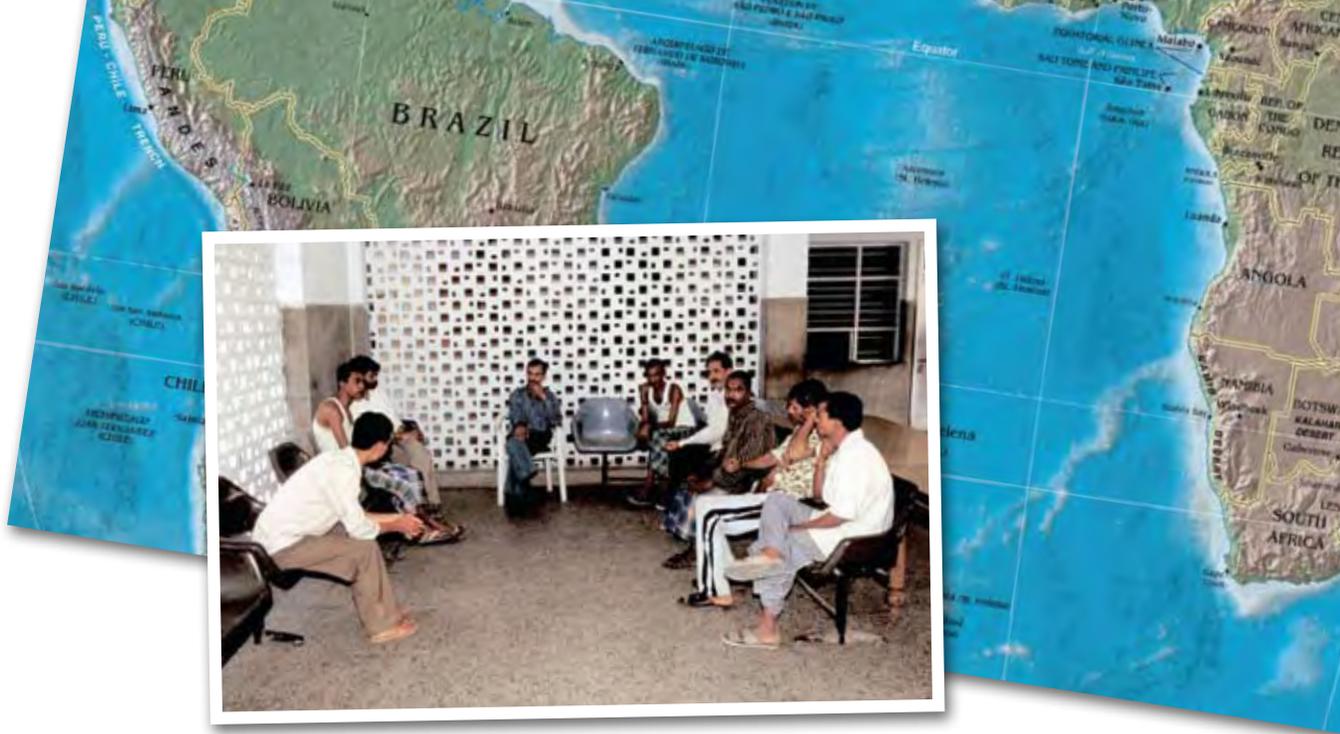
NIDA 
International Program

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International research **collaboration** provides the opportunity to **develop knowledge jointly** that **neither partner** could have developed independently.

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Linking NIDA to the World

Although international cooperation on drug abuse issues began in 1912, the long history of international scientific organizations goes back hundreds of years. The current era of instantaneous Internet communications and rapid travel options has transformed global interactions and drawn attention to the role individual scientists can play in advancing scientific knowledge. Since the early 1990s, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) International Program has been working to

create international networks of scientists that can advance scientific knowledge about drug abuse and addiction. NIDA has adopted an international mission that includes three primary components:

- Take advantage of unique opportunities by supporting research internationally.
- Help to build research capacity internationally through research training fellowships and international exchanges.

- Share the knowledge gained through NIDA research.

By facilitating cooperation between countries, organizations, and individual scientists, the NIDA International Program builds bridges and trust between scientists from nations which may have different values and conflicting policies. A 2003 Zagat survey of 10 Middle Eastern countries found that positive opinions of U.S. science and technology ranged from 71 percent to 92 percent, averaging more than 82 percent. In contrast, positive opinions of U.S. policies ranged from 1 percent to 39 percent, averaging just under 13 percent. (See next page.) For example, NIDA was among the first Federal health agencies to

NIDA NATIONAL INSTITUTE
ON DRUG ABUSE



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World Health Organization
UNAIDS

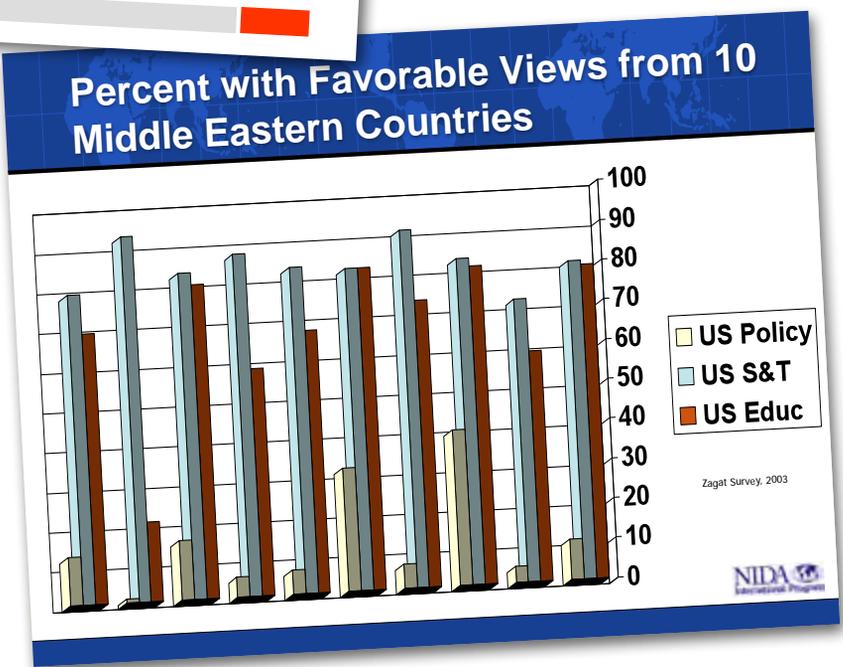
Global summary of the AIDS epidemic, December 2007

Category	Sub-category	Value (Range)
Number of people living with HIV in 2007	Total	33 million [30 – 36 million]
	Adults	30.8 million [28.2 – 34.0 million]
	Women	15.5 million [14.2 – 16.9 million]
People newly infected with HIV in 2007	Total	2.7 million [2.2 – 3.2 million]
	Adults	2.3 million [1.9 – 2.8 million]
	Children under 15 years	370 000 [330 000 – 410 000]
AIDS deaths in 2007	Total	2.0 million [1.8 – 2.3 million]
	Adults	1.8 million [1.6 – 2.1 million]
	Children under 15 years	270 000 [250 000 – 290 000]

July 2008

support collaborative research and exchanges between U.S. scientists at Yale University and Iranian researchers at the University of Tehran, improving cultural understanding as well as scientific knowledge of pharmacotherapy.

The NIDA International Program creates partnerships with other organizations that support research funding and training activities, including international organizations, other U.S. Government agencies, domestic and international professional societies, and individual foreign governments. During Fiscal Year (FY) 2008, the NIDA International Program supported a new initiative funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada to investigate volatile solvent abuse among indigenous populations in Canada, the United States, Mexico, and



Australia, and NIDA joined its sister agencies at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in a new cooperative agreement with India to facilitate increased research collaboration related to mental health, neurology, and addictive disorders. The

International Program also continued its productive partnerships with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and the



Exhibit 1—FY 2008 NIDA International Program Activities -

Category	Number of Activities	Number of Countries
International Research Activities		
• Projects Funded Through Domestic Grants With Foreign Components	85	34
• Projects Funded Through Direct Foreign Grants	12	8
• Binational Agreements	4	4
• Grants Awarded Through Interagency Funding Agreements	21	10
• NIDA/CICAD Awards	18	8
Fellowships and Research Exchanges		
• DISCA/USDISCA	2	2
• INVEST Fellowships	2	2
• INVEST/CTN Fellowships	3	3
• NIDA Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowships	7	7
• WHO/NIDA/CPDD International Traveling Fellowships	2	2
Scientific Exchange and Capacity Building		
• International Program Meetings	2	1
• NIDA-Supported Scientific Meetings	3	1
• Travel Support		
– NIDA Grantees	5	4
– Foreign Researchers	45	29

Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) to advance drug abuse research and training around the world. Binational agreements between NIDA and research organizations in Mexico, the Netherlands, Russia, and

Spain help the International Program develop new international scientific relationships and significantly enhance existing associations. Each of these partnerships promotes new research initiatives, builds

international research capacity, and disseminates knowledge. Exhibit 1, FY 2008 NIDA International Program Activities, summarizes the activities the NIDA International Program supports to fulfill its mission.

“Binational agreements help the International Program develop new international scientific relationships and significantly enhance existing associations.”

2008 Awards of Excellence

Excellence in Mentoring: Linda B. Cottler

Excellence in International Leadership: Juana M. Tomás-Rosselló

Excellence in Collaborative Research: Perry F. Renshaw and In Kyoon Lyoo





Supporting Research Internationally

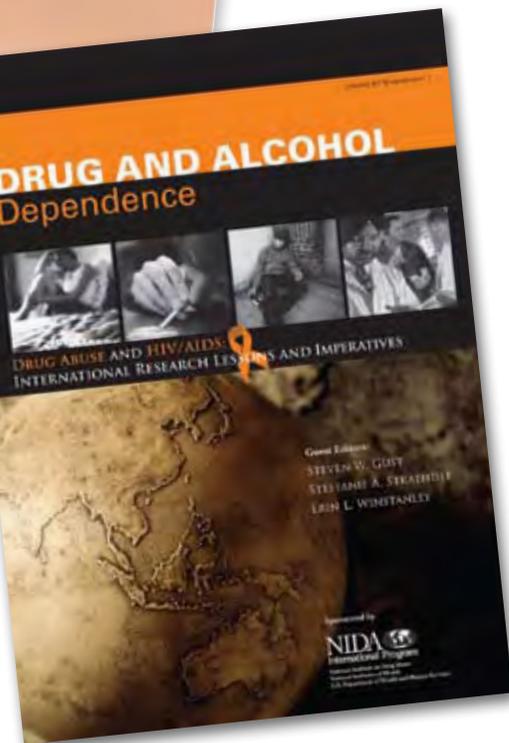
International research collaboration provides the opportunity to develop knowledge jointly that neither partner could have developed independently. Research teams supported by the NIDA International Program consistently demonstrate how individuals from diverse settings can successfully join forces to enhance local, national, and international public health efforts to address drug abuse and addiction. NIDA supports research on the biomedical and behavioral causes, consequences, prevention, and treatment of drug abuse and addiction. In FY 2008, NIDA supported more than 95 projects in 37 nations through direct foreign grants or domestic grants with foreign components. In partnership with other NIH

agencies, NIDA funded another 21 projects in 10 countries. The International Program has identified five research priorities currently: linkages between HIV/AIDS and drug abuse, adolescent and prenatal tobacco exposure, inhalant abuse, methamphetamine, and drugged driving.

During FY 2008, NIDA reissued its Program Announcements soliciting collaborative research proposals by U.S. investigators working with investigators from other countries. These broad calls for innovative research are designed to encourage applications in all areas of drug addiction science. The International Research Collaboration on Drug Abuse and Addiction Research Program Announcements use

three mechanisms to support awards of different amounts: the R21 Exploratory/Developmental Research Grants and the R03 Small Grants programs are for relatively smaller amounts of money compared to the R01 Research Project Grants program.

Drug-using behaviors influence HIV transmission and the progression of HIV to AIDS, and in some areas of the world injection drug use is the primary vector of infection. NIDA committed \$1.5 million for international research collaborations to study HIV/AIDS and drug abuse in FY 2008. The 1-year, maximum \$100,000 awards were designed to address important research questions that cannot be easily or readily addressed within the



United States but would have implications for the United States; build research capacity in resource-limited countries where HIV/AIDS associated with drug abuse is prevalent; bring basic and clinical science to bear on public health needs; and stimulate new R01 and other applications.

In partnership with the Fogarty International Center, NIDA funded three binational tobacco research awards in FY 2008. The International Tobacco and Health Research and Capacity-Building Program addresses the public health burden of tobacco consumption by supporting transdisciplinary

“Individuals from diverse settings can successfully join forces to enhance local, national, and international public health efforts to address drug abuse and addiction.”

research and capacity-building projects that pair U.S. researchers with scientists and institutions in low- or middle-income nations. The research teams include:

- Dr. Eliseo Perez-Stable, University of California San Francisco, will collaborate with Raul Mejia, Universidad de Buenos Aires, and Ethel Alderete, Universidad Nacional De Jujuy, to develop an intervention to prevent tobacco use among diverse youth in northwest Argentina; implement and evaluate a system-based smoking cessation intervention using a randomized trial design among physicians to promote smoking abstinence and quit attempts in their patients who smoke; and develop policy interventions to promote smoke-free indoor space and regulation of tobacco products’ advertising by continuing to analyze the tobacco industry documents on Argentina.
- Dr. Isabel Scarinci, University of Alabama at Birmingham, will collaborate with Brazilian scientists at the Pontificia Universidade Catolica do Parana to develop a Network for Tobacco Control Among Women in Parana, Brazil, to establish community and institutional capacity to promote gender-relevant tobacco control efforts among Brazilian women through community-based participatory research and training. The goals of the network are to reduce tobacco use and exposure to environmental tobacco smoke among Brazilian women, and to develop a cadre of well-trained researchers in tobacco control.



Country	Research Topic
Argentina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of risk and protection factors associated with the increase and decrease of psychoactive substance use among secondary school students in the Province of Entre Rios, 2001–2005 • Drug use and abuse: Study of the sociodemographic profiles, patterns of use, cognitive aspects, and beliefs regarding pharmacology
Bolivia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychological risk and protective factors for drug use in the cities of La Paz and El Alto
Brazil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The “coming out” process and its influence on mental health and the abuse or dependence on psychoactive substances among male homosexuals • Ten years of free access and universal treatment for HIV/AIDS: Evaluating the impact of the Brazilian response to the AIDS epidemic among drug users • Study on crack use related to violent deaths in the state of São Paulo • Mapping the profile of psychoactive drug users in specialized clinics
Chile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typology and sociodemographic characterization of drug users in Chile • Relationship between the expectations related to tobacco use with body image: A comparative study among Spanish and Chilean adolescents
Colombia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perceived harmfulness of drugs and its association with drug use onset and transition to an established pattern of drug use among adolescents in Bogotá, Colombia • Relationship and impact of psychoactive substance use on health in Colombia • Life habits that include drug use prevalence in the student population of the Popular Catholic University of Risaralda • Determining the composition of drugs of abuse seized in Bogotá during the second semester of 2008
Ecuador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical descriptive analysis of the application of the Psychosomatic Exam in the penal procedures of Ecuador and its legal consequences
Mexico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychosocial factors associated with drug consumption among high school students in Jalisco
Uruguay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender analysis of the development of illegal drug consumption among students at the School of Professional Technical Education of Montevideo (2001–2007) • Reciprocity and distribution of cocaine paste: An anthropological focus • Patients in the psychiatric hospital and comorbidity with psychoactive substance consumption



- Dr. Wasim Maziak, University of Memphis and the Syrian Center for Tobacco Studies, will study adolescent tobacco use patterns and determinants: a school-based longitudinal study will examine trends in tobacco use in 4,000 Syrian youth; a laboratory study of 240 waterpipe users will investigate waterpipe toxicant exposure, dependence, and risk; and a randomized clinical trial will test a smoking cessation intervention in 250 smokers. The Syrian Center for Tobacco Studies was selected as the winner of the 2008 Hamdan Award for the best medical college, institute, or center in the Arab World. The Syrian Center, which is now training researchers throughout the Arab region, was established in 2002 with the support of the Syrian government and NIDA, in collaboration with the Syrian Society Against Cancer, Aleppo University, and Virginia Commonwealth University.

Through its Latin America Initiative, NIDA and CICAD cosponsor the Competitive Research Award Fund to support pre- or postdoctoral students conducting research in any area of the drug use field. Priority is given to projects involving secondary analysis of existing research databases, such as national drug use surveys. The national drug commissions in Organization of American States member countries review initial applications and forward appropriate projects to the CICAD Inter-American Observatory on Drugs for review by representatives from NIDA, CICAD, and the U.S. National Hispanic Science Network. Exhibit 2, FY 2008 NIDA/CICAD Awards, summarizes the 18 research projects conducted by scientists from eight nations.



“The NIDA-supported Syrian Center for Tobacco Studies was selected as the winner of the 2008 Hamdan Award for the best medical college, institute, or center in the Arab World.”



Building Research Capacity

The NIDA International Program builds research capacity by providing research training and professional development opportunities for the international drug abuse research community. The NIDA International Forum and other NIDA-supported scientific meetings stimulate collaborative research efforts, identify new research topics, and strengthen existing professional associations. The NIDA International Program also encourages capacity building by providing travel support for NIDA grantees or international researchers participating in scientific meetings.

Fellowships

NIDA International Program fellowships provide research

training and professional development opportunities for scientists at every stage of their careers. Junior researchers may receive 12 months of postdoctoral training in the United States with a NIDA-funded scientist through the INVEST and INVEST/Clinical Trials Network (CTN) Research Fellowships. Mid-career professionals from low- and middle-income countries may receive 10 months of mentored academic study and research experience through the NIDA Hubert H. Humphrey Drug Abuse Research Fellowships. Senior scientists may receive support for short-term research exchanges through the Distinguished International Scientist Collaboration Awards (DISCA) and the Distinguished International

Scientist Collaboration Awards for U.S. Citizens (USDISCA).

During FY 2008, Dr. Sheng Liu, Ningbo Addiction Research and Treatment Center, China, was an INVEST Fellow, working with Dr. Gary S. Aston-Jones, Medical University of South Carolina, to investigate the role of brain neuromodulatory systems in drug abuse, examining the roles of lateral hypothalamic orexin neurons and VTA orexin receptors in persistently increased drug preference during abstinence using rat models of behavioral neuropharmacology, neuroanatomy, and neurophysiology.

The first three INVEST/CTN researchers were selected



during FY 2008. Each INVEST/CTN Fellow works with a mentor who is affiliated with 1 of the 16 NIDA CTN Regional Research and Training Centers. Former NIDA Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow Dr. Amit Chakrabarti, Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences, India, worked with Dr. Roger Weiss, McLean Hospital, participating in a clinical trial of buprenorphine/naloxone and the effect of ethnicity on treatment outcome. Dr. Gvantsa Piralishvili, Union Alternative, Georgia, worked with Dr. George E. Woody, University of Pennsylvania, to



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assess outcomes of methadone maintenance treatment programs. This fellowship builds on the relationship established between Dr. Woody and former NIDA Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow Dr. David Otiashvili, Union Alternative, Georgia. Dr. Chen Hanhui, Shanghai Mental Health Center (SMHC), China, worked with Dr. Walter Ling, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), to study how ethnicity and cultural differences affect the outcomes of contingency management programs designed to address drug use and HIV risk behaviors. His INVEST/CTN Fellowship award builds on numerous ties between the two institutions: SMHC is affiliated with the CTN Pacific Node and the UNODC TreatNet project, both of which are centered at the University of California Los Angeles. In addition, former NIDA INVEST Fellow and Distinguished International Scientist Dr. Min Zhao, SMCH, collaborates with Dr. Ling.

The NIDA Hubert H. Humphrey Drug Abuse Research Fellowships are a component of

the larger Humphrey Fellowship Program supported by the U.S. Department of State. NIDA Humphrey Fellows study at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), Richmond, and participate in a professional affiliation in drug abuse research, policy, or treatment. The 2008–2009 VCU Humphrey Fellows are Mr. Daniel Akwasi Amankwaah, Ghana; Dr. Muna H. Sawwaf, Saudi Arabia; Dr. Munir Ahmed, Bangladesh; Mr. Oleksii Smirnov, Ukraine; Dr. Petr Popov, Czech Republic; Dr. Tekendra Kumar Rai, India; and Dr. Adrian Octavian Abagiu, Romania.

Scientists from Mexico and Spain received DISCA Awards in FY 2008. Dr. Octavio Campolo, University of Guadalajara, collaborated with Dr. Fernando Wagner, Morgan State University, to restructure data sets, complete data analysis, and prepare manuscripts for publication for two research projects: (1) risk factors for substance use in high school students in Jalisco, Mexico; and (2) HIV and hepatitis in drug addicts in West Mexico. Dr. Juan-Luis Recio, emeritus associate professor at Universidad Complutense de Madrid, and Dr. Flavio Marsiglia, Arizona State

“NIDA International Program alumni contribute to drug abuse research and policy”

University-Tempe, conducted a small drug abuse and HIV feasibility pilot study in Phoenix, Arizona, with a sample of Latino youth and their family members to explore the interaction among family functioning, acculturation, and acculturative stress, and design and test a culturally grounded and family-based drug use and HIV/AIDS prevention intervention.

NIDA, WHO, and the College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) sponsor the WHO/NIDA/CPDD International Traveling Fellowships to support researchers from low- and middle-income countries for brief research visits to a NIDA-funded researcher and poster presentations at the NIDA International Forum and CPDD Annual Scientific Meeting. In FY 2008, researchers from China and Thailand were named International Traveling Fellows. Dr. Yu Liu, Chinese National Institute on Drug Dependence, Peking University, visited Dr. Tom Kosten, Baylor College of Medicine, to advance their collaborative research on morphine vaccine development, which is supported jointly by NIDA and the Chinese government. Dr. Rasmon Kalayasiri, Chulalongkorn

University, Thailand, visited Dr. Robert T. Malison and Dr. Joel Gelernter, Yale University School of Medicine, to discuss research projects on gene-environment interaction studies of methamphetamine-induced psychosis, potential collaborations with psychiatric genetics laboratories in the United States to analyze Thai DNA samples, quality control of the interview data in an ongoing investigation into the genetics of opioid dependence in northern Thailand, and the possibility of a new, case-control study of opioid dependence.

Fellowship Alumni Contribute to Research and Policy

At the conclusion of their fellowships, NIDA International Program alumni contribute to drug abuse research and policy by publishing scientific articles; presenting at local, regional, and international conferences; and promoting evidence-based interventions and policies in their home countries. Among the highlights published in 2008:



European Journal of Neuroscience (2007 Sep;26[5]:1242–1253). Dr. Hari Sharma, Sweden, and his DISCA partner, Dr. Eugene Kiyatkin, NIDA Intramural Research Program, concluded that by breaking down the blood-brain barrier, brain hypothermia may play a crucial role in both decompensation of brain functions and cell injury following acute methamphetamine intoxication, thus possibly contributing to the neurodegeneration observed from chronic drug use.

European Journal of Pharmacology (2008 Sep 11;592[1–3]:96–102). Former INVEST Fellow and DISCA scientist Dr. Anton Bespalov, Russia, and colleagues concluded that the behavioral profile of mGlu2/3 receptor antagonists as represented by LY-341495 is different from that of conventional anxiolytic and antidepressant drugs.

Addiction (2008 Dec;103[12]:2024–2031). In a randomized trial



of short psychotherapy versus sustained-release bupropion for smoking cessation, former INVEST Fellow Dr. Gerald Zernig, Austria, and colleagues concluded that the 1½-day psychotherapy exceeded bupropion's efficacy, presenting an alternative to pharmacological smoking cessation aids.

Biological Psychiatry (2008 Dec 1;64[11]:930–937). Former INVEST Fellow Dr. Marco Bortolato, Italy, and colleagues found an unexpected functional heterogeneity within the endocannabinoid signaling system, suggesting that fatty acid amide hydrolase inhibitors might be used therapeutically without risk of abuse or triggering of relapse to drug abuse.

Neuroscience (2008 Feb 6;151[3]:711–724). Former INVEST Fellow Dr. Elisa Mengual, Spain, and colleagues reported finding ultrastructural evidence that NK(1) receptors in cholinergic neurons of the ventral pallidum have subcellular locations and plasticity conducive to active involvement in dopamine-dependent sensorimotor processing.

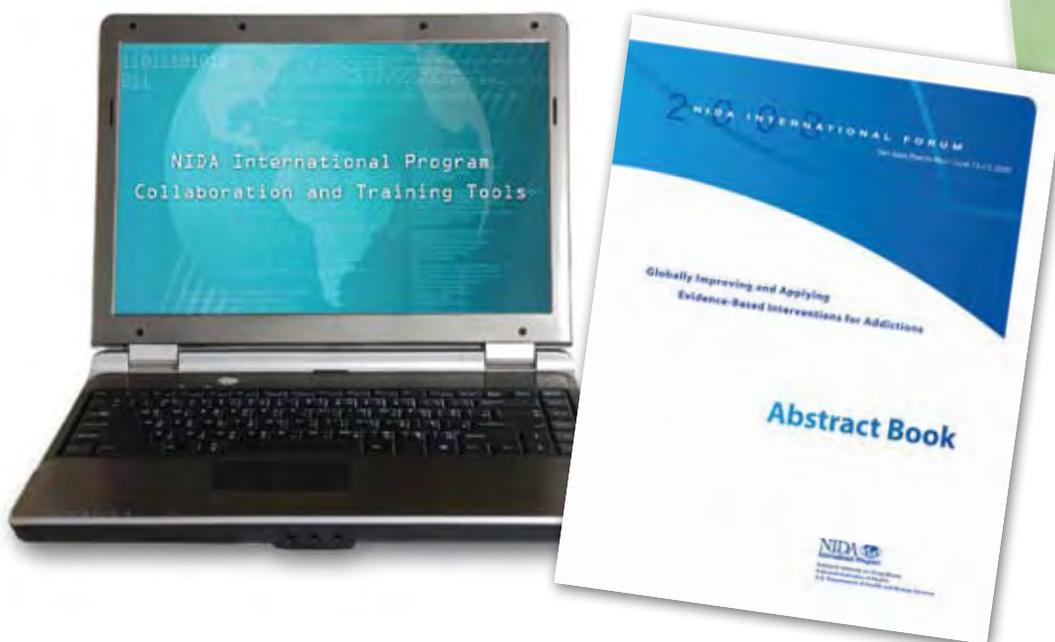
Analytical Bioanalytical Chemistry (2008 Jul;391[6]:2329–2338). Former INVEST Fellow Dr. Oscar Quintela, Spain, and colleagues investigating roadside testing devices for drugged driving validated liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry as a tool to identify illicit and medicinal drugs and their metabolites in oral fluid and preserved oral fluid collected with a commercial device.

Journal of Clinical Psychiatry (2008 Mar;69[3]:480–486). In a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of long-

acting risperidone in cocaine-dependent men, former INVEST Fellow Dr. Tsafirir Loebel, Israel, and colleagues concluded that risperidone was not associated with reduction in cocaine use or craving and was associated with worsening of depressive symptoms and weight gain.

Comprehensive Psychiatry (2008 Jul-Aug;49[4]:387–392). Former INVEST Fellows Dr. Doug Hyun Han and Dr. Young Hoon Sung, Korea, and colleagues reported preliminary results from a study of novelty seeking, frontal executive function, and dopamine receptor gene polymorphism that suggest the possibility of genetic and biogenic vulnerability to methamphetamine dependence.

During FY 2008, two 2006–2007 Humphrey Fellows reported accepting policy positions in their home countries: Dr. Peter Kenneth Ndege became a consultant physician and drug abuse prevention, treatment, and policy specialist at the Kenyan National Agency for the Campaign Against Drug Abuse Authority; and Mr. Md Alamgir became deputy secretary in the Bangladeshi Ministry of Home Affairs. Their



classmate Rehana Kader received a scholarship from the Medical Research Council of South Africa (MRC) to complete a Ph.D. while working in the MRC Alcohol and Drug Research Unit.

NIDA International Forum

The NIDA International Forum offers both NIDA and the international drug abuse research community numerous opportunities to promote and sustain productive scientific partnerships across geographic borders and scientific disciplines. More than 200 registrants from 53 countries participated in the 13th NIDA International Forum, which was held June 13–17, 2008, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The meeting, *Globally Improving and Applying Evidence-Based Interventions*

for Addictions, focused on the benefits of multidisciplinary, public health approaches to drug abuse research, prevention, and treatment.

NIDA Deputy Director Dr. Timothy P. Condon highlighted research advances that have provided new insights into the complex neurophysiological, genetic, and epigenetic components of drug abuse and addiction. Dr. Vladimir B. Poznyak, WHO, addressed ways to strengthen the public health approach to drug dependence. Dr. Gilberto Gerra, UNODC, called for increased advocacy, outreach, training, and dissemination efforts to implement evidence-based addiction prevention and treatment programs in health care systems, schools, and social programs. Dr. Tom Babor, University of Connecticut,

reviewed the ways public policy influences drug abuse treatment and population health.

Presenters in concurrent workshops illustrated numerous ways researchers and service providers can forge partnerships; integrate public policy, science, and practice; and implement effective—and cost-effective—programs to prevent and treat drug abuse and addiction. More than 130 meeting participants presented their research at a joint NIDA International Forum/CPDD international poster session, while 10 NIDA components and the Fogarty International Center presented posters summarizing the units' goals, research interests, international focus, and international funding priorities. The 2008 Awards of Excellence were presented to Dr. Linda B. Cottler, Washington University

“The NIDA International Forum offers numerous opportunities to promote and sustain productive scientific partnerships.”

School of Medicine, Excellence in Mentoring; Dr. Juana M. Tomás-Rosselló, UNODC, Excellence in International Leadership; and Dr. Perry F. Renshaw, Mclean Hospital Brain Imaging Center, and Dr. In Kyoon Lyoo, Seoul, South Korea, National University Medical School, Excellence in Collaborative Research.

Scientific Meetings and Travel Support

The International Program contributed programmatic or financial support for several meetings during FY 2008, including a new international poster session at the Society for Prevention Research Annual Meeting. Half of the 30 scientists—all international

researchers—received NIDA travel awards to present research conducted by international researchers or binational teams on drug abuse prevention research completed in international settings. The other 15 presenters were U.S. scientists whose research was conducted in other countries or as part of a binational team. NIDA also organized an early career investigators poster session at the Society for Neuroscience Research meeting. The invited poster session showcased drug abuse and drug-related neuroscience research by 16 researchers from 15 nations. At the American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence conference, NIDA supported an international workshop on reducing HIV transmission in drug-using populations. Researchers presented data about NIDA-supported opioid substitution programs in China, Malaysia, and Russia.

Fourteen members of REDLA (the Latin American Epidemiological Network known more commonly by its Spanish name, La Red Latinoamericana

de Investigadores en Drogas) met prior to the June 2008 NIDA International Forum to analyze the drug situation in each country, identify knowledge gaps that could be closed through secondary analysis of existing databases, and create a work plan to analyze cross-national databases in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, and the United States. REDLA is a network of academic researchers coordinated by CICAD and supported by NIDA.

During FY 2008, the International Program supported travel awards for 45 scientists from 29 countries to participate in six conferences, and for five NIDA grantees to participate in four conferences. Researchers received travel support to participate in the Peruvian Fifth National Congress on Addiction, CICAD Meeting of National Drug Observatories, Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco Latin American Congress, Iberoamerican Conference on Tobacco Control, and a NIDA meeting on Cost Function Analysis of the Substance Abuse Treatment Industry.





“The NIDA International Program supports a variety of robust online tools.”

Sharing Knowledge

Working collaboratively across international borders and scientific disciplines requires flexibility, dedication, frequent (and low-cost) communication, and mutual agreement on appropriate research designs and methods. The NIDA International Program supports a variety of robust tools designed to help the international research community share research objectives and results, build regional networks, and train junior scientists.

All information about NIDA research, funding, research training, and collaboration tools is available through the International Program Web site, **international.drugabuse.gov**, which was redesigned during FY 2008 to improve the site’s

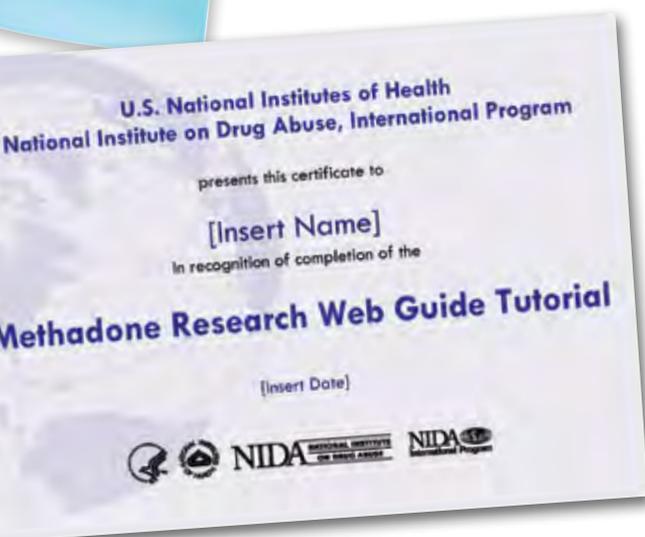
navigation, functionality, and appearance. Bimonthly E-News Letters update researchers on new developments, such as the FY 2008 Program Announcement on International Research Collaborations To Study HIV/AIDS and Drug Abuse, fellowship or funding application deadlines, scientific meetings, and research results. Researchers can subscribe to the E-News Letter on the International Program home page, and past issues are archived on the site.

During FY 2008, the International Program reached out to U.S. researchers through articles in *NIDA Notes*. The first article described the International Program activities (*NIDA Notes* 21[6]:4-5). The second article

(*NIDA Notes* 21[4]:19) described the International Program’s peer-reviewed supplement to *Drug and Alcohol Dependence, Drug Abuse and HIV/AIDS: International Research Lessons and Imperatives* (2006; 82[S1]). An article in the *NIH Record* (Vol. LIX, No. 9) introduced NIH researchers to the NIDA INVEST and Humphrey Fellows by describing their orientation visit to NIDA and the NIH campus.

Training Tools

International Program online training tools are designed to help drug abuse professionals improve their understanding of important concepts and strengthen their skills in developing research proposals and preparing grant



applications. During FY 2008, NIDA launched a companion Tutorial to its *Methadone Research Web Guide* (international.drugabuse.gov/methadone). The Tutorial allows viewers to test their knowledge about methadone maintenance treatment, identify subject areas in the *Methadone Research Web Guide* where they need more information, and print a personalized certificate of completion.

The NIDA International Program provides partial support for the International Programme in Addiction Studies (IPAS; adelaide.edu.au/addiction), an online master's degree program offered jointly by the University of Adelaide, Australia; King's College London, United Kingdom; and Virginia Commonwealth University, United States. IPAS accepted its first students in FY 2008 and offers distance-education classes in English to students from any country, who are awarded a

master of science in addiction studies from all three universities.

Ongoing programs include the

International Society of Addiction Journal Editors Publishing Research Internationally (PARINT.org), which provides resources, guidance, and support for authors and expert reviewers, and *The Research Assistant* (theresearchassistant.com), a tool for behavioral scientists that includes a grant-writing tutorial, databases, and statistical support. During FY 2008, development continued on NIDA-supported online research training courses in biostatistics, evaluating drug abuse programs, and designing and managing clinical trials (DrugAbuseResearchTraining.org).

Collaboration Tools

The NIDA International Program has developed cost-effective collaboration tools to help the international drug abuse research community identify potential research partners, build professional relationships with distant colleagues, and exchange scientific information securely.

Use of the NIDA International Virtual Collaboratory (NIVC; nivc.perpich.com) expanded during FY 2008. NIVC provides training for researchers learning to implement its live and recordable audio/video virtual meetings, user-built document libraries, online discussion forums, secure document-editing and storage tools, and Collaboration Matching Service. NIVC was pilot-tested by the Inhalants Working Group, a multinational group of drug abuse researchers working collaboratively with NIDA. The group used the NIVC virtual meeting room, wiki, and discussion group tools to draft a white paper and to plan a breakout session for the 2008 NIDA International Forum.

New NIVC working groups established in FY 2008 include the International Women's and Children's Health and Gender Group, which includes about 80 researchers from around the world; South Africa Quality Measurement Working Group, which includes researchers from Virginia Commonwealth University and the Medical Research Council of South Africa; and Humphrey Fellowship AlumniNet, a discussion forum for current and former Humphrey

“The NIVC AlumniNet improves communications among former fellows, ensures that fellows have access to newly developed resources, and encourages research collaborations.”

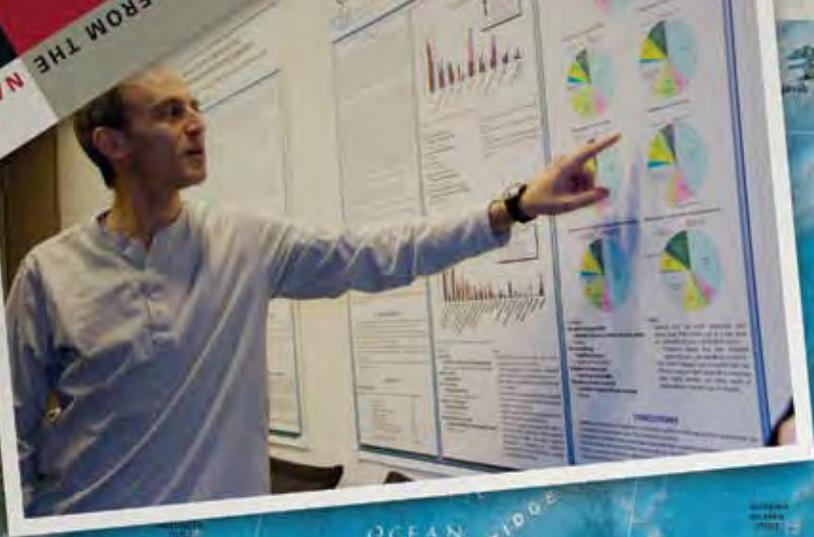
Fellows in substance abuse and HIV/AIDS. The International Program is using the AlumniNet to improve communications among former fellows, ensure that fellows have access to newly developed resources, and encourage research collaborations. The AlumniNet steering committee, which consists of former fellows, International Program staff members, and Humphrey Fellowship Program Coordinators from Virginia Commonwealth, Johns Hopkins, Emory, and Tulane universities, recommended during FY 2008 that NIVC be used to create a directory of previous professional affiliations to help new Humphrey Fellows establish contacts with potential mentors; the directory will be published in fall 2009.

Development also continued on the International Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco (IDAT) Research Community Web site (idatresearch.com). IDAT is a hub that collects and disseminates the latest research news, provides online training, includes funding and resource databases, and supports networking tools to facilitate collaborative work.



FROM THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE

NOTE



NIDA International Program

National Institute on Drug Abuse
National Institutes of Health
U.S. Department of Health and
Human Services

