

ACA NEWSFILE

(Publication of the Advisory Council on AIDS, Hong Kong)

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ACA Secretariat

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. Calendar .

**XXXVth Meeting of the
Advisory Council on AIDS
(ACA)**

2:30pm 19 January 2001

**Vth Meeting of the AIDS
Prevention and Care
Committee (APCC)**

6:00pm 13 December 2000

**XXIst Meeting of the
Scientific Committee on
AIDS (SCA)**

2:30pm 8 February 2001

**IVth Meeting of the
Committee on Promoting
Acceptance of People
Living with HIV/AIDS
(CPA)**

2:30pm 4 January 2001

In this issue, we

.... remember World AIDS Day (pages 49 and 52)

....update on the HIV/AIDS situation in Hong Kong (page 51)

....highlight some of the the activities of the Council and the committees (page 50)

ACA Newsfile wishes everyone a peaceful holiday season in preparation of a challenging new year

World AIDS Day Remembered

SINCE 1988, the world has been commemorating the first of December as the World AIDS Day. The day reflects the efforts of individuals, nations, local and international community in their response to HIV/AIDS. In 1997, UNAIDS expanded the scope of World AIDS Day and introduced the concept of *World AIDS Campaign*.

While we are organizing or participating in activities to tie in with this year's World AIDS Day, we are remembering how the infection has affected the world, and how the size of the problem has changed from a handful of cases to 34 million infection individuals.

We are remembering the wide-ranging impacts on and the responses of the society, as reflected in the themes of World AIDS Days selected by the United Nations .

We are remembering that AIDS is not something far away. We see how people are affected in Hong Kong, and we hear of the sufferings of those in Mainland China.

We are also remembering people who helped us in the past, but have since passed away - Jonathan Mann for his powerful advice; Avery Chan for chairing a working group on the subject of HIV infected health care workers; Mike Sinclair, JJ and Ji Wu (our PWAs) for changing people's perception about AIDS; and Nick Prescott for serving as a consultant in the 1998 review of ACA. the editor ✎

Themes of Previous World AIDS Days and World AIDS Campaigns

2000: AIDS: Men Make a Difference

1999: Listen, Learn, Live! World AIDS Campaign with Children and Young People

1998: Force for Change: World AIDS Campaign with Young People

1997: Children Living in a World with AIDS

1996: One World. One Hope

1995: Shared Rights, Shared Responsibilities

1994: AIDS and the Family

1993: Time to Act

1992: AIDS: A Community Commitment

1991: Sharing the Challenge

1990: Women and AIDS

1989: Our lives, Our World - Let's Take Care of Each Other

1988: A World United Against AIDS

Hong Kong Virtual AIDS Office <http://www.info.gov.hk/aids>

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WPCCID

THE 7th *Western Pacific Congress of Chemotherapy & Infectious Diseases* (WPCCID) would be held in Hong Kong from 11 to 14 December. ACA is one of the collaborating bodies of this scientific meeting.

Apart from scientific sessions on AIDS and other infectious diseases, there would also be an exhibition participated by the industry and non-profit making organisations. The Council will be setting up an exhibition booth during the four days to display and distribute technical papers on AIDS published by the Council. ⌘

Reducing Mother-to-child HIV Transmission

FOLLOWING the last meeting of the Advisory Council on AIDS, the Chairman has written to the Director of Health and the Chief Executive of the Hospital Authority, informing them of the new strategy advised by the Council, that universal antenatal HIV testing shall be implemented in Hong Kong.

The Scientific Committee is working on a consultation process to collect views from professional bodies and community groups about the draft guidelines on implementing the new strategies. The issue is also being examined by the newly established Task Force on Women of the AIDS Prevention and Care Committee (APCC), and would be discussed at the next meeting of the APCC. In the meantime, there has been increasing media coverage on the subject. The Council is encouraged by the positive response received so far from different community sectors. ⌘

Community Planning Forum

ON 25 and 26 November 2000, the Community Planning Committee held an open forum at the Red Ribbon Centre to present the situation analysis reports on the prioritized areas for HIV prevention recommended in the last ACA review report, namely, commercial sex workers and clients, men who have sex with men, injecting drug users, travellers, STD, and youth. There was also a session on people living with HIV/AIDS.

The Forum was part of the consultation process of the seven work teams of the Community Planning Committee. The Forum's opening ceremony was officiated by Professor NK Leung of the Council for the AIDS Trust Fund, Dr Homer Tso of the Advisory Council on AIDS, Dr SP Mak, representing the Director of Health, the Honourable Dr Lo Wing Lok and the Honourable Michael Mak, and other key persons of the Community Planning Committee.

The Forum, featuring presentations and sharing of information, was participated by active members of the respective communities. There was lively discussion involving individuals from NGOs, government departments, Advisory Council on AIDS, the media and the concerned communities. ⌘

David Ho in Hong Kong

DR David Ho will be in Hong Kong again in December. Apart from giving a scientific presentation at the WPCCID (see first column of this page), he is also delivering the first lecture of the Dragon Foundation's "Lecture Series for Youth Leaders".

Dr Ho is no stranger to us. The ACA and Lions Clubs International District 303 Hong Kong and Macau invited him to Hong Kong in December 1997. He had then advised on the HIV treatment strategy developed by the Scientific Committee on AIDS. ⌘

AIDS Hotline 2780 2211 *Information, Counselling
HIV Testing*

Quarterly Update

THE Department of Health released its latest statistics on HIV/AIDS reporting on 23 November 2000. Forty-five HIV and 12 AIDS cases were reported between July and September of the year, bringing the cumulative total to 1491 and 487 respectively.

HIV infection has continued to be primarily a sexually acquired disease. All the newly reported cases with known routes of transmission have contracted the virus through sex - over 80% heterosexually. The male-to-female ratio is 2.8:1, while about 70% are Chinese.

The commonest AIDS-defining condition is *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia, followed by tuberculosis.

Reporting of HIV/AIDS is conducted as a voluntary system through the Department of Health's AIDS Unit. Reports

collected from physicians and the laboratories are collated, analyzed and released on a quarterly basis. Other components of the surveillance programme are: seroprevalence studies, behavioural surveillance and STD surveillance. ⌘

Surveillance update

Reported HIV/AIDS Statistics updated 30 September 2000

		HIV (AIDS)
Gender	male	1237 (434)
	female	254 (53)
Ethnicity	Chinese	1036 (376)
	non-Chinese	455 (111)
Transmission	heterosexual	854 (311)
	homosexual	293 (92)
	bisexual	75 (26)
	injecting drug use	28 (8)
	blood/bl products	68 (18)
	perinatal	11 (4)
	undetermined	162 (28)
TOTAL		1491 (487)

STD/AIDS report

THE next issue of Hong Kong STD/AIDS Update will soon be released. The new issue features a review of the behavioural surveillance system brought updated as of the end of the year 1999. ⌘

World AIDS Day Flyers

A World AIDS Day flyer has been published by the Red Ribbon Centre through the coordination of the AIDS Prevention and Care Committee. The Flyer lists out the programme highlights of government and non-governmental agencies working on different aspects of AIDS. Additional copies are available from the Secretariat. ⌘

The Government released its *Three-year plan on drug treatment and rehabilitation services in Hong Kong (2000-2002)* in September. The Plan recommended to continue

methadone treatment to comprise both detoxification and maintenance. It also proposed that drug treatment agencies should be encouraged to build in HIV in the assessment, rehabilitation and preventive education activities. Interested members may wish to contact Narcotics Division for a copy of the document. ⌘

Secretariat corner

Message for World AIDS Day 2000 from Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the UN

Focus

THE turn of the millennium has provided us with an occasion for profound reflection about the type of world we want to live in, and the kind of legacy we want to leave for future generations. There is no more important issue for us to consider than AIDS. Will we burden our children and our children's children with a global HIV/AIDS pandemic? Or can we take decisive action now to turn back the progress of this disease?


In some parts of the world, the past year has seen evidence of an explosive spread of HIV/AIDS. In others, there are signs that the epidemic has stabilized but often only after an unacceptably high proportion of the population had become infected. Many nations have demonstrated that it is possible to hold the spread in check. But even in the richest countries, even among those that have achieved the greatest success against the epidemic, this requires a constant renewal of the struggle.

The actions of every one of us can make a difference. This year, I would like to highlight the role of men, who can make a particular difference: by being more caring, by taking fewer risks, and by facing the

issue of AIDS head-on. Until and unless we grasp that AIDS is our problem, we will be blind to the steps we need to take to protect ourselves and others against it. We will be powerless to reduce its impact. This applies as much to a leader planning the allocation of national resources, as it does to a husband planning his future with his wife or a father planning for the future of his child.

From the world stage to the most intimate moments, AIDS requires us to open our eyes and not dismiss it as someone else's issue. It requires us to open our minds to community solutions that work in the struggle against AIDS. It requires us to open our arms to people living

with HIV/AIDS and give them our solidarity and support.

At the Millennium Summit three months ago, the world leaders resolved that by 2015, we will have halted and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS. Next June, we will have an unprecedented opportunity to follow up on that resolve. The General Assembly will convene a Special Session to review all aspects of the AIDS problem and to secure a coordinated global commitment in the struggle against it. It will provide us with an occasion as never before to face up to our responsibility to future generations, and take decisive action now to turn back the progress of this terrible disease. [UNAIDS paper] 

Hong Kong Highlights

WORLD AIDS Day does not belong to one person or one agency. The Advisory Council on AIDS is pleased to note an ever expanding community participation and inter-agency collaboration in the organisation of activities on and around World AIDS Day.

Miss Miriam Yeung, the UNAIDS Hong Kong Ambassador, will be devoting a song to promoting acceptance of people living with HIV/AIDS. TeenAIDS is launching *Art against AIDS 2000*. AIDS Concern is presenting a concert in conjunction with Commercial Radio. AIDS Foundation is setting up a series of exhibitions. An exhibition targeting travellers is hosted by Red Ribbon Centre and the Department of Health's Port Health Office. There are seminars for teachers, harm reduction outreach activities for drug users, condom distribution, internet-radio show See you there. 