

Editorial Board

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Schedule

- **61st ACA Meeting on 11 January 2008**
- **10th CFA Meeting on 18 March 2008**

Website: <http://www.aca-hk.com>



61st ACA Meeting Agenda

The 61st ACA meeting will be held on 11 January 2008 (Friday) at 2:30 pm at the DH Conference Room, 21/F Wu Chung House, Wan Chai. There are five main items on the agenda:

1. Presentation of the Report “HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong – Hitting a Moving Target *Building Effective and Sustainable Responses to an Evolving Epidemic*” by Dr. Tim Brown, Senior Fellow, East-West Center;

2. AIDS Trust Fund Guiding Principles for Funding Applications to Medical and Support Services and Publicity and Public Education Applications;
3. Family Planning Association of Hong Kong Youth Sexuality Study 2006;
4. Report on World AIDS Day Activities 2007; and
5. Letter from Hospital Authority on HIV Testing in Mentally Incapacitated Patients in the Event of Staff Sustaining a Needle Stick Injury.

Interested readers may watch for the next issue of the ACA Newsfile for more details.



NETWORKING

Prof C N Chen, ACA Chairman attended the Shenzhen World AIDS Day ceremony on 1 December 2007



The Ninth CFA Meeting

The three main items discussed at the Ninth CFA meeting on 18 December 2007 was Survey Report on the Evaluation of the Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) HIV Preventive Campaign 2006, Report on World AIDS Day Activities 2007 and Code of Good Practice for NGOs Responding to HIV/AIDS.

Members were informed that a series of HIV-related prevention activities targeting MSM during August 2006 through April 2007 in a Campaign named “Do it Safely” was organised by the Special Preventive Programme of the Department of Health. The Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Public Health of the Chinese University of Hong Kong was commissioned to evaluate the effectiveness of the Campaign through a survey among the MSM population and collection of feedback on the Campaign from local MSM, keepers and owners of establishments frequented by MSM. The objectives of the survey were:

- (i) to investigate the prevalence of MSM respondents being exposed to the prevention activities in the Campaign;
- (ii) to assess perceived acceptance and effectiveness of these activities in changing HIV-related perceptions and behaviors (e.g., condom use and HIV antibody testing) among the surveyed MSM respondents; and
- (iii) to assess MSM respondents' views on the HIV-related risk communication by the Department of Health and to identify barriers of MSM in accessing health promotion messages.

Members noted the following recommendations made in the report:

- A. For achieving a comprehensive coverage of the target audience, appropriate messages, innovative approaches, and combination of multiple communication channels, such as internet banners, free condom / lubricant distribution, posters and advertisements in bars and saunas, are required. Internet is becoming an increasingly important medium for HIV / AIDS intervention among MSM.
- B. Factual information about the updated situation of HIV/AIDS in MSM should be released on a regular basis to alert those at risk to their susceptibility and promote risk reduction. Such is acceptable and desired by the MSM community.
- C. Greater efforts should be made to raise awareness of Department of Health’s HIV antibody testing hotline and the MSM website.
- D. The content of education should be in accordance with the needs of MSM. Content should be focused on risk and risk reduction; clear, interesting, stimulating, relevant to the present environment; and utilize innovations in promotion and instruction.
- E. Programme evaluation should be conducted regularly. Behavioural follow-up could be incorporated into future evaluation studies to examine behaviour change.

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Members were aware that the theme of the World AIDS Campaign (WAC) in Hong Kong was to promote acceptance of people living with HIV by the community. The major activities of the joint WAC included (a) distribution of red ribbons, (b) a kick-off ceremony on WAD and (c) the showing of a new TV announcement of public interest featuring Miss Miriam Yeung promoting the acceptance of people living with HIV. Members also learned of the activities organised by Shenzhen CDC and Macau on the World AIDS Day. Dr Billy HO, the Convener of the Working Group on WAC thanked WG members for their unfailing support to make the Campaign a success.

Members noted the Code of which the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies was the project host. The Hong Kong AIDS Foundation was one of the Project Steering Committee Organisations. Both Hong Kong AIDS Foundation and Chi Heng

Foundation were the signatories of the Code in Hong Kong. The Code consisted of 5 Chapters and an executive summary. The Code sets out a number of **Guiding Principles** (in **Chapter 2**), which apply a human rights approach to the range of HIV/AIDS-specific health, development and humanitarian work undertaken by NGOs responding to HIV/AIDS. These principles provide a common framework applicable to all NGOs engaged in responding to HIV/AIDS, and are embodied within good practice principles, which guide both how we work as NGOs (**Chapter 3 – Organisational Principles**) and what we do (**Chapter 4 – Programming Principles**). **Chapter 5** includes **Key resources** such as tool kits and manuals that can assist in putting the principles into practice. The Code can be downloaded from web site: <http://www.hivcode.org/silo/files/code-of-good-practice.pdf>

‡ **The next CFA meeting will be held on 18 March 2008.**

Recommendations on the Postexposure Management and Prophylaxis of Needlestick Injury or Mucosal Contact to HBV, HCV and HIV

The Scientific Committee on AIDS and STI (SCAS) in collaboration with the Infection Control Branch of the Centre for Health Protection has recently revised the above Recommendations. A set of revised guidelines is recommended according to the following guiding principles:

- a. An integrated approach is taken by considering collectively the most important bloodborne infections, i.e. hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) (Annex I).
- b. Risk assessment and counselling constitute

the basis of postexposure management which lead to specific options of postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) when appropriate. As such, case-by-case evaluation is crucial.

- c. Local perspectives as well as scientific evidence and international developments were taken into account in putting forth the recommendations.

The revised recommendations can be downloaded from the CHP website: www.chp.gov.hk



The XVII International AIDS Conference will be held from **3 to 8 August 2008** at Mexico City.

The Vision for AIDS 2008 - A conference that promotes scientific excellence and inquiry, encourages individual and collective action and dialogue, and fosters accountability.

The Conference Objectives AIDS 2008 will

1. Provide a forum in which key scientific and practice-based research, best practice, lessons learned and gaps in knowledge are addressed;
2. Present strong evidence to influence leaders, including key policy makers and donors, to increase their commitment to HIV and AIDS prevention, care and treatment, undertake responsible action and be more accountable;
3. Increase understanding of the contribution made by the HIV global response to broader social, economic and health issues;
4. Maximize opportunities for the participation in conference and programme planning of those engaged in evidence-based responses – scientists, PLWHA, members of marginalized communities especially those most vulnerable to HIV, including women, girls, and young people;
5. Promote strategies that will reduce stigmatization and discrimination of PLWHAs and those working professionally across the response to HIV and AIDS;
6. Reach a wider audience through the webcasting of conference proceedings to regional sub-conferences/meetings and through the availability of conference sessions online ; and
7. Improve public awareness of the continued impact of and global response to HIV and AIDS through enhanced media coverage.

Interested readers may visit <http://www.aids2008.org> for more information.

